ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NEWS

April 2026 **Editor: Tara Mayhew**

CALLING ALL BEEF PRODUCERS!

We're looking for producers to include in our promotion for Beef Month in May!

- Are you a beef producer in RI County?
- Do you sell beef direct to consumer?
- Would you like to be featured in our Beef Month promotion?

Reach out to Tara at tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org to learn more!

RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now open for applications. This program offers 15 scholarships, each valued at $4,000, to support nurse practitioners committed to serving rural communities in Illinois.

For over 33 years, this scholarship initiative has been instrumental in fostering a robust network of rural health practitioners, addressing the primary healthcare needs in Illinois' rural areas. Scholarship recipients are expected to practice in an approved rural area within the state for a minimum of two years.

Eligibility criteria include being a resident of Illinois and either accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as a Registered Nurse. The Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP) proudly funds this initiative.

Interested applicants can obtain application forms from county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, the RIMSAP website at RIMSAP.com, or by reaching out to Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, at the Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Please note that the application deadline is May 1.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact Donna Gallivan at **309-557-2350** or via email at **dgallivan@ilfb.org**.

WE NEED YOU!

Are you looking for some volunteer opportunities or ways to get more involved? We have several programs coming up that we would love some help with!

- **Farm Comes to Town planning committee:** One of our goals is to host a free family-friendly consumer engagement event in the heart of the Quad Cities with the purpose of bringing the farm to town. We will need volunteers to help on the planning committee, along with members and farmers who can lead educational stations and bring equipment or possibly animals. While we don't have a date set yet for this event, we are looking at the months of July or August.
- **Ag In The Classroom volunteers:** We will have a new Ag Literacy Coordinator starting in June (more on that coming soon!) and we are hoping to establish and grow an AITC volunteer committee. Volunteers would join us for planning meetings and help lead classroom lessons throughout the schools of Rock Island County. Materials would be supplied by the Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation, all we need from you is your time!

If either of these programs are something you would be interested in, please contact Tara at **tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org** to learn more.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VETERINARY STUDENT LOANS

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to $40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a $1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, IFB director of commodity programs and food systems. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2025, and can be found online at www.ilfb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2025. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than $610,000 to 29 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at **309-557-2993** or **tbunting@ilfb.org**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

20 ..... RICFB Board of Directors meeting
22 ..... UTHS Career Fair
28 ..... Young Leaders Meeting

MAY - BEEF MONTH

1 ..... RIMSAP applications due
6-8 ..... Managers Outing
15 ..... IVET applications due
18 ..... RICFB Board of Directors meeting
26 ..... Young Leaders meeting

WANT STAY UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS? SEND US YOUR EMAIL TO ACCOUNTS@RICOFARMBUREAU.ORG AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!