



### Bustos meets with farmers

Members of the Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureaus met with Congresswoman Cheri Bustos at the farm of Dennis Van Daele on May 25 to discuss planting progress, trade, infrastructure and what the future looks like for agriculture.

## Calendar of Events

### JULY 2019

- 8-11 AITC Summer Ag Institute
- 11 Market Outlook with Chip Nelling; Lavender Crest Winery; 6:15 p.m.
- 22 RICFB Board Meeting; 7 p.m.
- 16-20 Rock Island County Fair

### AUGUST 2019

- 2 Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting
- 4 Rock Island/Mercer CFB Young Leaders BBQ Social
- 5 District Meeting; Lavender Crest Winery
- 7 RICFB Foundation Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m.
- 17 Rock Island/Mercer CFB Young Leaders Ethanol Promotion
- 19 County Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

## Stressors hit hard

By Joanie Stiers

Some call this spring's collision of farm stressors the perfect storm. Unprecedented planting delays trouble farmers throughout the Corn Belt. Long-duration flooding halts barge movement of crops and fertilizer. A trade agreement with our nation's neighbors needs ratified to improve markets. Agency actions reduce ethanol volumes and thus corn demand. We fear the uncontrolled swine fever in China may spread. And the trade war that has depressed our crop markets threatens plural tense with recent White House warnings, adding bug bites to a tender sunburn.

These issues swirl around our heads like the season's onslaught of gnats, and no amount of swatting makes them go away. This spring is the most emotionally charged of my generation, and we don't know whether to laugh, cry or take a ball bat to the rain gauge. The issues facing the agriculture industry change like the weather forecast, so perhaps my thoughts will represent merely a diary entry from shortly after Memorial Day 2019. We cannot recall any other time with so many international, national and state issues impacting farming's profitability all at once. On top of that, farmers face the real possibility of not being able to plant some or most of their crop.

That fear bothered us the most, particularly in late May when most of our fields still awaited a crop and the extended forecast showed clouds and lightning bolts. It was standing room only at a local prevented plant insurance meeting, an option that generally doesn't pencil out as well for us nor our agribusiness friends. If Illinois fields sit idle, the ripple effect looks as ugly as a one-inch rain on a ponded field. Returns of seed and pesticides reduce revenue. Fewer manhours to plant, fertilize and spray means less overtime income for employees. The revenue loss continues into fall harvest.

We hold onto hope for better weather (finally improving now), positive trade agreements and better markets. We find reprieve in family time and laugh-out-loud Twitter posts, like farmers who have found fish in their fields.

## 104th Annual Meeting

of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau will be Monday, Aug. 19, 2019, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office, 1601 52nd Ave., Suite 3, Moline, IL, starting promptly at 6:30 p.m.

*No meal will be served.  
Only a business meeting and official business will take place.*

## Election process underway

With the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting approaching on Aug. 19, we have begun the process of collecting nominations for members to serve as directors on the Farm Bureau Board. All voting members of the Farm Bureau are entitled to nominate and elect members to the board.

This year's Nominating Committee of Drew Hohenboken, Phil Fuhr and Bradley Erickson were appointed at the June 2019 board meeting by President Marty McManus. They have notified every voting MM member with a letter mailed to all voting members (MMs) of the Farm Bureau inviting them to nominate themselves or fellow members to run for the Farm Bureau Board. Members can list up to four names on their nomination form and return it to the Farm Bureau office by the stated date of July 15.

The committee will contact each eligible person nominated to see if they are interested in running for a board seat. After everyone nominated has been contacted, the committee will prepare ballots for each district listing the names of the members willing and eligible to run for the board. All ballots need to be returned to the Farm Bureau office by a stated date.

If you have any questions about our election process, you may call a member of the nominating committee or call our office at (309) 736-7432.

## RICFB 103rd Annual Meeting

AUG. 20, 2018

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau was held Monday, Aug. 20, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office in Moline.

President Marty McManus welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. DeAnne gave the invocation and the Pledge to the Flag was said. Secretary Dennis VanDaele certified that the notice of the 103rd Annual Meeting was printed in the July issue of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau News, which was mailed to all members in July 2018, and certified that a quorum of members was present at the meeting. President McManus called the meeting to order.

President McManus stated the 102nd Annual Meeting minutes and the audited financial statements for the year ending May 31, 2018 were printed and handed out. President McManus asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as printed. The fiscal year, ending May 31, 2018, reported total assets of \$814,352 – liabilities of \$39,766 and a profit of \$31,541. A motion was made to approve the 102nd Annual Meeting minutes as printed and accept the financial report as of May 31, 2018. Motion passed.

Continuing with the business meeting, President McManus entertained a motion to approve the acts and deeds of the Board of Directors of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau for the past year. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made and seconded that the Board of Directors of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau be authorized to appoint the delegates to the Illinois Agricultural Association Annual Meeting to be held in December 2018, and any other meetings that may be called. Motion carried.

President McManus then called on Dave Mueller to report on the nomination and election of directors. Mueller reported that the Nominating Committee, comprised of Brent Riewerts, Fred Nightingale, and myself sent a call for nominations to all members entitled to vote in the election of directors on July 1. Everyone who was nominated was contacted, and those who were otherwise qualified and willing to serve were placed in nomination for director from the appropriate district. Election ballots were prepared and mailed to each voting member of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau. He then announced the results of the election, stating the following individuals received the highest number of votes in each district:

District 1	District 2	District 3
Phil Fuhr	Bradley Erickson	Drew Hohenboken
Bill Onken	Marty McManus	Wes DeClercq

Secretary Dennis Van Daele certified the results of the Election of Directors and declared each of the individuals elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors.

President McManus declared that the Board of Directors would hold their monthly meeting Monday, Aug. 20, at which time the election of officers for the coming year would be held.

President McManus called for further business. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Van Daele, Secretary

## What's going on this summer?

*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!

## Cubs vs Cardinals bus trip to Wrigley Field!

Friday, September 20, 2019

Game time 1:20pm

Cost is \$100 per member (limit 6)

Contact your local Farm Bureau to reserve your seat!



309-582-5116



309-736-7432