



From left: Manager Tara Mayhew, David Mueller, Sen. Edly-Allen and Dennis VanDaele at the Lake County Farm Bureau.

## Senator paired with Adopt-A-Legislator

Earlier this year, the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted to re-engage in the Adopt-A-Legislator program. The purpose of the program is to build long-term personal relationships between urban state legislators and farmers from across the state.

The goal of the program is to educate urban legislators about agriculture – our state’s largest industry – and rural life, while also helping our members better understand the needs and concerns of an urban district.

RICFB was paired with Sen. Mary Edly-Allen of the 31st District in Lake County. On August 10, direc-

tors David Mueller and Dennis VanDaele, along with manager Tara Mayhew, traveled to Lake County and spent the day with Sen. Edly-Allen, her staff and members of the Lake County Farm Bureau. We toured a local landscaping business and local farm, learned about security and local development at Gurnee Mills Shopping Center and toured the Advanced Technology Center at the College of Lake County. We spent time talking about business and farming in both Lake County and Rock Island County.

Sen. Edly-Allen will visit Rock Island County this fall during harvest.

# Changing RICFB board

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to thank and recognize four retiring directors this year. Jake Coyne, Andy DeKeyrel, Brent Riewerts and Travis Smeltzly are retiring with a combined 28 years of service. Brent has served District 3 since 2011, including many years as vice president. Andy has served District 2, also since 2011, and served as board representative on the RICFB Foundation Board of Directors. Jake and Travis have both served as directors for two years.

Thank you for your many years of loyalty, insight and service to the Rock Island County Farm Bureau!

### Board of Directors welcomes 3 new members Rod Derrer

Serving District 2 on the RICFB board of directors is Rod Derrer. Rod is a fourth-generation farmer originally from Mount Carroll, Illinois. He and his wife, Julie, have farmed in Milan, Illinois, for 30 years. They also own and operate a cow/calf operation focusing on show cattle of various breeds. Rod has also served on the Rock Island County Fair board.

His passion is for the livestock industry. Rod owns DF Feeds, which provides Umbarger and Lindner show



Rod Derrer



Ethan Coyne

feeds to stock show families in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

The Derrers have one daughter, Rylee; son-in-law, Johnathan; and granddaughter, Radleigh, who recently moved back to make their home in Milan raising show pigs.

### Ethan Coyne

My name is Ethan Coyne and I will be serving District 2 on the RICFB Board of Directors. I am a third-generation farmer on my family farm. I grew up on a farm five miles south of Milan. Growing up I was always with my dad outside on the farm doing what I could to help out, knowing someday I wanted to be right beside him helping and growing the family farm. At our farm we have a cow calf herd, and we farm corn and soybeans. It isn't a job that we go to every day; it is a passion that we



Andrew Kruckenberg

love and wouldn't want to change for the world.

### Andrew Kruckenberg

Joining the board in District 3 is Andrew Kruckenberg. Andrew and his wife, Maria, reside outside of Port Byron with their two sons, Noah, 7, and Boyd, 5, who both enjoy helping on the farm. Andrew raises corn and soybeans with his father, Mark, and younger brother, Austin.

## Closer look at the new RICFB board

The following directors were elected to the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Board for a two-year term at the 108th County Annual Meeting on Aug. 21.

District 1	Joe Franks, David Mueller and Kevin Oak
District 2	Ethan Coyne, Rod Derrer and Dennis VanDaele
District 3	Scott Bohnert and Andrew Kruckenberg

The full board is as follows:

District 1:	Kevin Oak, David Mueller, Joe Franks, Tyson Fryermuth and Jason Rursch
District 2:	Ethan Coyne, Rod Derrer, Marty McManus, Dennis VanDaele and Jeff Yeater
District 3:	Scott Bohnert, Wes DeClercq, Drew Hohenboken, Andrew Kruckenberg and Vacant

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau board is made up of 15 board members – five farmers representing each of the three districts in Rock Island County, with a vacancy in District 3 currently. Five board members range in age of 25 to 44, five board members range in age of 45 to 59 and four board members range in age of 60 to 75.

Following the county annual meeting the board convened its August board meeting. A reorganization of the board followed with the election of officers: President, Marty McManus; Vice President – David Mueller; Secretary – Dennis VanDaele; Treasurer – Joe Franks.

## Week puts focus on farm safety, health

Illinois Farm Bureau is again partnering with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety to promote farm safety and health during National Farm Safety and Health Week, themed, “No One Can Take Your Place,” Sept. 17-23, 2023.

“We’re excited to help promote and support NECAS’s efforts in keeping farmers and farm families safe,” said Tara Mayhew, manager, Rock Island County Farm Bureau. “Harvest season can be particularly dangerous for farmers with long hours and stress of weather delays, equipment breakdowns or high operating costs, and this year’s activities will reinforce the importance of organizations like ours working together to ensure farmers make it home safely to their families at night.” Each day of the week has a designat-

ed topic of focus to promote various aspects of farm safety:

- Monday, Sept. 18** – Equipment and Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, Sept. 19** – Health and Wellness
- Wednesday, Sept. 20** – Priority Populations
- Thursday, Sept. 21** – Confined Spaces
- Friday, Sept. 22** – Brain Health

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry.

For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

“Farmers are notorious for their work ethic and determination, both qualities that also can be a detriment when it comes to safety,” said Mayhew. “While farm safety is top of mind every week for farmers, their families and their employees, National Farm Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to spotlight safety reminders that keep those both inside and outside the agriculture industry aware and mindful during the busy harvest season.”

For more information about National Farm Safety and Health Week, contact your local county Farm Bureau, visit [www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org), or contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or [dgallivan@ilfb.org](mailto:dgallivan@ilfb.org).



We want to wish all of our members a SAFE and BOUNTIFUL harvest!

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

1	Riverdale Elementary Ag Day
4	Labor Day; office closed
6	Market Outlook featuring Dr. Chad Hart, Lavender Crest Winery
7	Sherrard FFA Field Day; more info to come!
10-16	Suicide Prevention Week
12	Young Leader meeting
15	Foundation Freezer Meal orders due
17-23	National Farm Safety and Health Week
18	RICFB Board of Directors meeting

### OCTOBER -- NATIONAL PORK MONTH

10	Freezer Meal pickup from 4:30 to 5 p.m.
16	RICFB Board of Directors meeting