



Pictured, front from left: Jenna Preston, Tara Mayhew, Kealy Simkins, Samantha Reese, Megan Mills, Katelyn Feik. Back: Miranda Reininger, Cody Blaser, Gage Hank, Grant Biddle, Garrett Feik, Cole Whisman, Brad Reininger

## Young Leaders event raises \$700

The Mercer-Rock Island Farm Bureau Young Leaders hosted their 2nd annual Bags Tournament on June 30th at Lloyd's Longbranch in Reynolds.

The Young Leaders charged \$20 per team and sold T-shirts at the event, bringing in a total of \$701 that was split between the Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundations for scholarships and Ag In The Classroom programming. Twenty teams participated in the single-elimination event. A toilet bowl bracket was added this year, so teams who lost in the first round could buy back in for another \$10 to play in a toilet bowl championship. Also new this year was musical entertainment by Chuck Murphy.

A big thank you for Rockridge and Mercer County FFA Chapters for making our custom bags sets and to Farmers-Merchants Bank of Illinois in Joy for helping sponsor our prizes!

Another special thanks to Lloyd's Longbranch and staff for allowing us use of your location, and to everyone who participated in making the 2nd annual Young Leaders Bags Tournament another success!

## Young Leaders host fair activities

The Mercer-Rock Island Farm Bureau Young Leaders hosted free youth activities at each of the Mercer and Rock Island County Fairs. A pedal tractor pull was held at the Mercer County Fair for children 12 years and under. Thirty-eight kids participated and were split into three weight classes. The top three plac-

ings in each class won gift cards to Bowlyou's, Mercer Market and Happy Joe's Pizza!

An ag scavenger hunt was held at the Rock Island County Fair for families and children of all ages. About 30 participants joined in the fun, following clues to each of the livestock barns, participating in an

activity and ag trivia, and getting their passport stamped at each station. They received Ag Mags at each station and once their passport was full, they received candy and a cold bottle of water.

This was a great opportunity to teach fairgoers where their food, fuel and fiber come from!

### Our winners and their prizes

- ▶ **1st-place team** – Josh Drish and Rusty Adamson; winning the custom bags sets by Rockridge and Mercer County FFA chapters
- ▶ **2nd-place team** – Kameron Macke and Dusty Macke; winning coolers
- ▶ **Toilet Bowl champions** - Nick Emery and Dalton McManus; winning Young Leader "Support your local farmers" T-shirts
- ▶ **Best Team Name** – Sara and Bailey Blaser; winning IFB hats and can cozies



Pictured are Joey Deloian, RISWCD; Bubis, Jenna and Drew Hohenboken Story, photo provided by Rich Stewart, RISWCD resource conservationist.

## Hohenboken family honored by AISWCD

Drew Hohenboken and his family were announced as runners-up for the Conservation Farm Family.

The announcement was made at the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual meeting in Springfield on Monday, July 18.

The Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District nominated the Hohenboken family for its work in conservation. From that nomination, the AISWCD office reviewed the applications and selected them as runner-up Farm Family.

Over the years, Drew has applied a variety of conservation practices. He planted over 12,000 tree seedlings in 2004. He applied grass filter strips on

his drainage ditches. Wildlife habitat was improved with shallow water wetlands. No-till farming is used on his sloping cropland.

Recently, he reshaped an existing grassed waterway and updated the tile drainage system. In 2021, he installed a denitrifying bioreactor on the new tile system to reduce the loss of nitrates from the drainage tile.

Drew is working with the local NRCS office to remove an unused livestock waste lagoon to prevent groundwater pollution.

The Rock Island SWCD office congratulates the Hohenboken family for its efforts to preserve and improve water quality in their area.

## Fuhr, Onken retire from RICFB board

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to thank and recognize two retiring directors this year. Phil Fuhr and Bill Onken have served the members of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau for a combined 34 years. Bill has represented District 1 since 2012. Phil has served District 1 since 1998, including many years as board president. Thank you for your many years of loyalty, insight and service to the Rock Island County Farm Bureau!



## Scholarship recipients recognized at luncheon

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation recognized this year's scholarship recipients at an awards luncheon at Happy Joe's, Coal Valley, on June 29. Students and their families enjoyed pizza and had the opportunity to visit with some of our Foundation directors and donors. Pictured, from left, are Erica Coyne, Desiree Reid, Mia Freyermuth, Hunter Johnson, Ella Rursch, Evan DeKeyrel, Marilyn Bush (director and donor of the Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship), Dylan Craver, Jim Neumann (scholarship chair) and Glenn Saddoris (president). Not pictured was Tyler Bohnert.

We want to extend our

## CONGRATULATIONS

to ALL of our members who exhibited at the Rock Island County Fair! What a great week it was!

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

- 1 District 3 Meeting – Lavender Crest Winery
- 15 RICFB Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting
- 17 RICFB Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
- 25 Cubs/Cardinals bus trip to Wrigley Field

### SEPTEMBER

- 8 Market Outlook, Lavender Crest Winery – more info coming soon!
- 19 RICFB Board of Directors Meeting

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 107th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau will be held on Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office located at 1601 52nd Avenue, 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.