

DECEMBER 2020

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY

# Merry Christmas

AND A

# Happy New Year

Our office will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.  
(Farm of Tara and Troy Mayhew)

## A year of reflection

2020 is wrapping up and what a year it's been. I hope all of you and your families have stayed healthy and found ways to stay connected. And while cellphones and text messages and Zoom calls and all the technology keeping us close have more than proven their worth, I find myself reflecting on the quiet, simpler theme this holiday season is bringing. The hustle and bustle have slowed. As I write this in the glow of our Christmas tree, I realize there's still so much to be thankful for, even in a year as challenging as this one — most of all that my family has remained healthy.

I'm reminded of our Christmases on our family farm when my brothers and I were young. My favorite Christmas was in 1987. We had gotten a pony that year and I remember Mom and Dad taking us outside to find her with a big red bow around her neck. Her name was Missy and she was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen, as ornery as she was. She was never tied up and you couldn't keep her penned, so she just roamed around the yard, occasionally wondering into the field in front of our house. I used to braid her mane, feed her carrots and ride her until she grew tired of me and would lay down so I would slide off onto the ground. After the first time, Dad would walk with me as I rode — time spent for which I am forever grateful. Sometimes my younger brother and I would ride together.

Missy became somewhat of a local celebrity with friends, family and other guests as she particularly enjoyed backing herself up to our front steps as if she was some sort of VanEtten family greeter or guard pony. It wasn't so much about her as a gift itself, but rather what she stood for — the



joy and family memories she brought us on that day and for years to come. I'm sharing this picture of me and my younger brother Scott on Missy. Even though this wasn't taken on Christmas Day, I cherish the memories our family had with her. She was the best Christmas present we ever received.

While we won't be traveling over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house this year, we still have a lot to be thankful for. I hope this Christmas and New Year brings you joy, good health, happiness and peace. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas.

-- Your Manager, Tara

## Farm planning webinars set

Since 1925, Country Financial has helped protect Illinois farms. In more recent decades, Country has teamed with county farm bureaus to deliver planning and protection updates to help Illinois farmers better prepare for the upcoming planting season and beyond. Even during a national pandemic, farmers across Illinois and the entire United States are continuing their work to support their families and feed our country. There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring, but Country Financial and your local farm bureau remain ready to assist you through every season, even if it may need to look a little different to keep everyone safe.

In mid-December, CountryFinancial.com/AgWebinars will go live and offer a growing menu of presentations and supportive information for your 2021

planning. There, you will find a library of recorded in-depth seminars that you can watch from the comfort of your own farm. Topics include:

- ▶ Farm Bill Updates
- ▶ Country Financial Private Product Updates
- ▶ Country Financial Crop Claims Review
- ▶ Country Financial Precision Planning & Drone Technology Overview
- ▶ Agrivisor Market Outlook for 2021

In addition to making recorded resources available to assist you, Country and Illinois Farm Bureau staff will also host four live webinars throughout January and February to provide you updated information and answer viewer questions in real-time. RFD's Rita Frazer will host these 90-120-minute live meetings,

and each session will cover crop/farm bill updates (Doug Yoder, Country Financial), legislative updates (Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau) and provide a farm legacy planning overview (Joe Buhrmann, Country Financial).

When CountryFinancial.com/AgWebinars goes live in mid-December, you will also find a link to pre-register and attend these live meetings. Choose the meeting date and time that best fits your schedule:

- ▶ Tues., Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. CST
- ▶ Wed., Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. CST
- ▶ Tues., Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. CST
- ▶ Thurs., Feb. 25 at 12 p.m. CST

While participants may not all be gathered in the same room this year at locations throughout the state, Country and Illinois Farm Bureau staff look forward to helping you plan for a successful 2021 crop year and beyond.

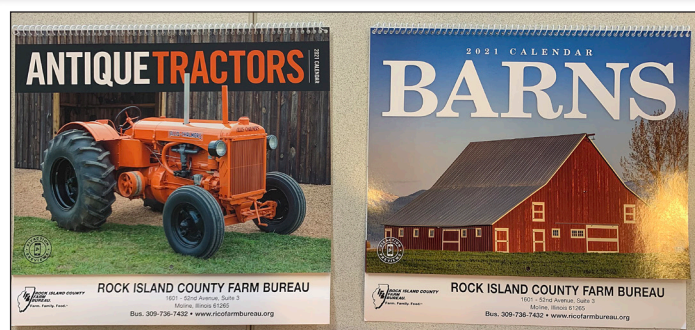
## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER 2020

- |       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 5     | IAA Annual Meeting – Virtual     |
| 21    | RICFB Board of Directors meeting |
| 24-25 | Office closed for Christmas      |
| 31    | Office closed for New Year's Eve |

### 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 |



We have 2021 calendars in our foyer free to our members!  
Please limit one per member while supplies last.

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THIS CHRISTMAS**

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Consider supporting our local businesses, including those who offer discounts to our members! Or give them the gift of a membership!

- ▶ **East Moline Glass** – 10% off all non-sale items and free in-store rock chip repair.
- ▶ **C and J Upholstery** – 10% discount.
- ▶ **Audio Visual Resource** – 10% discount on all equipment and rentals.
- ▶ **Happy Joe's Restaurant** — \$4 off large specialty pizza (East Moline & Rock Island), large pizza for the price of a medium (Coal Valley and Milan).
- ▶ **Erickson Tire** — \$18.88 oil, lube & filter on most cars; 10% off auto service; 5% off all regularly priced tires.
- ▶ **Bard Optical** – eye exams \$48, save 25% on frames.
- ▶ **Killeen Audiology & Hearing Aid Center** – 5% off retail price of hearing aids.
- ▶ **Rock Island Optometric Center** – 15% off exams, glasses and contact lenses.
- ▶ **Lighthouse Homecare** – schedule 2 or more hours, get 1 free.
- ▶ **California Nails** - \$1 off full nail sets, \$1 off pedicure and manicure.
- ▶ **Dr. Chad Versluis DDS PC** – free electronic toothbrush to new patients and FB members with regular-price exam and cleaning.

### 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!



FILL OUT YOUR  
**UCR REGISTRATION  
TODAY!**

TO REGISTER FOR 2021, VISIT  
**UCR.GOV.** REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
IS DECEMBER 31, 2020.

Questions? Contact Rodney Knittel at 309-557-3662 or [rknittel@ifb.org](mailto:rknittel@ifb.org).