

AUGUST 2020

## Vote against the progressive tax

We urge all voters to defeat the proposed Constitutional Amendment question that will be on the November ballot. If enacted, this amendment would end our state's flat income tax and will roll into place a progressive income tax. But we believe there is nothing fair about a progressive tax – a tax that shifts the state's financial burdens onto the most successful businessmen and women. Vote no on the Constitutional Amendment to keep our state's income tax flat and fair.

Illinois' current non-graduated, or flat, income tax of 4.95 percent fairly applies the same tax rate to everyone in the state. Compare that to the proposed progressive tax. If the amendment is approved by voters in November, a progressive income tax rate structure – already agreed to by lawmakers – would take effect. This progressive income tax structure divides Illinoisans into categories based on their level of income, and, as income levels get progressively higher so do the tax rates. Under this progressive income tax structure, the tax rates start at 4.75 percent and go all the way up to 7.99 percent.

Since the 1970s, Illinois' Constitution has ensured that all Illinoisans "equally" pay the same income tax rate. This means if the tax rate increases for one person it increases for all—this is fair. But under a progressive income tax, lawmakers can pick and choose whose taxes they raise. With a single bill, state lawmaker can adjust these income categories and raise the tax rates on any and all of us.



### Show your support

Farm Bureau has Vote No on Progressive Income Tax yard signs available for display. If you would like a sign to display in your yard or along a field, please contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau today. Quantities are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Illinois Farm Bureau policy states clear support for a flat tax. This policy, which has been vetted by our members, believes the flat tax is a fair way to tax the citizens of Illinois. A flat tax applies the same tax rate on everyone – no matter their income level. If the Constitutional amendment is approved in November, lawmaker will impose varying tax rates based on how successful you are as an individual or as a corporation.

Let's keep Illinois' income tax fair. Vote NO on the proposed Constitutional Amendment in November.

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST 2020

5	District Young Leader Discussion meet; HCFB, 6 p.m.
6	Region 1 Manager's Meeting; Zoom
12	IB Policy Resolutions Committee Meeting
17	County Annual Meeting and Board Meeting; 6:30 p.m.
24	District 3 Meeting; HCFB, 6 p.m.
26	RICFB Foundation Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 2020

10	Region 1 Manager's Meeting
10	Tentative Market Outlook Seminar with Naomi Bloom; Lavender Crest Winery, 6:15 p.m.
12	Grain Bin Safety Awareness program; Sherrard HS
21	RICFB Board of Directors meeting; 7 p.m.
24	Country Financial Agent Appreciation Luncheon

## Bloom to lead Outlook

Naomi Bloom with Stewart-Peterson is tentatively scheduled to speak at our Market Outlook Seminar for Thursday, Sept. 10, at Lavender Crest Winery, 5401 US Highway 6, Colona. Bloom is the first speaker of our 20-21 Market Outlook Series. More information to come once the details are finalized.

Reservations must be made by Sept.

3 to guarantee your attendance.

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.

### 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!

We regret to inform our members that our annual bus trip to Wrigley Field for a Cubs vs. Cardinals baseball game on Sept. 25 has been canceled. Letters and refunds have been sent to our attendees. We're looking forward to next year!

## 105th Annual Meeting

of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau

will be held on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at 1601 52nd Ave., Suite 3, Moline, IL, and will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

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

## Grain bin safety program set

This program is subject to change due to social distancing orders.

The Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureaus are partnering with the Illinois Fire Service Institute and Sherrard FFA to host "Farmers and First Responders," a grain bin safety program on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Sherrard High School, 4701 176th Ave., Sherrard, IL. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with a hands-on, live simulation grain bin entrapment demonstration provided by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by a showing of the movie "Silo" at 1 p.m.

"Silo" is the first-ever featured film about grain entrapment. Inspired by true events, "Silo" follows a harrowing day in an American farm town. Disaster strikes when teenager Cody Rose is entrapped in a 50-foot-tall grain bin. When the corn turns to quicksand, family, neighbors and first responders must put aside their differences to rescue Cody from drowning in the crop that has sustained their community for generations. To view the movie trailer, visit [www.silothefilm.com](http://www.silothefilm.com).

com/trailer.

All farmers and first responders in Rock Island and Mercer Counties are invited to attend. The program is sponsored by the Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureaus and Country Financial representatives: Brent Biggam, Tracy Biggam, Stacey Brown, Shirley Helmick, Tara Kain, Troy Mayhew, Michael Moorhusen, Chad Nelson, Jason Potter, Bart Reed, Randy Rursch, Steve Sim and John Waugh.

