



MANAGER’S MINUTE

By Tara Mayhew

Here we are, another year down. Time sure has flown and I have a hard time believing that I will celebrate my four-year work anniversary in January. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve our members and work with our leadership. Each year, I like to reflect on some of our high-lights. Here are some of my favorites:

We finally hired a new ag literacy coordinator, which means our Ag In The Classroom programming is back! Jay has been working with several teachers on book grants, another teacher is working with him on a pollina-tor grant and yet another is working with him on developing a classroom herb garden. Last month, you read that we were awarded an Illinois AITC grant, which has allowed us to purchase three new wireless Oculus headsets for our virtual reality programming. We have corn and dairy videos pro-duced and are planning to add beef and sheep to our library next.

Our Young Leader group continues to grow and develop new pro-grams. A highlight this year was our first-ever Lunch & Learn with YMCA staff. This particular program is an award winner for the group (more on that coming in our January newsletter)! We held our 2nd Annual Bags Tournament that benefitted our Foundation, and tasked our group with recruiting new members as part of a member recruitment contest. We have engaged our local FFA chapters with some of our events and you will start to read highlights from them in future newsletters.

We’ve made it through another election and we look forward to working with new and current officials, including our county board. We will also participate in the Adopt-A-Legislator program in which we will be paired with a legislator from the Chicago area. We will spend time in their district and they will visit with us on our farms.

We are smack in the middle of our 13th Bushels for Hunger program. If you are able, it’s an easy way to help support food banks throughout our communities. River Bend Food Bank has a new CEO. We met with her a couple of weeks ago and she is just as excited as we are about this year’s campaign!

As we are in the heart of holiday season, I hope that each of you has had the chance to slow down, relax after a long harvest, and spend time with loved ones.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

Christmas shop with us

Still looking for that unique Christmas gift for that hard-to-buy-for someone? Stop in and see us! We have a variety of gift ideas to choose from.

- ▶ 2023 Barn and Antique Tractor Calendars (FREE, but limit 2 per membership while supplies last)
- ▶ 2022 Plat books
- ▶ Custom BBQ Spice
- ▶ “Support Your Local Farmer” T-shirts

Don’t forget about our local member discounts and our Shop Local Directory!

Still stuck? Consider giving the gift of membership. This will not only support agriculture, but will give your special someone access to more than 302,000 member ben-efits! For more information, visit www.ricofarmbureau.org and click on our Member Benefits and Shop Local tabs.

New committees get rolling

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau is in the process of revamping all of our committees to ensure we are meeting the wants and needs of our members – a true grassroots effort! We are looking for volunteers to serve who are passionate about issues facing our farmers. Each of the committees will meet 1-2 times a year to help set program goals and carry out activities for the year.

- ▶ **Women’s Leadership** – focus on rural physical and mental health and safety.
- ▶ **Public Relations & Consumer Engagement** – focus on our

messaging to our consumers, associate members and overall mes-sage of agriculture in Rock Island County.

- ▶ **Membership Committee** – plan programs and activities to recruit new members and engage our membership.
 - ▶ **Legislative and Local Affairs** – focus on our legislative pro-gramming and issues with our local elected officials.
 - ▶ **Marketing & Commodities** – plan our marketing and com-modities programs to increase farm income and development.
- Please email Tara at tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org if inter-ested in serving on any of these committees.

Young Leader conference in January



**YOUNG LEADER
CONFERENCE ‘23**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

**JANUARY
20-21** | **EMBASSY SUITES
EAST PEORIA**

**FEATURING KEYNOTE
SPEAKER: TYNE MORGAN**

Contact your County Farm Bureau to register.



The 2023 Young Leader Conference will be Jan. 20-21 at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center in East Peoria. Tyne Morgan with the U.S. Farm Report will be the opening keynote speaker. Fifteen sessions broken into five tracks designed to provide some-thing for everyone.

Topics include succession plan-ning, accounting programs, work-force recruitment, mental health, trade and supply chain outlook, financial education, and our grass-roots policy development process, and more! To register, email Tara at tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org by Dec. 16.

Mailing dues?
Read this!

We’ve gotten some calls and messages about the dues remittance address not fit-ting in the return window envelope that was provided. On the front side, you’ll see your name and address, along with your account number and dues amount. If you turn that over, you will see the remittance address for our treasury operations in Bloomington. This address will fit perfect-ly in the window on the return envelope. Dues can also be paid online at myifb.org or processed locally in our office.

Thank you all for renewing your mem-bership!

Scholarships support students, agriculture

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau members, spouses and chil-dren are eligible to apply for 100 col-lege scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau’s charitable arm. The scholarships, rang-ing from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$201,501 for the 2023-24 school year.

“We are pleased to recognize stu-dents through our ever-growing and changing 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 Distinguished Scholarships, where each winner receives \$5,000. 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 Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2023, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly cre-ated Sandhu Minority in Agriculture Scholarship and the Thomas E. and Mary Morgan Lykins Scholarship. Additionally, fellowships will again support students pursuing advanced degrees in fields directly related to agri-culture.

Scholarships are awarded based on involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, academic perfor-mance, leadership experiences, and response to an essay. 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. The application opens Jan. 1 and must be completed online by Feb. 15, 2023.

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



**Our office will
be closed Dec.
23-26 and Dec.
30-Jan. 2.**

**13th Annual
BUSHELS
FOR HUNGER**

October 1 – January 31

Grand total Since 2010
\$277,120
equaling 1.4 million meals.

**Tell your participating elevator that
you would like to donate.**

Proceeds benefit the
River Bend Food Bank

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


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

Want to stay up to date with upcoming events?

Send us your email to accounts@ricofarmbureau.org and like us on Facebook!

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

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| 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 |

JANUARY

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|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Dec. 30-Jan. 2 | Office closed for New Year’s |
| 15-17 | QCCA Farm Show |
| 16 | RICFB Board of Directors meeting |
| 31 | Bushels for Hunger Campaign ends |