

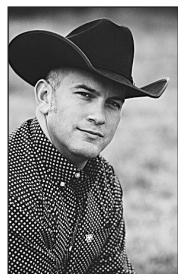


## WIA conference to go virtual this year

Women In Ag Conference organizers are excited to announce that the 2021 event will be an online, mini program this year! It will be Friday, March 26; time to be determined.

Last year's event was canceled due to COVID concerns. The event is a cooperative program, sponsored by 12 county Farm Bureaus in Illinois (including Rock Island County Farm Bureau) as well as Illinois Farm Bureau and Country Financial.

The keynote speaker this year is Jason Medows. Medows was born and raised on his family's cow-calf operation outside of Cuba, Missouri. He grew up playing football and baseball as well as being involved in his local 4-H. In 2002 Jason left the farm for St. Louis College of Pharmacy. He graduated in 2008 with his doctor in pharmacy and returned home to work at a local hospital and continue the cow-calf operation he started in college. It was



Medows

at that local hospital he met his future wife, Keri. Fast forward 12 years and they have four boys and have purchased another farm of their own. In 2019, Jason began his podcast Ag State Of Mind, where he combined his medical background with his passion for agriculture to help break the stigma surrounding mental health in agriculture.

Time of the virtual conference and registration information will be available soon. Please check the Women in Agriculture Conference website ([www.womeninagriculture-conference.com](http://www.womeninagriculture-conference.com)) and Facebook page for further details as soon as they are finalized.

## McClellan featured speaker at March 11 Market Outlook

Mike McClellan, owner/president of Mobile Weather Team Inc., will be the featured speaker on Thursday, March 11, at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by an update from Gold Star FS Grain Department Manager, Mike Schaver.

It is mandatory that you register because group size is limited. Reservations must be made by March 4 to guarantee your attendance. Face covering is also required. Please note the meeting is subject to change in lieu of COVID-19 guidelines.

Mobile Weather Team Inc. is a Washington, Illinois-based company specializing in on-site weather forecasting, advance storm warning, lightning prediction and detection, plus long-range AG weather forecasting.

McClellan earned his bachelor of science degree in meteorology from Northern Illinois University in 1983. McClellan has been the chief meteorologist at KTTT-TV in Rochester, MN, WICS-TV in Springfield, IL; WXII-TV in Winston-Salem, NC; and at WMBD-TV, the CBS affiliate in Peoria, IL. In 1995, he earned the award for Best Weathercast in the state of Illinois from the Illinois Broadcasters Association.



McClellan

As a broadcast meteorologist, McClellan holds the American Meteorological Society's Seal of Approval and was the 2001 National Chairman of the Board of Broadcast Meteorology of the American Meteorological Society.

In 1991, McClellan combined his passion for both weather and golf by creating the Mobile Weather Team, which provides forecasts, lightning detection and prediction for outdoor events around the world. The main focus has been with the PGA Golf Tours around the world but Mobile Weather Team meteorologists also have provided weather coverage and consultation for the Daytona 500, Texas and Oklahoma state fairs, numerous Illinois radio stations and airports. However, in February 2008, McClellan sold its North American golf operations but expanded its operations around the world.

Today, the Mobile Weather Team

continues to grow its agricultural forecasting division by providing valuable weather information via its website, AI powered weather stations and Met On-Call service, where you can talk directly with a forecaster, watch radar, check real-time conditions on your farm with guaranteed accurate forecasts to your phone and long-range outlooks.

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 at 309-937-2411, Rock Island County Farm Bureau at 309-736-7432 or Mercer County Farm Bureau at 309-582-5116.

Additional dates and speakers for the 2020-2021 series include: 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 and Geneseo offices), River Valley Cooperative, Wyffels Hybrids, Big River Resources, Blackhawk Bank & Trust, and Central Bank. Registration for the seminar is mandatory and group size is limited. Call today!

## Apply for Foundation scholarship

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship application is now open! 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. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 26, at 4 p.m.

For more information on requirements and to find the application, visit [www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html](http://www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html).

## IFB proposals shape AFBF policy decisions

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Thousands of farmers across the country gathered virtually Jan. 10-14 for the 102nd Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Three-hundred and forty-six voting delegates, including 20 delegates from Illinois, addressed Illinois Farm Bureau's submittals, including renewable fuels, dairy policy, FIFRA and farm policy.

The event, themed Stronger Together, focused on advances in agriculture and how farmers addressed the challenges of COVID-19 and the shifts in markets, while also giving back.

"Yesterday's delegate discussion was the finale to a well-rounded AFBF annual meeting that was well-represented by our members throughout the state," said Guebert. "We give our thanks to all who participated and got involved. I hope we can get back together in person in Atlanta in 2022 to continue advocating for and protecting the interests of Illinois Farm Bureau members."

The 2021 AFBF Annual Convention

saw record-breaking attendance, albeit in a virtual capacity. The organization saw over 8,300 registrations between members, nonmembers, media and state members, including delegates, alternates, observers and staff. More than 300 of the virtual attendees were from Illinois.

Tuesday evening, outgoing U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue addressed virtual attendees. He thanked farmers for their support and talked policy, recent challenges and future opportunities for agriculture.

"Farm Bureau has been very supportive of our nation's agricultural policies these last four years," Perdue said.

"Generally speaking, all of the submittals that our delegates passed at our December annual meeting were included in the 2021 AFBF Policy Book," said Guebert. "We had sections of submittals by other states that we defended, we worked with a number of states to tweak some of these policies going forward and we updated and refined policy language in several areas of importance."

## Governmental Leadership conference going virtual

Illinois Farm Bureau invites you to participate in the upcoming (Virtual) Government Affairs Leadership Conference Feb. 16-18, from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

This is a free conference, we just ask you to register with our office at 309-736-7432 or email [tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org).

Sessions include:

**Tuesday** – National and state updates and priorities

**Wednesday** – Business and Environment

**Thursday** – Local Issues and Engagement

All sessions will be delivered by Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs and Commodities staff, and participants will receive a link to the sessions the morning of the conference. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or for additional information.

## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY

- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 15-16 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference – Virtual

### MARCH

- 2 Virtual Rules for the Road
- 4 Virtual Rules for the Road
- 4 Market Outlook RSVPs due
- 11 Market Outlook with Mike McClellan, Lavender Crest Winery
- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 17 RICFB Foundation Board of Directors meeting
- 26 Virtual Women in Ag Conference
- 26 Deadline for RICFB Foundation scholarship applications

## 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!

**SAVE the DATE!**  
*Virtual* **RULES FOR THE ROAD**  
**MARCH 2 AT 9:30 AM**  
**MARCH 4 AT 6:30 PM**  
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON