



Phipps to speak at Pollinator Conference

Registration is now open for the inaugural Quad Cities Pollinator Conference, June 10-11, 2015, at Jumer's Casino and Hotel in Rock Island. This two-day event features a keynote dinner by John Phipps, commentator for U.S. Farm Report, titled, "Shades of Grey: Communicating Science to an Anxious Public." With insights from his farm to the TV studio, Phipps will share experiences and working rules for explaining probabilistic technical information to audiences craving black and white answers.

Throughout the two days, participants will also attend a variety of educational sessions from experts, such as May Berenbaum, Ph.D.,

Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, on: plant-pollinator relationships, pollinator decline, designing pollinator support plantings, conservation measures, pollinator-friendly landscapes in agricultural and urban settings, and more. In addition, individuals can attend an optional off-site workshop and tours.

This conference is geared toward the agricultural community; municipal, state and federal government employees; landowners; homeowners; beekeepers; and educators. The conference will provide a platform for knowledge-sharing, open dialogue, networking, and pollinator-related goods and services.

Pollinators are a critical natural resource in agriculture and healthy ecosystems, but there has been a significant pollinator decline over the past few decades. Of the 100 crops that make up 90 percent of the global food supply, 71 are dependent on bees. Although our main cash crops are self-pollinating, insects do pollinate both plants and may be more important than historically thought. Honey bee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year in the United States.

Registration for the event is required by June 1. Exhibitor space and sponsorships are available. To register online or for more information, visit www.qcpollinatorconference.org or call Nahant Marsh at (563) 323-5196.

The conference is sponsored by: Nahant Marsh; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Rock Island, Scott and Henry counties; Rock Island County Farm Bureau, Scott County Farm Bureau, The Singh Family Charitable Giving Fund, Waste Commission of Scott County, Wallace's Garden Center, Living Lands and Waters, and Radish magazine.

More information:
www.qcpollinatorconference.org

MACHINE SHED COOKOUT

The RICFB Board of Directors hosted their first-ever Machine Shed cookout for county board members and elected state legislators. The casual, informal event April 8 at Bill Onken's shed proved a great way to talk about solutions and issues facing the county and, more importantly, farming.



ABOVE: County Board Chairman Moose Maranda (second from right) talks with (from left) Director Brian Brown and wife, Amy, Maranda and Phil Fuhr, RICFB director.

LEFT: Drew Hohenboken Nick Camlin: RICFB Director Drew Hohenboken talking with county board member Nick Camlin.



What's going on

THIS SUMMER

MAY 2015

- 12 Scholarship Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Happy Joe's in Coal Valley
- 18 Board Meeting Time TBD based on planting and field progress
- 25 Memorial Day office closed

JUNE 2015

- 10-11 Pollinator Conference, Jumer's Casino – Rock Island
- 11-13 AFBF Midwest YF and R conference – Jumer's Rock Island
- 15 Board Meeting Time TBD

JULY 2015

- 3 Independence Day – Office Closed
- 9 Market Outlook with Andy Shissler at Lavender Crest
- 15-19 Rock Island County Fair
- 18 John Deere's Learn and Play Day at John Deere Pavilion
- 20 Board Meeting Time TBD
- 29 IFB Commodities Conference in Bloomington

Save the dates!

AUGUST 2015

- 28 Celebrate Agriculture night with the River Bandits

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 7 Labor Day - Office Closed
- 16-18 AgXPerience 2015

Dear Farming/Voting member:

Beginning June 1, 2015, the Rock Island CFB office will have staffed office hours Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This means we will have our part-time office staff available for those cash transactions such as plat book purchases, movie tickets, Custom pork spice and other services as necessary from the Farm Bureau -- while also handling clerical, membership database and mailings.

This allows the CFB to utilize dollars more effectively as a result of decreased labor costs. Additionally, this allows the CFB manager to allocate their time more efficiently to promote agriculture and farmer's interests at various levels, including dialogues with our farm and non-farm audiences.

Since August 2014, when the combined billing program began, roughly 86 percent of associate/non farm memberships are now processed through the combined billing program. Voting members are not part of this program at the current time. This has decreased the workload for CFB staff.

DeAnne has worked with the RICFB Board of Directors over the past year to prepare for retirements this past January. Walk-in traffic and phone calls have been analyzed and tracked in an effort to understand what the support staff serves in relationship to retail traffic and clerical support. Our website – www.ricofarmbureau.org – has many questions and information related to routine questions – but please understand your service as it relates to farm issues remains the same.

If you have questions or comments – please feel free to contact one of the Farm Bureau director's listed below or contact DeAnne Bloomberg at the office.

President, Marty McManus
Vice President, Stan Woodburn
Secretary, Dennis Van Daele
Treasurer, Fred Nightingale
At Large Executive Member, Phil Fuhr
District 1: Bill Onken, Kevin Oak, David Mueller, Brian Brown
District 2: Andy DeKeyrel, Bradley Erickson
District 3: Brent Riewerts, Mike Sadoris, Mitch Jurevitz, Drew Hohenboken
Manager: DeAnne Bloomberg

GOT PHOTOS?

The 2015 Rock Island County Fair is looking for photos of past Champions from the livestock shows!

Check your family archives! Bring a copy of the photo to the Rock Island County Extension office or email a scanned copy to info@ricofarmbureau.org and they will help compile the Wall of Champions! We are looking for those great historical snapshots from the '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s! Any questions – call DeAnne at the office 309-736-7432 or email her at dbloomberg@ricofarmbureau.org!