

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

Volume 101 • Number 5 • October / November 2023

Official Call of the Randolph County Farm Bureau's 107th Annual Meeting on November 20, 2023

Every November, Randolph County Farm Bureau hosts its annual meeting. For this 107th Annual Meeting, voting members (MM, PM, PS, MS) are invited to a business meeting at Ratzkeller's, 1019 Veterans St. Red Bud, IL starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023. The members will elect Directors to the County Farm Bureau Board from each Region for seat B and they will be approved at the business meeting. This short business meeting will then be followed by a RCFB Foundation business meeting.

Starting at 6:30 p.m., all members are welcome to join

us for a membership appreciation night at Ratzkeller's. If you plan to attend the business meeting or meal, you must notify the Farm Bureau office by Monday, November 13th. Please contact the office by calling 618.443.4511. You may leave a message after hours.

Members will have the opportunity to have dinner and conversations with each other. The meal will be catered by Butcher Block from Sparta. During this time, we will present our scholarship winners and Ag in the Classroom poster contest winners.

We hope you can join us for the enjoyable evening.

Ice Cream You Scream: Farm Bureau at the Grand

The Randolph County Farm Bureau Foundation attended the AIM and Grand American again this year at the World Shooting

and Recreation Complex in Sparta, IL. This year, the Farm Bureau set up their 28-foot trailer in front of bank six and began selling ice cream on the 30th of July. With the Butcher's Block as a tent companion, the ice cream making began. Through this 14-day event, different Farm Bureau committees, FFA chapters, 4-H clubs, COUNTY-RY Financial agents, and more helped make this event a success. This year, five consistent flavors were offered to the over 1000 campers. They included chocolate, vanilla, cookies and cream, butter pecan, and the favorite: peach. A nice homemade piece of peach or blackberry cobbler could also accompany your generous serving of ice cream.

A farmer's market was also set up under the tent. Delicious fruits and vegetables which included tomatoes, cucumbers, peaches, cherry tomatoes, jellies, jams, relish, and pickled
(See Grand on page 7)



Pictured left to right at the Brookfield Zoo: Representative Rashid, Jared McCormick, Diane Schoenbeck, Tim Harle, Kent Liefer, Allyson Lintker, Braylee Finck, and Christina Nourie.

RCFB Visits Adopted Legislator

Members of the Randolph County Farm Bureau Board of Directors visited the new adopted legislator, Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, in his district on September 13th.

The Adopted Legislator program allows Illinois Farm Bureau to match interested Chicago area legislators with downstate Illinois counties. This program allows legislators to meet farmers and learn more about the topics they will be voting on. Representative Rashid expressed interest in the program last spring. After an introductory zoom meeting this summer, Randolph County took the trip to Chicago to visit his district.

The 21st district covers cities in the Chicago suburbs including Bedford Park, Berwyn, Bridgeview, and Riverside. The area covers about 109,000 residents. Representative Rashid has a Bachelor of Arts from

Harvard University and a Master of Business Administration in Finance & Economics from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His legislative priorities include property tax relief, affordable housing, environmental protection, and consumer protection.

The visit with the Representative started with lunch at his office and a meeting with community members of the Berwyn Tree Canopy, a project the representative's office has worked on. Berwyn Tree Canopy works with the community and city leaders to plant trees in the area to help with shade and curb appeal.

The group then toured Brookfield Zoo with the Representative and learned about the area and more about the representative. After that, members met with the Mayor of Bedford Park and the ITT Institute for Food Safety. In this meeting, the city

was planning to work with the local schools and create an ag career day. Before concluding with supper, the representative showed the Farm Bureau members an area called Little Palestine. Members visited a Palestinian bakery, candy store, dress store, and supermarket. The group concluded with dinner at Al-Bawadi, a Middle Eastern restaurant.

After a day with the legislator, the Farm Bureau members extended an invite to the Representative to visit with his family for fall harvest. We look forward to meeting with him soon.

Members attended included Kent Liefer, Tim Harle, Diane Schoenbeck, Jared McCormick, Manager Allyson Lintker, and Manager Trainee Braylee Finck. The group was also joined by Illinois Farm Bureau staff member Christina Nourie.

RANDOLPH COUNTY FARMER

The Randolph County Farmer (USPS 455-120) is published bi-monthly for one dollar from the individual membership fee per year by the Randolph County Farm Bureau, 1403 Hillcrest Drive, PO Box 504, Sparta, IL 62286. Periodicals Postage paid at Sparta, IL.