Please bring a mask and be prepared to practice social distancing. We will have two trainers from the Illinois Fire Service Institute on site for the hands-on demonstration so we can split into two smaller groups.

Registration is required by Sept. 4. Please call the Rock Island County Farm Bureau at 309-736-7432 or email [tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org](mailto:tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org), or the Mercer County Farm Bureau at 309-582-5116 or email [mcfb1@frontiernet.net](mailto:mcfb1@frontiernet.net) to reserve your spot. Based on when this story went to print, the program is subject to change due to social distancing orders. Please contact our offices to verify program information.

## Free recycling program offered

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers and agrichemical facilities to save their empty agrichemical containers as they will once again be hosting free container recycling days throughout the state.

Beginning the middle of July and continuing into August, sites throughout the state will collect the empty containers which will be recycled and made into shipping pallets, plastic lumber, and other useful products.

In 2019, 30 single-day collection events were held throughout the state. IDOA personnel inspected and collected approximately 95,000 pounds of

#2 HDPE plastic pesticide containers from pesticide users.

"This program offers farmers and agrichemical facilities a convenient opportunity to dispose of empty pesticide containers while also helping to protect the environment," said Jerry Costello II, director of the IDOA. "I encourage farmers to gather any containers they may have been planning to throw out and take them to the nearest collection site to be repurposed."

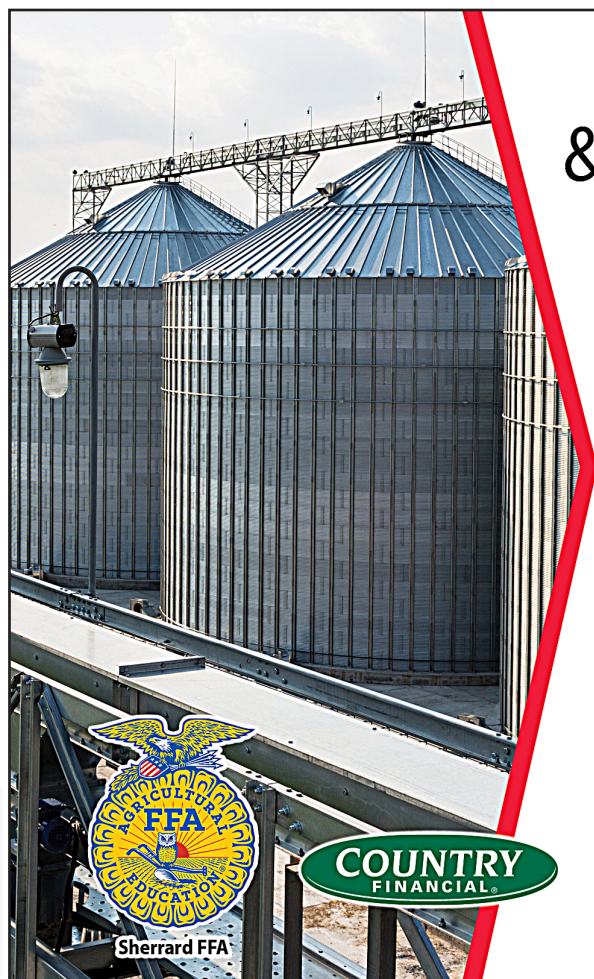
Metal and household pesticide containers are not eligible for the recycling program.

Collection sites will accept only high-density polyethylene, #2 plastic

agrichemical containers that are clean and dry. Participants are responsible for rinsing them and removing all caps, labels, booklets, and foil seals.

The program is a cooperative venture between the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Container Recycling Council, GROWMARK, Inc., Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, G. Phillips and Sons, L.L.C., Illinois Farm Bureau, and the University of Illinois Extension.

Additional information and collection locations can be found on the IDOA website at [agriculture.illinois.gov](http://agriculture.illinois.gov), click on the "Environment" tab and then "Agrichemicals."



## FARMERS & First Responders

Saturday, Sept. 12th  
9:00 a.m.

Sherrard High School • 4701 176th Ave,  
Sherrard, IL 61281

**Hands-on, Live Simulation**

**Grain Bin Entrapment Demonstration**  
provided by the Illinois Fire Service Institute

Lunch at Noon

Showing of the movie **SIL0**  
right after lunch

