

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NEWS



August 2024

Editor: Tara Mayhew

Meet Your Farmer a Success



The Rock Island County Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation District and Precision Conservation Management partnered together to host the first annual Meet Your Farmer Day at the Rock Island County Fair. The all-day event was held under the Entertainment Tent and ran from 9:00am until 4:00pm. The weather was perfect as the event kicked off with a farmers market, followed by a canning demonstration from Kristin Bogdonas, the University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator. Raghela Scavuzzo, IFB Associate Director of Food Systems Development gave a presentation on local food markets and included lots of information on grants and food programs for schools and specialty growers. While attendees enjoyed a complimentary lunch, Jennifer Wheeler of Corner Blooms gave a demonstration on fermentation. The afternoon activities began with a farmer roundtable discussion led by Rebekah Ahrens. The farmer panel consisted of local farmers Keith Gorham, Chad Bell and Monte Bottens as they discussed the conservation practices used on each of their family farms. The excitement really ramped up in the afternoon as the Mercer

– Rock Island Young Leaders hosted the pedal tractor pull in the Copeland Building for kids ages 12 and under. The contest boasted 40 participants who competed for 1st – 3rd place in four classes. It was great to see the kids cheering and rooting for each other! The pedal pull was a huge hit and had a full crowd. Back under the tent, Precision Conservation Management and Soil & Water Conservation District discussed programs that are available for farmers. Gene Miller rounded out the demonstrations with a beekeeping demonstration and the day wrapped up with some kids educational activities about agriculture. Each attendee received a “We Are The 96” mini tote filled with a variety of items including reusable IFB sandwich bags, refrigerator magnets with grilling tips, a seasonal produce calendar, stickers, recipe cards and “Farmers Love Clean Water” cups. The event was funded in part by the Illinois Farm Bureau Consumer Engagement grant. Thank you to everyone who came out and support our first annual Meet Your Farmer Day! It was wonderful to see everyone out and about at the Rock Island County Fair!



Market Outlook Seminar featuring Nathan Losey, AgResource

Nathan Losey, of AgResource Company, will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, September 10 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 River Valley Cooperative. Reservations are required and must be made by September 3 to guarantee your attendance.

Nathan Losey, grain and livestock analyst, grew up on a family-operated hog and grain farm in North Central Illinois. After college, he spent several years working on his family’s farrow-to-finish hog operation. Nathan joined the AgResource Company analyst team in 2005. Nathan is a graduate from Western Illinois University where he received a bachelor’s degree in agriculture business and a master’s degree in economics.

Additional dates and speakers for the 2024-2025 series include:

- November 14, 2024 – Matt Bennett, AgMarket.Net
- March 13, 2025 – Joe Camp, CommStock Investments
- July 1, 2025 – Chip Nellinger, Blue Reef Agri-Marketing

Cost for the series is \$90.00 and a single session is \$35.00 (if not pre-registered cost will be \$40.00). To make reservations, please call the Rock Island County Farm Bureau at (309) 736-7432 or email tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org.

The Market Outlook Seminar Series is sponsored by the Henry, Rock Island and Mercer County Farm Bureau Marketing Committees.



REMINDER THAT BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION BALLOTS ARE DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 12TH!

WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE 4HERS ON AN *OUTSTANDING* ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FAIR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 7 District 3 Young Leader Discussion Meet
- 12 RICFB director election ballots due
- 15 Organizational Member Strategy subcommittee meeting, IFB
- 16 QC Regional Advertising & Women in Ag Conference Committee meetings
- 19 RICFB Annual Meeting, followed by Board of Director meetings
- 21 RICFB Foundation Board of Director Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Deadline to register for Market Outlook seminar
- 10 Market Outlook seminar featuring Nathan Losey of AgResource
- 16 RICFB Board of Directors meeting