

MARCH 2021

2021 Women in Ag Conference online only

Farm women and all those involved in the agriculture industry should plan to attend the Women in Agriculture Conference, scheduled for Friday, March 26. This year's mini conference is being held exclusively online to help women become empowered in agriculture.

The conference, in its ninth year, will feature keynote speaker Jason Medows, host of the popular Ag State of Mind podcast. He will present "MENTAL HEALTH: What it is, how it affects us in agriculture and what we can do to improve." Using real-life examples from his own experience, Jason will discuss the mental health challenges faced in agriculture. He'll focus on strategies and solutions for improving mental health and will conclude by speaking directly to women about how they can positively influence the men in their lives.

Jason 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 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 at that local hospital he met his future wife, Keri. Fast forward 12 years and they have 4 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.

The conference will wrap up with Rita Frazer, director of Network and Audio Services for the RFD Radio

Network, and Adam Nielsen, director of National Legislation and Policy Development in the Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division of the Illinois Farm Bureau, presenting "Advancing Farm Bureau's Issues in the 117th Congress." Together they will discuss how to effectively communicate agriculture's message with a new administration.

Rita and her team gather farm news and information and cover issues that are important to the Illinois Farm Bureau. RFD reports and programs are heard first on the air of affiliated stations, and most programs can be found later in the day on the web or as podcasts. Rita is a 30-year member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and immediate past president of the NAFB, she is an award-winning broadcaster who has covered farm news and events on a state and national basis. Rita uses her farm roots and years of broadcasting experience to communicate effectively with listeners

and has devoted her career to serving agriculture.

Adam plans and executes the organization's national legislative programs, acts as a liaison with the Illinois Congressional delegation and federal agencies, and organizes the association's fly-ins to Washington, D.C. He is responsible for implementing IFB's policy development program, coordinates the Illinois Agricultural Legislative Roundtable, a group of all agriculture associations and organizations within Illinois, and is assistant secretary of ACTIVATOR, IFB's political involvement committee. Adam joined Illinois Farm Bureau in 2000.

There is no cost to attend, and registration will open March 1. To register, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau or register online at womeninagricultureconference.com.

The conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee and Country Financial.

Connecting communities to food

MOLINE, Ill. — Local food is becoming more accessible than ever with enhanced direct-to-consumer marketing opportunities for local farms and businesses through a new online county directory, Shop Local. Rock Island County Farm Bureau is making it easier to shop local and support your local community.

Shop Local is an online directory that brings fresh food and local business together. The Shop Local directory, powered by MarketMaker, provides simple, yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers and consumers.

"Whether you're looking for fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, herbs, flowers, a pumpkin patch, a pick-your-own farm, vineyards, breweries or distilleries, you'll find them in Rock Island County Farm Bureau's Shop Local online directory," said Tara Mayhew, Rock Island County



Farm Bureau manager. "We are in the early stages of this program and our plan is to build and expand our directory with our member businesses and farms."

Local farmers and specialty growers can reach thousands of new customers by registering their business and adding the Illinois Farm Bureau affiliation to their Shop Local profile. Users can create an e-commerce store, or if the user has an established online store, they can embed the link on their profile and reach new markets. Businesses also will be promoted to all Illinois Farm Bureau

members through the Abenity membership discount program and mobile app.

Local community members interested in fresh and local food can access locally grown or crafted products through a search, find their nearest farmers market, connect with community partners and more using the directory's digital features.

"This is a new way to promote Illinois Farm Bureau members and local food through county Farm Bureaus and our membership app, Abenity," said Raghela Scavuzzo, associate director of food systems development, IFB. "We are excited that counties throughout the state can offer this convenient resource to families ahead of the busy fall market season."

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau's Shop Local directory can be found at <http://www.ricofarmbureau.org/shop-local.html>.

Scholarship deadline near

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship application is 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 4 p.m. Friday, March 26.

For more information on requirements and to find the application, visit www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html.

FREEZER MEAL FUNDRAISER
COST FOR 10 MEALS = \$170

DEADLINE TO ORDER: MARCH 19

MEAL PICK-UP: APRIL 1 4:00-5:30 PM

MENU:
BBQ MEATBALLS
PULLED PORK MAC & CHEESE
FRENCH TOAST BAKE
HAWAIIAN CHICKEN
BREAKFAST BURRITOS
BEEF TACO BAKE
CHICKEN FAJITAS
HICKORY SMOKED PULLED PORK
CHICKEN BACON RANCH MAC & CHEESE
DICED HAM W/ POTATOES & GREEN BEANS

MEALS BY CUSTOM CATERING & BBQ.
STOP BY THE ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND PICK UP 10 DELICIOUS MEALS.
MEALS WILL BE PREPPED AND FROZEN FOR YOU! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COOK THEM!
A MEAL SET (10 MEALS) INCLUDES ONE MEAL OF EACH ITEM ON MENU - NO SUBSTITUTIONS.
PLEASE BRING A BASKET OR COOLER TO TAKE YOUR MEALS HOME IN.

Proceeds to benefit the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation

Return this portion with payment by March 19
*Make checks payable to Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
of meal sets ordered: _____ Payment total (included): _____
Mail to: 1601 52nd Ave, Suite 3, Moline, IL 61265

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH UPCOMING EVENTS?

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



NATIONAL AG DAY
March 23, 2021

AGRICULTURE: Food for life.

American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It's the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation that's made possible by the hard work of America's farms and farm families.

Illinois Farm Bureau® is proud to celebrate the nutritious and plentiful contributions of our country's farms on National Agriculture Day.



Calendar of Events

MARCH

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Virtual Town Hall meeting on county board reapportionment |
| 2 | Virtual Rules for the Road |
| 4 | Virtual Town Hall meeting on county board reapportionment |
| 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 |
| 19 | Freezer Meal Fundraiser orders due |
| 22-26 | National Ag Week |
| 23 | National Ag Day |
| 26 | Virtual Women in Ag Conference |
| 26 | Deadline for RICFB Foundation scholarship applications |

APRIL

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Freezer Meal pickup |
| 19 | RICFB Board of Directors meeting |