

## 1.3 million meals given to food bank

Quad City Illinois farmers are helping local families with a donation to the River Bend Foodbank through the Bushels for Hunger program for the 11th straight year. After the 11th year, total contributions by the Bushels for Hunger program will exceed \$254,000 with this year's \$15,793 contribution. This year's total contribution now brings the total amount of meals donated to 1,350,000.

Mercer County Farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau District 3 Director Jeff Kirwan presented the donation of to Mike Miller of the River Bend Foodbank in Davenport.

"Thanks to the generous donations of thousands of bushels of grain to the Bushels for Hunger campaign, local farmers worked together to fight hunger in the Quad City community with these funds," Kirwan said.

Alongside Kirwan, fellow farmer and Gold Star FS Grain Merchandiser Mike Secymore added, "Local neighbors and farmers in the five-county area of Illinois were anxious to pitch in and help fight hunger in their community. This money will help provide countless meals in the River Bend Foodbank area."

The Bushels for Hunger program is a joint program coordinated by the following five Illinois County Farm Bureaus: Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark and Whiteside in conjunction with the following locations: Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, CHS, Consolidated Grain & Barge Co., Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator, River Valley Cooperative and Rumbold & Kuhn.



Pictured, from left: Jenny Brinkmeyer, chief development officer; Leslie Corlett, director of corporate and foundation giving; Mike Miller, president and CEO of River Bend Foodbank; Jeff Kirwan, Mercer County farmer and IAA District 3 director; and Mike Secymore, grain merchandiser at Gold Star FS.

## Veterinary student loans available

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focused on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, associate director of commodities and livestock practices, IFB. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2021, and can be found online at [www.ilfb.org/IVET](http://www.ilfb.org/IVET). The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2021. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$510,000 to 26 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or [tbunting@ilfb.org](mailto:tbunting@ilfb.org).

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of 396,000 and a voting membership of more than 79,000. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

## Join our Young Leader group

Are you between the ages of 18-35 and passionate about agriculture? The Mercer – Rock Island Farm Bureau Young Leader program provides opportunities for individuals ages 18-35 to fuel their passion for agriculture.



Whether you're a full- or part-time farmer, ag professional, college student or supporter of the industry, there is a place for you in Young Leaders. Follow our Mercer-Rock Island Farm Bureau Young Leaders Facebook page for updates, meeting times, events and more!

Some of our previous activities include hosting an ethanol promotion, a winter clothing drive, social outings, tours, Ag in the Classroom activities, pedal tractor pulls and a harvest dinner on the farm!

Join today by emailing [tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org).

## RULES FOR THE ROAD

A SELECT COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS



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## 15 nursing scholarships available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its 29th year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive

scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a registered nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications are available at county

Farm Bureaus throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at [RIMSAP.com](http://RIMSAP.com), or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via email at [dgallivan@ilfb.org](mailto:dgallivan@ilfb.org).

### Calendar of Events

#### APRIL

- 1 Freezer Meal pick up
- 19 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 22 Earth Day

#### MAY

- 12 Tentative Scholarship Awards Luncheon
- 17 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 31 Memorial Day – office closed

**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!

*With spring upon us, we want to wish everyone a safe and healthy planting season!*

