



Randolph County FARMER

www.rcfb.org

Serving the interests of Randolph County Farm Bureau
Members both Farmers and Non-Farmers



Official Publication Of The Randolph County Farm Bureau - Sparta, Illinois 62286

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Thank You For Renewing Your Membership Investment

Your annual Farm Bureau dues will be due the same as last year.

All M (Farming) members were due on or before April 1, 2020 (if you have not already paid them); dues notices were in the mail around the first of March. You can pay your dues by credit or debit card if you prefer. The payment form is on your dues notice.

Dues for A (Associate) members who are also COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® customers will again be included with your insurance premium or billed separately.

All members are now able to join and renew online. Please visit myilfb.org and set up your account today. From the member center, you will be able to update your information, renew your dues payments, get contact information for your County Farm Bureau, and more.

Also, on your dues you can choose to donate to the Foundation or Activator. The Foundation funds Ag in the Classroom

and provides thousands in scholarships every year to members and dependents of members. Agriculture in the Classroom uses your donations to visit over 3500+ students on agriculture in Randolph County. Activator is a federal and statewide program through Illinois Farm Bureau to support candidates that are friends of agriculture. A team of Illinois Farm Bureau members will provide you with the right sources to pick a candidate at elections.

Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions with any membership dues changes; we are here to help you. The Randolph County Farm Bureau can be contacted by phone at (618)443-4511 or email contact@rcfb.org. Thank you for your membership.

Local Discount Program

We are very excited to announce our new Local Discount Program in Randolph County! This is a new program Randolph County Farm Bureau is starting up – in addition to the 302,000 discounts you can get through Illinois Farm Bureau, members will be able to access discounts here in our home county. If you know of any business willing to join in on this program, please have them contact the office at (618) 443-4511 or randolph@rcfb.org. We appreciate your participation in growing this program and would love to serve our members in any beneficial way.

Our very first business we welcome to the Local Discount Program is Korando Heating & Cooling in Chester, IL. Korando offers 24-hour emergency service, and they are offering a \$20 discount to all Randolph County Farm Bureau members.



Pictured: IFB President Richard Guebert Jr., Diane Schoenbeck, Michael McConachie, Tim Harle, Manager Allyson Lintker.

Farmers Attend Farm Planning Seminar

One thing that most farmers delay is planning for what happens for passing down to the next generation. To help prepare and start the conversation, COUNTRY Financial and Illinois Farm Bureau teamed up to provide Farm Legacy Seminars across the state. On February 27, members of Randolph County Farm Bureau gathered with members from other southern county farm bureaus to listen to Dr. Ron Hanson, Harlan agribusiness professor emeritus

at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dr. Hanson gave examples of issues he sees in farm legacy planning and what to do about them. He said, "It is never too

early for farm family members to begin a legacy planning process for their farm. Most often, farm families make the mistake of waiting until it is too late or after something unexpected happens."

RCFB Foundation Hosts Trivia Night

The RCFB Foundation had a record breaking crowd in February when they hosted their 16th Annual Trivia Night. Nineteen tables filled the K of C Hall in Evansville and \$2,302 was raised. All proceeds from the evening go the Randolph County Farm Bureau's Ag In The Classroom program and the Scholarship Fund. This year, the Foundation will give 11 scholarships totaling \$11,500 to local college students in agriculture related fields of study. For more information, please call 618-443-4511 or email randolph@rcfb.org.

SAVE the DATE
July 18, 2020
PULL for Agriculture Education



A fundraiser for
AGRICULTURE
in the Classroom.™

World Shooting & Recreational Complex • Sparta, IL

The Pull for Ag Education is designed to provide participants with a fun and exciting day of shooting while raising funds for the Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) programs in Perry and Randolph Counties.



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RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU
1403 Hillcrest Dr. PO Box 504
Sparta, IL 62286

RANDOLPH COUNTY FARMER

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OFFICERS OF THE FARM BUREAU

PRESIDENTKENT LIEFER
 VICE PRESIDENTTIM HARLE
 SECRETARYMICHAEL MCCONACHIE
 TREASURERSTEVE UFFELMANN

Randolph County Farm Bureau BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019-20 ATTENDANCE					SINCE
DIRECTORS	REGION & SEAT	Feb'20	Mar'20	Dec'19	
Timothy Harle	Region 1 Seat A	P	P	4/4	
Retha Meyerhoff	Region 1 Seat B	P	P	4/4	
Dean Campbell	Region 1 Seat C	P	P	4/4	
Eddie Hornbostel	Region 2 Seat A	P	A	2/4	
Kenneth Hecht	Region 2 Seat B	P	P	4/4	
Jacob Smith	Region 2 Seat C	P	P	4/4	
Richard Wegener	Region 3 Seat A	P	P	4/4	
Kent Liefer	Region 3 Seat B	P	P	4/4	
Steve Uffelmann	Region 3 Seat C	P	P	4/4	
Diane Schoenbeck	Region 4 Seat A	P	P	4/4	
Michael McConachie	Region 4 Seat B	P	A	2/4	
Danny Brewer	Region 4 Seat C	P	P	4/4	

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS
Ag-in-the-Classroom Coalition	Meg Knop
Finance Committee	Steve Uffelmann
Foundation Committee	Richard Wegener
Governmental Affairs Committee	Tim Harle
Issue Management Committee	Kent Liefer
Livestock Committee	Steve Uffelmann
Marketing Committee	David Gramenz
Membership & Executive Committee	Kent Liefer
Plant to Power	Charles Schupbach
Prime Timers Committee	Group
Public Relations Committee	Richard Wegener
Viewpoint Committee	Tim Harle
Women's Committee	Christine Smith
Young Leaders Committee	Brett Wilson

FARM BUREAU STAFF

Allyson Lintker, Manager
 Kendra Beattie, Membership Secretary/Administrative Assistant
 Tammy Little, Office Assistant/Bookkeeper
 Meg Knop, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mission Statement

Promoting agriculture with a unified voice through education, information, and legislation.

Notice:

Current RCFB staff email address are as follows:

randolph@rcfb.org - General (manager)

allyson.lintker@rcfb.org - Manager

kendra.beattie@rcfb.org - Membership

tammy.little@rcfb.org - Bookkeeping

aic@rcfb.org - Ag in the Classroom (Meg)

information@rcfb.org - General (secretarial)

contact@rcfb.org - General (member & committee)



Governmental Affairs Conference

(L-R) Steve Stallman, Allyson Lintker, Senator Paul Schimpf, Rep. Nathan Reitz, Curtis Harms, Charles Schupbach, Dean Campbell.

AITC Providing Online Lessons and Resources

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) and the state agriculture education system are offering online lessons and resources to help educators, parents and students, especially when schools statewide are closed. An IAITC video lesson is a new addition to the program's ever-present selection of ag-related lessons and resources online.

"We think many schools are looking to find alternative activities or e-learning activities," Daugherty said. IAITC plans to provide a daily video with a simple lesson demonstration that links to a worksheet, website and other resources.

Along with providing teachers and students another educational option, "this helps integrate agriculture into curriculum," Daugherty added.

Information and resources may be found on IAITC's website or Facebook page. Randolph County is sharing the lessons to teachers and on our Facebook pages as well.

IAITC also provides teachers a free, weekly informational text activity based on Farm-Week news stories. Every week, Daugherty sends two news stories, each with five related

questions that encourage students to read for knowledge, comprehension, analysis and evaluation – critical skills in state learning standards. The information is also posted on an agriculture education website to which ag teachers have access.

Interested teachers may sign up for the weekly activity through Memorial Day on agin-theclassroom.org.

Pinochle Night

Randolph County Farm Bureau Prime Timers Committee sponsors a monthly pinochle game for its members. There is a \$3.00 per person entry fee to pay for prizes and refreshments.

The upcoming pinochle nights will be held on Tuesday, April 28th & May 26th @ 7:00 p.m.

Invited guests can attend twice but in order to continue attending, must be a member of Randolph County Farm Bureau.

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Farm stewardship celebrated on Earth Day

Every April after an evening mushroom hunt in the timber, the sunset's glow across the home farm triggers a connective feeling to the land that I struggle to describe.

That connection developed while working side-by-side with my family on land improvement efforts. The passion strengthens at harvest, when we gather the land's bounty. The kids express the feeling when they request to fish and canoe the river that borders the farm.

This April marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It seems fitting that the world celebrates this day April 22, a time when (weather-willing) Illinois farmers work with the land and Mother Nature to plant from sunrise to sunset. I compare this day to Mother's or Father's Day, an official date to formally honor an everyday commitment, in this case to environmental stewardship.

Because in the 364 days preceding Earth Day, we appreciated and cared for the land with the same ambition. Solar arrays helped produce the energy that powers our home farmstead and grain facility. My family installed or maintained grass waterways, buffer strips and terraces in fields to protect the soil and filter water that moves across the land. Sensitive lands transitioned to wildlife habitat.

Reduced tillage and often no tillage at all make the land less vulnerable to soil and nutrient loss.

Agronomists help us follow the 4Rs, choosing the "right" fertilizer at the "right" rate, the "right" time and in the "right" place on our farm's varying soil types. Technology in our tractors use global-positioning satellites for precise applications and operations. This reduces use of fuel and pesticides and maximizes use of seed and fertilizer in science-proven ways never available to my grandpa's generation.

In the house, we recycle eligible plastics, metals and papers. The kids and I pick up trash in country ditches, where we more often mow around milkweeds, the food source for monarch butterflies. Deer, raccoons and even a growing population of bald eagles co-exist with the farm, too.

On Earth Day, as every day, farm families like ours feel an obligation to keep the land in as good or better condition for the next generation of caretakers. I hope they find the sunsets on the land just as magnificent.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Be Prepared this Planting Season

As temperatures increase and soils dry, farm equipment will soon hit the pavement. So, Randolph County Farm Bureau reminds motorists to take extra precaution to keep everyone safe on the road.

Farmers can ensure roadways remain safe by following five tips:

- Understand local laws. There are rules and regulations around which pieces of equipment can and can't travel on public roads. Before you hit the road, make sure you check these guidelines.

- Check your equipment. It's important to know how wide and tall your equipment is, so you're prepared when you come to an under or overpass. Also, make sure your turn signals, headlights and flashers work properly. If you're hauling a trailer, double-check to ensure the signals on the trailer work.

- Add a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) sign. Most farm implements are required to have a reflective SMV sign attached. Make sure yours is properly attached and visible to cars traveling behind you.

- Don't drive distracted. There

are a lot of distractions in your cab, but it's important to keep your eyes on the road.

- Check your insurance coverage. Unfortunately, frequent accidents occur involving farm equipment on rural roads. So, make sure you have proper coverage to help pay for repairs and get your equipment back where it belongs – in the field.

- Roadway safety is a two-way

street, so nonfarmer drivers should remember to decrease speed and approach agricultural equipment with care. Maintain a safe following distance. Never pass farm equipment in a no passing zone.

Further, consider taking an alternative route during peak commuting times, such as sunrise and sunset. This planting season stay safe and be prepared to reduce the risk of an accident.

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The Farm Team ...

Jamie Keller, Broker 618-713-7677

Wayne Keller, Mg Broker, 800-357-4020



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FARMER'S EXCHANGE

Items for this column need to reach our office by May 20, 2020 in order to be included in the next issue. Ads may be submitted by phone 618-443-4511, by mail @ PO Box 504, Sparta, IL 62286, or by email – tammy.little@rcfb.org. Only one free 25 word ad per membership per issue (for members' belongings only, using phone # on record in ad). Advertisements are \$5.00 for non-members. We thank each member who puts in an advertisement and/or purchases from a member.

FOR SALE: 10 sq. ft dog pen, chain link 6 ft high. 100 ft 2" x 4", 6 ft high. 1942 Int. B Tractor. 618-443-2707

FOR SALE: 5'x 8' Utility Trailer w/tarp, 3,000 lb. axel, \$600. 314-550-0457

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 1
Monday, April 6
Tuesday, April 7
Friday, April 10
Tuesday, April 14
Tuesday, April 28
Monday, May 4
Tuesday, May 5
Tuesday May 12
Wednesday, May 20
Monday, May 25
Tuesday, May 26

Census Day
Young Leaders Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
People Speak on WHCO @ 9:20 a.m.
Office Closed – Good Friday
RCFB Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m. @ RCFB office
Pinochle @ 7:00 p.m. at RCFB Office
Young Leaders Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
People Speak on WHCO @ 9:20 a.m.
RCFB Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m. @ RCFB Office
Farmer's Exchange Ads Deadline
Office Closed – Memorial Day
Pinochle @ 7:00 p.m. at RCFB Office

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RCFB Ag in the Classroom Hosted Annual Ag Expo at Red Bud St. John's Lutheran School

The RCFB Ag in the Classroom program hosted an Ag Expo at St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud on Friday, February 28, 2020. St. John the Baptist Catholic School and Trinity Lutheran were invited to bring their students and teachers to join in. The presenters in the eight booths are volunteers that share their knowledge about agriculture with the students. The Ag Expo allows the presenters 10 minutes with each group to give a brief lesson on the following topics: Planting & Harvesting, Livestock, Safety, Soil Conservation, Dairy, Pizza, Corn & Soybeans and Farm Service. This is a chance to share where food and fiber begin.



The ice cream treats were a favorite, as the students listened to a dairy presentation from Eddie Hornbostel and the St. Louis Dairy Council Rep.



Julie Schmoll & Kendra Beattie teach the kids where all the ingredients come from for pizza.



Retha Meyerhoff and Ron Deterding share their knowledge of livestock.



Gateway FS employees explain the latest technology used by farmers.



Steve Uffelmann shows students how the farm equipment is used.



Kent Liefer and Mike Hoelscher demonstrate the importance of soil conservation.



Steve Stallman explains how many products we use daily that contain corn and soybeans.



Diane Schoenbeck and Danny Brewer give lessons on farm safety.

2020 AITC Poster Contest Winners

Agriculture In My Daily Life



County First Place Winner Liam Kilpatrick

Agriculture In My Daily Life



County Second Place Winner Rylan Bockhorn

St Mark's Lutheran – Tabing
1st place- Liam Kilpatrick
2nd place- Katelynn Vallett

Steeleville Elementary – Armstrong
1st place- Rylan Bockhorn
2nd place- Teagen Patterson

Red Bud Elementary – Stuhlsatz
1st place- Gracie Rahn
2nd place- Ava Deterding

Red Bud Elementary – Bradley
1st place- Henry Gregson
2nd place- Ellanah Denbow

St John the Baptist, Catholic – Baum
1st place- Faith Gregson
2nd place- Hope Trask

Prairie Du Rocher – Roy
1st place- Emily Mudd
2nd place- Jackson Pensoneau

Evansville Attend. Center – Kunkel
1st place- Lyla Wilson
2nd place- Aiden Willig

Chester Grade School – Kennedy
1st place- Emma Bogard
2nd place- Brenna Hammel

Chester Grade School – Lochhead
1st place- Sophia Bert
2nd place- Hayden Jackson

Chester Grade School – Vieregee
1st place- Natalie Draves
2nd place- Bailey Cross

St. Mary's Catholic, Chester – Anderson
1st place- Reed Petrowske
2nd place- Cole McDonald

St John Lutheran, Chester - Hartman
1st place- Charle Dethrow
2nd place- Duncan Bargman