POSTMASTER: send all address changes to Randolph County Farm Bureau, PO Box 504, Sparta, IL 62286. Phone Number (618)443-4511

OFFICERS OF THE FARM BUREAU

PRESIDENTKENT LIEFER
 VICE PRESIDENTTIM HARLE
 SECRETARYMICHAEL MCCONACHIE
 TREASURERDIANE SCHOENBECK

Randolph County Farm Bureau BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-23 ATTENDANCE				SINCE
DIRECTORS	REGION & SEAT	Aug'23	Sep'23	Dec'22
Timothy Harle	Region 1 Seat A	P	P	9/10
Retha Meyerhoff	Region 1 Seat B	P	P	10/10
Dean Campbell	Region 1 Seat C	P	P	8/10
Jared McCormick	Region 2 Seat A	P	P	10/10
Kenneth Hecht	Region 2 Seat B	P	P	9/10
Christine Smith	Region 2 Seat C	P	P	8/10
Nathan Salger	Region 3 Seat A	P	P	9/10
Kent Liefer	Region 3 Seat B	P	P	10/10
Derek Uffelmann	Region 3 Seat C	P	P	9/10
Diane Schoenbeck	Region 4 Seat A	P	P	10/10
Michael McConachie	Region 4 Seat B	P	P	9/10
Danny Brewer	Region 4 Seat C	P	P	7/10

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS
Ag-in-the-Classroom Coalition.....	Andrea Kuehner
Finance Committee	Diane Schoenbeck
Foundation Committee	Jack McCormick
Governmental Affairs Committee	Tim Harle
Issue Management Committee	Kent Liefer
Livestock Committee	Steve Uffelmann
Marketing Committee	David Gramenz
Membership & Executive Committee	Kent Liefer
Prime Timers Committee	Group
Public Relations Committee	Retha Meyerhoff
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
 Andrea Kuehner, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mission Statement

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

Farm Festival at the Magic House



On Saturday September 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. families were invited to enjoy a fun-filled day down on the farm at The Magic House's Fall Farm Festival. During the event, kids had the opportunity to meet with local farmers to learn more about where their food comes from, check out a real tractor, participate in a variety of agricultural activities, and even get up close and

personal with live farm animals provided by RCFB member Eddie Hornbostel. The Fall Farm Fest is made possible by the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus and is free with Museum admission.

In addition to the Fall Festival, the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus have also supported exhibits at The Magic House including the Pizza Parlor and a Pizza Garden

where children can see their 'pizza' growing. Children can also 'shop' for pretend fruits and vegetables at a Farmers Market supported by the Farm Bureaus located in the Sunshine Classroom. These fun and educational exhibits sponsored by the Missouri and Illinois Farm Bureaus give children the opportunity to learn about where their food comes from and discover more about family farms.

Senior Leadership Changes Underscore Illinois Farm Bureau's commitment to meeting future member needs

Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert Jr. announced four changes to his team of senior leaders, including the hiring of Mark Gebhards as the organization's first ever chief strategy officer (CSO).

Kevin Semlow, IFB's director of state legislation for the past 20 years, assumes Gebhards' previous role as Executive Director of the Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division. And Ryan Ford and Matt Wettersten replace two longtime IFB employees who recently retired, taking over the Field and Member Services Division and Marketing and Communications Division, respectively.

These new senior leaders will work on strategically positioning IFB to continue meeting member needs long into the future.

"The demographics of our members are changing, and so are their needs. This is the next step in a plan we've been

working on to make sure IFB remains as strong as ever," Guebert said. "Our success is based on continuous innovation, member engagement and focus on the issues that affect our members the most."

As CSO and assistant to the president, Gebhards will work with an advisory committee of IFB directors, county Farm Bureau presidents and managers, and Young Leaders to lead the organization's Organizational Member Strategy (OMS). The OMS aims to ensure IFB and county Farm Bureaus are positioned to deliver programs and services members need in the future.

Semlow will oversee IFB's efforts to advocate for members among government bodies, educate members on proposed legislation and regulations, and manage contractual agreements with affiliate organizations.

Ford takes on IFB's membership, youth education and Young Leader programs; county Farm Bureau Managers and

the Manager Trainee program; the IAA Annual Meeting; consumer engagement and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

Wettersten will lead the marketing, communications and news functions of the organization. This includes publications, the RFD Radio Network, video, issue management, media relations, digital media, graphic design and marketing support for IFB and county Farm Bureaus.

Chief Financial Officer Alan Dodds and General Counsel Jennifer Vance remain part of IFB's senior leadership and will continue to be part of its strategic efforts going forward.

"As this transition continues, I remind our members that we always need their input," Guebert added. "We are not going to do anything the counties and members don't want to do. We have an advisory committee informing this process and a delegate body that will meet at our Annual Meeting in December. Any changes we make will be guided by our members."

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

information@rcfb.org - General (secretarial)

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

New Board Member Spotlight

Jared McCormick joined the Randolph County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in December 2022. He resides in Ellis Grove where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley. They also have hay and pasture for beef cows and feed lot calves. Jared is an active member of the Young Leaders, a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and a volunteer fireman in

Ellis Grove. Farm Bureau is a way for him to meet others with the same interest while working to help agriculture and the rural community. He hopes to get to know and work with his state & local officials. You may find him at an antique tractor showing his 1970 International 826 or hanging out with his chocolate lab Axel in his spare time.



Jared McCormick

Grand

(Continued from Page 1)

beets, were all on display on our farmer's market table. The produce was brought every morning by a local specialty grower.

This year's sale made just right at 800 gallons of ice cream. The money raised goes towards the Farm Bureau's scholarship fund. The AITC program is also funded with the money raised. The Randolph County AITC program has 100% participation with

every school in the county and reaches over 3000 students a year.

