

APRIL 2022

Get nursing scholarship

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 30th 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.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at 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@ifb.org.

Fuhr attends D.C. program

RICFB Director Phil Fuhr attends Leaders to Washington Program:

I had the opportunity to attend the March 2022 Leaders to Washington Program. It was a two-day program lead by Adam Nielsen, director of legislation and policy with Illinois Farm Bureau.

We mainly discussed current issues affecting farmers, including WOTUS laws, high input expenses and supporting renewable fuels. We met with multiple downstate IL House representatives, as well as Sens. Durbin and Duckworth. It was a great opportunity to represent Illinois Farmers and support agriculture. It was a great opportunity and I would recommend it to any members wishing to be involved.



Phil Fuhr

Veterinary student loans available

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Farm Bureau is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing 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, IFB associate director of commodity and livestock programs. “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, 2022, and can be found online at www.ifb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2022. 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 \$550,000 to 27 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@ifb.org.

May webinar to cover economic statement

If you are an elected or appointed official, you are required to submit a Statement of Economic Interest by May 1, 2022.

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau will host a free webinar on Thursday, April 14, at noon at our office. The webinar will be presented

by Township Officials of Illinois and will include information on changes and what is and is not required on the statement. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 3 p.m. April 13 to tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org or 309-736-7432.

Lunch will be provided.

Calendar of Events

APRIL – NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

4-8	Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week
14	Statement of Economic Interest webinar; RICFB office
18	RICFB Board of Directors meeting

MAY – BEEF MONTH

16	RICFB Board of Directors meeting
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Help put focus on grain safety

Because everyone deserves to go home from work each day, we come together as an industry to take a stand for safety during Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week April 4-8. Join us during the week for daily events. Learn more at StandUp4GrainSafety.org

CUBS VS. CARDINALS



Join us on a chartered bus trip to Wrigley Field to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the St. Louis Cardinals on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022! Game time is 1:20. The bus will leave Bally's Casino & Hotel at 8 a.m. (time subject to change). Tickets are \$100 each, which includes cost of bus and ticket. Limit six tickets per member. Call 309-736-7432 to reserve your seats today!



We want to wish all our members a SAFE and HEALTHY planting season!



Helpline for farmers available statewide

Farming is a challenging and sometimes dangerous business. Weather, machinery, logistics and livestock can cause difficulties within a day's work.

Yet these can pale next to the concerns and stress that a farmer carries inside. Farmers are among the most likely to die by suicide, compared with other occupations, according to a 2022 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study also found that suicide rates overall had grown by 40 percent in less than two decades.

A new support system is available to help the Illinois farming community. It's as close as your phone. A helpline (1-833-FARM-SOS) will connect farmers to health professionals and services as part of a new statewide program.

The Farm Family Resource Initiative is a joint program of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. SIU's Center for Rural Health and Social Services Development has created a statewide network of resources to address the mental health needs of the farming and agricultural workforce.

In addition to the 24-hour helpline, farmers can now access free webinars, blogs and trainings on psychological signs of stress at the website siumed.org/farm.

“We’ve designed the program to give ongoing outreach, education and training to our rural partners,” said Karen Stallman, FFRI agricultural resource specialist. “We want to improve the health and safety of farm families. It’s another toolkit they can use to keep well and productive. And we continue to expand our services.”

SIU Medicine conducted a needs assessment in 2020 that found two out of three Illinois farmers considered farm-related stress and mental health to be significant problems. In addition to the regular stresses of farm manage-

ment, the pandemic has created labor and supply chain disruptions.

In 2021, the Illinois Department of Agriculture received a \$500,000 USDA grant that allowed expansion of the FFRI's pilot program. Part of that funding allowed the FFRI to go statewide. The remaining portion went to the University of Illinois Extension for farm mental health programming. SIU School of Medicine and University of Illinois Extension partner on many efforts. “The state brought federal funding to help a segment of the rural population,” said Stallman, “and our medical community was there, ready to step up.”

“SIU School of Medicine has a mission of social accountability and bringing better health to central and southern Illinois,” said Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH, dean and provost of SIU School of Medicine. “The Farm Family Resource Initiative is a great fit for us and our rural partners – we’re putting the resources where they are needed most, right in the farmers’ hands.”

Mental health professionals from Memorial Behavioral Health in Springfield staff the helpline. The counselors have both medical expertise and knowledge of the factors that affect farming. The phone number is 1-833-327-6767 (1-833-FARM-SOS). A text option is available at the same number.

Those who prefer to email can reach call center staff at FarmFamilyResourceHelpline@mhsil.com. There are now counseling services available to those seeking additional assistance. The website siumed.org/farm has new content and resources added regularly.

Please share this information with farmers and their loved ones who may benefit from it. They have friends here and across Illinois who want them to live well and prosper.

April is National Safe Digging Month

ON THE FARM
OR AT HOME

CALL OR CLICK
BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-892-0123
Illinois1call.com

