Rock Island Co. Farm Bureau NEWS

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ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

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Bridging the gap with our county board

On Monday, Oct. 10, we hosted several directors of the Rock Island County Board for combine rides. One of our program goals is to increase our efforts in local affairs and talk with our county directors to adopt local pro-ag resolutions. These combine rides offered an opportunity to talk one-on-one with our county directors about our farms, families and operations, and gave them the chance to see harvest firsthand. Pictured is County Board Chairman Richard Brunk with RICFB Director Dennis VanDaele.

Grant gives boost to ag teaching

MOLINE — The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program remains a trusted resource for Rock Island children to learn about 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 that can be used for materials, trainings, educational lessons and activities taking place during the 2022-2023 school year.

"Providing these grants ensures access to lessons with emphasis on STEM that incorporate accurate agricultural content for teachers and students," said Kevin Daugherty, education director, IAITC.

During a typical school year, more than 650,000 students and close to 40,000 teachers engage in ag literacy lessons through IAITC. "The last two years have been anything but typical in Illinois schools, however this past school year, we saw student reach increase by 25 percent and teacher reach increase by 55 percent, showing a positive trend as re-adjustments continue," Daugherty reflected.

Jay Bohnsack, new ag literacy coordinator for the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation, is excited to put funding to good use. "We have some really exciting things in the works for our '22-'23 programming," says Bohnsack. "We are working with several teachers on book grants, pollinator projects and are writing lesson plans to go with our new virtual reality project. The IAA Foundation grant funding will go a long way in helping get our programs into classrooms in Rock Island County."

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

"Consistent outreach requires steadfast supporters," said Susan Moore, director, IAA Foundation. "We are grateful to annual donors who understand how important efforts to enhance agriculture literacy can be. Every year there are new fourth-graders to connect with, and our donors understand and appreciate IAITC's efforts to get the job done."

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. For information on IAITC, visit www.agintheclassroom.org.

Mt. Simon Hub Pipeline subject of meetings

Landowner meetings will be held for Farm Bureau members potentially impacted by the Mount Simon Hub carbon dioxide capture and storage pipeline project. Illinois Farm Bureau staff will provide information about the project, the proposed pipeline, and carbon dioxide storage agreements. The Mount Simon Hub project proposes to collect carbon dioxide at ethanol plants, transport it via pipeline, and then permanently store it in geologic formations deep in the ground in Central Illinois. Farmers and landowners need to be involved in the process, ask questions and work to negotiate good terms in land use agreements. Attend a meeting to learn more.

Two dates will be available for Rock Island County Farm Bureau members:

6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8
Black Hawk College East Campus Auditorium
26230 Black Hawk Road
Galva, IL 61434

6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
*This session will be offered online.

To register, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau at 309-736-7432 or tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org.

We want to wish our members a very Happy Thanksgiving! Our office will be closed Nov. 24-25.

RICFB board sets goals

At the September board meeting, the RICFB Board of Directors set their goals for the '22-'23 program year. These goals will help drive our programming efforts from Sept. 1, 2022, to Aug. 31, 2023. The goals are as follows:

- Achieve Tier 3 Membership Gain of 550 MM/PM members for the '22-'23 Membership Year.
- Engage our county board to adopt our local pro-ag resolutions by March 2023 and re-engage in the IFB Adopt-A-Legislator program, overall increasing our local affairs efforts.
- To have at least 50 percent of the RICFB Board of Directors complete the certified director training by end of '22-'23 program year.
- Promote farm and rural mental health program to local mental health professionals and have at least five complete in-person trainings.
- Present our new AITC virtual reality lessons in at least 15 classrooms throughout the '22-'23 school year.
- Increase our Young Leader engagement and expand our group by five new members.

Members can save big on hotels

Family vacations and weekend getaways just became even more affordable for Illinois Farm Bureau members. Thanks to the addition of TravelSherlock, which offers THOUSANDS of hotel options, the Illinois Farm Bureau membership benefit package just got a little sweeter! Members can now save up to 30 percent on overnight stays across the country.

Whether it's a quick road trip or a longer vacation, this Illinois Farm Bureau member benefit helps make travel more enjoyable for everyone. Members can visit ILFB.Travelsherlock.com to search hotel options for their location of choice.

Members can obtain the discount code by contacting their county Farm Bureau office.

Calendar *of* Events

NOVEMBER

8	General election
9	RICFB Foundation Board of Directors meeting
10	Market Outlook featuring Naomi Blohm, Lavender Crest Winery
15	Section 3 FFA Leadership Training School – Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day
21	RICFB Board of Directors meeting
24-25	Office closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

3-6	IAA Annual Meeting, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago
8	Landowner Meeting for Mount Simon Hub Pipeline Project; BHE Campus, Galva
14	Landowner Meeting for Mount Simon Hub Pipeline Project; online
19	RICFB Board of Directors meeting
23-26	Office closed for Christmas

Want to stay up to date with upcoming events?
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