



What's going on **THIS SUMMER**

JULY 2014

- 18 Celebrate Agriculture night with the River Bandits
- 19 Learn and Play Day at the JD Pavilion 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting – TBA
RICFB Board Meets with DeKalb CFB
Centennial Planning Committee 6 p.m. FB office
- 30 IFB Commodities Conference in Bloomington

AUGUST 2014

- 4 District 3 Meeting at Oak View Country Club 6 p.m.; Aledo; reservations required
- 18 Annual Meeting/Election of Directors 6:30 p.m. at FB office
7:30 p.m. – Regular board meeting and election of officers

SEPTEMBER 2014

- 1 Labor Day; office closed
- 10 Foundation Board Meeting; 7 p.m., FB office
- 15 Board meeting, 8 p.m.
- 17-19 AgXPerience, 2014

Celebrity Showmanship Contest another success

The Rock Island County Fair Celebrity Showmanship Contest was June 17th the opening day of the Rock Island County Fair. It was a success thanks to the involvement and dedication of 6 local celebrities and elected officials. Alliance Pipeline was the featured sponsor. The event would not have been possible with the support of 4-H-ers and their parents training the contestants on showing a pig.

Judge Tyler Gradert made the final placings.

This year's Grand Champion in the Celebrity Showmanship Contest was 97X's Bill Michaels, who earned his charity, Backwater Gamblers, a \$500 donation. Bill's trainer was Tyler Freyermuth.

Reserve Grand Champion was WRMJ's Jim Taylor. He earned his char-

ity, the BJ Luxmore Memorial Fund \$300. Taylor was assisted by Grace Mercer.

Here are the rest of the placings:

3rd Place: East Moline Mayor John Thodos; Charity- Habitat for Humanity; assisted by Jeremy Colburn and Trent Zwicker.

4th Place: Moline Dispatch/RI Argus intern Grayson Schmidt; Charity - Good Fellow/Argus Santa Fund; assisted by Rachel Mackin and Ryan Parchert

5th Place: WQAD's Jonathan Ketz; Charity – Muscular Dystrophy Association; assisted by Westley Steiger and Logan Crawford

6th Place: WQAD's Cassie Heiter; Charity-Quad City Animal Shelter; assisted by Mia Freyermuth and Lucas Crawford

Election process underway

With the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting approaching on Aug. 18th we will begin the process of collecting nominations for members to serve as directors on the Farm Bureau board. All voting, "MM" members of the Farm Bureau are entitled to nominate and elect members to the board.

This year's Nominating Committee of Dennis Van Daele, Dave Mueller and Stan Woodburn were appointed at the June 2014 board meeting by President Marty McManus. They mailed a letter July 1 to all voting members of the Farm Bureau inviting them to nominate themselves or fellow members to run for the Farm Bureau Board. Members can list up

to four names on their nomination card, and return it to the Farm Bureau office by a stated date.

The committee will contact each eligible person nominated to see if they are interested in running for a board seat. After everyone nominated has been contacted, the committee will prepare ballots for each district listing the names of the members willing and eligible to run for the board. All ballots need to be returned to the Farm Bureau office by a stated date.

If you have any questions about our election process, you may call a member of the nominating committee or call our office at (309) 736-7432.

4-H teen group hosts Olympics

The Ag Olympics were recently held at the Rock Island County Fair. This event, coordinated by the 4-H Teen Federation, was open to all 4-H members in Rock Island County.

The Ag Olympics teams were split up into Junior and Senior Divisions. The Junior Division was made up of members ages 8-13, while the Senior Division was members ages 14 & up.

The Junior Division participated in a Bucket Brigade, Find the Eggs, Tug-of-War and an Egg Toss. The Senior Division participated in a Bucket Brigade, Find the Eggs, Tug-of-War and a Hay Bale Toss.

A donation was made to each chapter that came out and participated. Also, checks were given to the top three chapters in each division. All money was awarded by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau.

The results for the Junior Division are: First – ½ Buccaneers and ½ Hayburners, Second – Edgington Go-Getters, Third – Buccaneers, Fourth – Rockridge Royals, Fifth – Magical Muggles. The results for the Senior Division are: First – 1/3 Edgington Go-Getters; 1/3 Buccaneers; 1/3 Rockridge and Second – Rockridge Royals.



4-Hers compete in the Find the Eggs competition portion of the Ag Olympics on Thursday, June 19.

Join FB in fighting EPA proposal

What is WOTUS?

WOTUS stands for Waters Of The US. And if you haven't heard about it, read on. The Environmental Protection Agency is at it again. The new proposed rule on Waters of the United States (WOTUS) is another grab at regulating agriculture. When will the EPA understand that farmers are the original environmentalist?

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, agriculture took the issue seriously and the industry has continually implemented best practices to reduce runoff. Farmers have worked with the EPA and other agencies to make certain we are taking actions to improve water quality, and have adjusted the way we operate as science and technology improves.

In March the EPA and Army Corps proposed a rule that would give the agency significant control over the way a farmer manages the farm. Currently, farmers must abide by the Clean Water

Act in regards to "navigable waters," but this will expand EPA's regulatory reach to ditches, remote "waters" and ephemeral drains where water moves across farm fields during downpours.

If the EPA is allowed to expand its authority over small issues like ditches, we can only imagine what's next. Will they prohibit farming near ditches without proper permits? If this proposed rule becomes final, farmers and landowners will face roadblocks to ordinary farming activities – like fencing, spraying for pests, or even controlling weeds.

We are asking farmers to join together – to stand up for our way of life – and to tell the EPA to "Ditch the Rule." It is overreaching and clearly outside the lines of what Congress ever intended EPA to regulate.

IFB staff is available to help

If you get started on your comment and would like assistance organizing your thoughts or help with formatting or editing, please feel free to email your

draft comments with your cellphone number to dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org or call DeAnne at 736-7432. The comment deadline is October 20, 2014.

How to submit your comment

Submit your comments before the October 20, 2014 deadline, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880, by one of the following methods:

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Email: ow-docket@epa.gov. Include EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 in the subject line of the message.

Mail: Send the original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880.

CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE NIGHT

PRESENTED BY **ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU** **SCOTT COUNTY FARM BUREAU**
PEOPLE. PROGRESS. PRIDE.

Friday, July 18th - 7PM
Gates Open at 5:30
POST GAME FIREWORKS!

Pint Glasses Giveaway to First 1,000 Fans
Show your Farm Bureau Card at the Box Office for \$3 off Admission!

For More Info:
563-3 BANDIT
RIVERBANDITS.com

99th Annual Meeting

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau will be Monday, Aug. 18, 2014, at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at 1601 52nd Ave., Suite 3, Moline, Ill., and will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. No meal will be served. Only a business meeting and official business will take place.