

Foundation awards \$20,000 in scholarships

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2023 scholarships. This award is given to outstanding high school students who have achieved a well-rounded high school and collegiate career and understand the value of volunteerism. These applicants were selected based upon their academic, school and community involvement by an independent committee appointed by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors.

This year, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation awarded four \$1,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The 2023 Foundation Scholarship winners are:

- ▶ **Ella Goodnight**, daughter of Benjamin and Luci Goodnight, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will study neuroscience at Luther College this fall.
 - ▶ **Kameron Bohnsack**, son of Jay and Sarah Bohnsack, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. He will attend St. Ambrose University this fall, where he will study physical therapy and rehabilitation.
 - ▶ **Maddux Dieckman**, son of Ryan and Eva Dieckman, a 2023 graduate of Moline High School. He will study data analytics and financing/economics at Augustana College this fall.
 - ▶ **Amelia Rursch**, daughter of Darrin and Keri Rursch, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will attend Rhodes College this fall, where she will study law.
- These scholarships have been made possible

A reminder that scholarship applications are available from the Farm Bureau office around Jan. 1 each year. For more information regarding the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation and their scholarships, please contact the FB office at 309-736-7432, or visit www.ricofarmbureau.org/foundation.

thanks to the financial gifts from several families. We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to the family of Myron and Helen Mueller, who donated over \$5,000 to the foundation in support of funding one of the foundation scholarships each year beginning in 2009. Currently, because of their additional giving, the fund has grown and will help fund a foundation scholarship each year until funding is exhausted. The family of Glenn Mueller also has donated funding in support of foundation scholarships.

The Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation and the Churchill Family Foundation have annually contributed \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively, toward the scholarships for the RICFB Foundation as well.

KEPPY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This year, four Farm Bureau member dependents will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their continuing education courtesy of the Wilbert and Carol Keppy Charitable Foundation. The 2023 Keppy Scholarship winners are:

- ▶ **Rachel Pyevich**, daughter of Steven Pyevich, a 2023 graduate of United Township High School. She will study agribusiness and management at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, this fall.
- ▶ **Mikaylin Hofer**, daughter of Michael and Victoria Hofer, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will attend Cornell College this fall with plans to study biology.
- ▶ **Jennifer Abbott**, daughter of Julie and Jason Abbott, a 2023 graduate of Orion High School. She will study agriculture leadership education and communications at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, this fall.
- ▶ **Taylor Gilmore**, daughter of Jessica Ross, a 2021 graduate of Moline High School. She will study journalism at the University of Missouri this fall.

GEORGE AND IRENE STULZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

This year, two Farm Bureau member dependents will receive \$1,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education courtesy of the George and Irene Stulz Family Scholarship. The 2023 Stulz Scholarship winners are:

- ▶ **Ella Rursch**, daughter of Darrin and Keri Rursch, a 2021 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will be a junior at University of Wisconsin-Platteville this fall, where she is majoring in agribusiness.
- ▶ **Ryan Parchert**, son of Carol and Tom Parchert, a 2021 graduate of Rockridge High School. He will be a junior this fall attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville studying agri-

business.

The Stulz Family Scholarship was established in 2018. The scholarship awards money to post-secondary students enrolled as a junior or senior at a four-year university with a career focus in an agricultural field.

KENNETH BUSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This year, one Farm Bureau member dependent will receive a \$2,000 scholarship toward their post-secondary education courtesy of the Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship. The 2023 Bush Scholarship winner is:

- ▶ **Cierra Bush**, daughter of Jared Bush and DeAnna Bush, a 2023 graduate of Rockridge High School. She will study accounting at Culver-Stockton College this fall.

The Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 by the Kenny Bush family. Kenny and Marilyn Bush have been long-time supporters of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau and its foundation.

Inducted into the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation in 2011, both served on the foundation board for a number of years, believing that hard work, education, and the value of family and faith is of the utmost importance in life. Kenny also served as the vice president of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau from 1968-1970 and president from 1970-1974.

Kenny Bush passed away in April 2020 and his family dedicated a generous scholarship contribution to be awarded annually in his honor.

Lots of good things happening with FFA

As our schools wrap up another year, we'd like to highlight some of the outstanding programs that our FFA chapters have done. While our FFA chapters have competed in various activities and contests over the past year, they have also provided services and given back to their communities and area youth. Read on to learn more about some of the top programs!

ROCKRIDGE FFA

On April 24, Rockridge FFA hosted its first ever Ag Day! Hosting nearly 500 elementary school students, Rockridge FFA officers and nearly all of its members helped with this event. Students visited four different stations where they learned and got to engage in several agricultural activities! These stations included a beekeeping lesson, a greenhouse production/planting lesson, a livestock petting zoo and a farm equipment station!

SHERRARD FFA

Sherrard FFA had another successful and impactful year with our Food Pantry Garden. This allows us to provide tasty fresh garden product for patrons of the food pantries we donate to. This also provides production experiences for our members. In the garden we grew sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, zucchini, and squash. This year we provided produce to three food pantries and one soup kitchen. This year, we delivered over 2.65 tons of produce. In the six years we have had the garden, we have donated almost 11 tons of produce to food pantries in our area.

RIVERDALE FFA

Riverdale FFA completed its annual Adopt-A-River Mile clean-up on April 18. We adopted mile 501-502 a few years ago and each year we pick up trash and large debris. Protecting and cleaning up our environment is one way we can help sustain our land and waters for future generations to enjoy.

Pope featured at Market Outlook

Clayton Pope of Clayton Pope Commodities, LLC, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, July 6 at 6:15 p.m. at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Dinner will be served followed by the local grain market update from Tom Parchert of Big River Resources. Reservations are required and must be made by June 29 to guarantee your attendance.

Clayton Pope has an extensive background in the world of agricultural risk management. From managing the largest floor operation in the industry at both the CME and the CBOI, working as a consultant serving many of the country's largest grain elevators, years of floor trading and order filling (CBOI), and acting as co-risk manager in charge of corn for Cargill's premier farmer consulting group, he has gained



Clayton Pope

invaluable experience. This experience allows him in his current role as owner of Clayton Pope Commodities LLC to effectively assist today's farming operations with their risk management needs. Clayton Pope Commodities LLC is a

registered introducing broker and advisory firm with eight locations across the country.

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

The Market Outlook Seminar Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees in conjunction with: Gold Star FS; COUNTRY Financial- Brent Bigham, Chad Nelson, John Waugh; Compeer Financial; River Valley Cooperative; Wyffels Hybrids; Big River Resources; BankORION; Blackhawk Bank & Trust; Central Bank.

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

JUNE – DAIRY MONTH

- 2 Farmland Assessment Review Committee meeting
- 13-15 Summer Ag Institute
- 16 RI Soil & Water Conservation District Pollinator Habitat Day
- 19 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 28 Marketing Committee planning meeting
- 29 Virtual Adopted Legislator meet and greet with Sen Edly-Allen
- 29 Young Leaders bags tournament (more to come on social media!)

JULY

- 4 Office closed for 4th of July
- 6 Market Outlook featuring Clayton Pope, Clayton Pope Commodities
- 6 Summer Ag Institute graduate credit day
- 17 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 17-22 Rock Island County Fair



We want to wish
all of our
members a
happy and safe
Fourth of July!

Our office will be closed
Tuesday, July 4, in honor of
Independence Day.