



## Ag Institute a big success

Ten Quad City Area teachers spent a week of their summer vacation taking a five-day graduate credit course offered through the Rock Island County Agriculture Literacy Coalition. Teachers spent their days touring Whitey's Ice Cream production facility, John Deere Harvester Works, Niabi Zoo, Brockmann Timbers, Nahant Marsh, Modern Woodman Park, Excelon-Cordova Fish Hatchery, Silver Bell Hollow Farm, DeClercq Farms, Reason's Prairie Pride Meats, Quad City Botanical Center, and Bent River Brewery in Rock Island.

Additional speakers throughout the week included: Illinois Soybean Association, Nutrients for Life, Illinois Beef Producers, Midwest Dairy, Illinois Corn Association, Steve Bush (Bush Seeding & Turf), and Laura Vollmer (Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom).

Summer Ag Institute participants get a first-hand look at area businesses and companies in order to learn more about how each company or business relates back to agriculture. Participants are also presented with information and demonstrations so that they can take their thoughts and ideas back to their classrooms to share with their students.

Teachers who complete the class and the required assignments, including a class review, reflective journal, and grade-appropriate lesson plan are eligible to receive two grad credits from University of Saint Francis or 30 professional development hours from the Rock Island Regional Office of Education.

For more information contact Sheryl Solomonson, agriculture literacy coordinator, at 309-736-7432 or at [aite@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:aite@ricofarmbureau.org).



Ten teachers from the Quad City area are now developing lessons to teach Agriculture in the Classroom after visiting various sites during this summer's Ag Institute.

## North to lead Market Outlook

Mike North, president of Commodity Risk Management Group, will be the featured speaker on Thursday, Sept. 12, at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 6:15 p.m., followed by an update from Gold Star FS Grain Merchandiser Mike Schaver. Reservations must be made by Sept. 5 to guarantee a meal.

Mike grew up on his family's dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin. His lifelong interest in agriculture production led him to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he received his bachelor of science degree in agribusiness with a minor in dairy science. While still a student, Mike served a one-year term as a Wisconsin State FFA Officer.

Mike began his work in the futures industry in 1995 as an intern with a local brokerage company researching the technical and fundamental dynamics of commodity market history and current price trends. As the company grew, Mike's responsibilities grew as well. His team was often recognized around the country as one of the pioneers of market responsive option hedging programs and were invited by groups across the country to share their knowledge.

After nearly two decades in the business, Mike founded Commodity Risk Management Group ([www.crmg.us](http://www.crmg.us)) in 2014. His team of brokers and advisers leads production and processing clients in their efforts to construct marketing plans and margin management programs. CRMG goes beyond the traditional futures and options services to construct programs that manage local market variables.

Additionally, Mike uses his experience to educate today's producers and businessmen about the tools available for price protection and risk management. Mike has been published in several agricultural periodicals, is a regular guest on several national programs such as AgDay, RFDTV, and the U.S. Farm Report, can be heard frequently on several local and national radio programs, served as a part-time lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and is a featured speaker at programs across the country.

In 2008, Mike was elected to the board of directors of the Dairy Business Association, an organization that represents the dairy industry and its economic and environmental stake in Wisconsin. He now serves as their president.

Mike has been honored as the 2006 Rising Star in Business for the Iowa, Illinois Wisconsin Tri-State Region and in 2011 as the recipient of the UW-Platteville Outstanding Alumni Award. Mike and his wife Jennifer have four daughters and are actively involved in showing animals, the leadership of their church as well as several community initiatives. Mike is an avid sportsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, biking and skiing.

Cost for the series is \$75 and a single session is \$25 (if not pre-registered, cost will be \$30). To make reservations, 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 Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees.



Mike North

## Join farm family at Farm Progress Show

The 2019 Farm Progress Show will take place in Decatur on Aug. 27-29. The Illinois Farm Bureau family of companies invites you to join ag families from across the Midwest, take a break from your daily routine, and immerse yourself in the wider ag community to celebrate agriculture. IFB and Country Financial will be located together at booths 749 and 753. Growmark and all the primary product lines and services of FS will be spotlighted under the FS Tent located on lot 1233.

On your behalf, the Illinois Farm Bureau and its family of companies strive to improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life.

Stop by to say hi, grab a glass of cold lemonade, and support our future generation with Country Financial. Farm Bureau's Young Leaders, 4-H and FFA members' work will be on display, and with your vote, possibly receive a \$10,000 donation to their program.

The FS and Growmark System is also dedicated to the future of farming. During the three days of Farm Progress Show, FFA students, alumni, supporters and fans will be invited to check in for the FFA. For every check-in cataloged, the Illinois Association FFA will receive \$1 up to \$5,000! And

### FPS fun fact

Illinois Farm Bureau began teaming up with Prairie Farms at its tent in 2017 to give away ice cream to visitors at the FB tent. 10,000 cups of ice cream were handed out to visitors in 2017, totaling 300 gallons of ice cream over the show's three days.

five chapters with the most check-ins will receive \$1,000 each! The donations will be made by the Growmark Foundation on behalf of the FS Cooperative System. Visitors can also make a Facebook or Twitter post at the FS Tent and get rewarded. You can also get spotted on the streets of Progress City wearing FS gear to win an instant prize. Finally, the tent will host Ag Chats, covering timely topics such as 2019 grain marketing outlook, and Farming Face Off, a classic trivia challenge with ag-attitude, for fun and prizes.

IFB will be serving free ice cream to help you cool off. You can also learn more about how the Illinois Farm Bureau is helping you to take charge of change, both locally and nationally.

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST 2019

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 2     | Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting  |
| 4     | Rock Island/Mercer CFB Young Leaders BBQ Social  |
| 5     | District 3 Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Lavender Crest Winery   |
| 7     | RICFB Foundation Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m.  |
| 13    | Board of Director ballots due to RICFB   |
| 17    | Rock Island/Mercer CFB Young Leaders Ethanol Promotion   |
| 19    | County Annual Meeting; 6:30 p.m.   |
|       | Regular board meeting and election of officers takes place immediately following adjournment of Annual Meeting |
| 27-29 | Farm Progress Show, Decatur  |

### SEPTEMBER 2019

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|----|--|
| 2  | Labor Day; office closed   |
| 5  | District 3 Director Training - 5:30 p.m., Henry County FB  |
| 12 | Kickoff to 2019-2020 Henry, Mercer, Rock Island Market Outlook Series with Mike North of Commodity Risk Management Group |
| 16 | Board meeting; time to TBA based on harvest conditions   |

**We only have a handful of seats available  
for our Cubs/Cardinals bus trip on Sept. 20!**

**Call us today at 309-736-7432 to reserve your spot!**

## 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.*