The Randolph County Farm Bureau Foundation would like to thank everyone who came out to support the programs and scholarships of the Randolph County Farm Bureau.

RAIN FALL (INCHES) REPORTS FOR JULY / AUGUST 2023

	July	Aug
Baldwin - Gerald Cox home	3.6	5.0
Chester - Mike & Janet Vasquez home	6.0	3.7
Coulterville - Sherwood Burns home	3.4	3.0
Ellis Grove - JoAnn & Anthony Meyer home	4.9	5.4
Modoc - Rose Curten home	5.8	4.9
PrDuRocher - Arnold Donjon home	6.4	4.1
Red Bud - Vernon & Jane Lucht home	4.07	4.5
Sparta - Farm Bureau Office	4.3	6.7
Steeleville- Keith Meyer home	5.0	5.0
Walsh - Clarence & Marcia Kloth home	3.0	N/A

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
People Speak on WHCO @ 9:20 a.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
RCFB Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
RCFB Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
Tax Preparedness Class @ RCFB Office @ 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
Happy Halloween!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
Farmer's Exchange Ads Deadline

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
Daylight-savings Time Ends
Set your clocks back!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH
RCFB County Annual Meeting - Ratzkeller

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
People Speak on WHCO @ 9:20 a.m.

THURS. & FRI., NOVEMBER 23 & 24
Office Closed for Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
Office closed for Veteran's Day!



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: RANDOLPH COUNTY FARMER

2. Publication Number: 0 4 5 5 - 1 2 0

3. Filing Date: 9/01/2023

4. Issue Frequency: BI-MONTHLY

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$1.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

Contact Person: ALLYSON LINTKER
Telephone (include area code): 618-443-4511

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

Editor (Name and complete mailing address): RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name: RANDOLPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Complete Mailing Address: 1403 HILLCREST DR, PO BOX 504, SPARTA, IL 62286-0504

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

Full Name: Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: RANDOLPH COUNTY FARMER

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/01/2023

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	3150	3150
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	377	384
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2614	2718
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	2991	3102
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	13	13
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	4	4
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	62	15
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	79	32
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	3070	3134
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	80	16
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	3150	3150
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	97.44%	98.98%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	2991	3102
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	3070	3134
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	97.43%	98.98%

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the OCTOBER 2023 issue of this publication.

Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

MANAGER: [Signature] Date: 9/01/2023

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Make Farm Safety a Top Priority This Harvest Season

By Richard Guebert Jr., Illinois Farm Bureau President

Climbing into the combine seat and hitting the fields each September always fills me with a sense of excitement and anticipation. Even after 48 years, there is no better feeling than looking out over a field of matured corn or soybeans. But, year after year I hear of yet another tragic loss of life due to a preventable work-related injury on the farm during harvest.

The agricultural sector is one of the most dangerous in America with 453 fatalities each year according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent data. Fall harvest, which typically kicks off in mid-September, is one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for agriculture workers.

For that reason, America has recognized the third week of September as National Farm Safety and Health since 1944. This year I challenge every Illinois farmer to make safety a top priority throughout the months of September and October.

Remember: there is no healthy farm without a healthy farmer heading the operation.

While farming is a highly rewarding occupation, it is a simple fact that there are certain safety measures that must take place to prevent injury or loss of life. A simple checklist can be used when operating heavy machinery to keep yourself and others on the farm safe.

Many farm families work well into the evenings to harvest their crops and transport them to local storage facilities. Working all hours of the day, often in isolation, takes a toll on one's body. It's just as important to

be mindful of your mental state as it is to ensure your physical safety.

Take note of how your body reacts to stress and lookout for signs of fatigue such as drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, vision impairments and poor concentration. Finding 5-10 minutes to relax and recharge can provide that mental refresher needed before hitting the fields.

Fall harvest ultimately means more farm equipment on the road. If you've never been in the seat of a combine or a tractor, you may not realize how difficult it is for farmers to see other vehicles while driving between fields. It is important for everyone – farmers and motorists – to stay diligent and keep one another safe during this busy season.

When operating large machinery and other equipment, it is good practice to keep slow moving vehicle (SMV) signs and lights clean. Dirt or debris covering critical safety features can lower equipment visibility and potentially deposit illegal and dangerous obstacles on the road.

Consider also traveling in farm vehicles during less busy times of day when fewer motor-

ists are on the road. No matter what, however, make sure you are aware and attentive when driving.

Motorists play a role in harvest safety, too. With so many people traveling on rural roads this season, it is up to all of us to drive responsibly.

When driving behind slow-moving vehicles, drivers can stay safe with a few tips:

-When driving behind large equipment, immediately slow down and remain several car lengths behind.

-Before passing remember to look for a clear signal from the person in the cab of the combine or tractor and only pass when it is safe and legal to do so.

-Be prepared to encounter slow-moving vehicles at all times of the day and night.

Farmers won't be the only ones hitting the roads this fall. Truck drivers also play a critical role in the supply chain, transporting the food, fuel and fiber that each of us depends on.

Harvest is a time for celebration after a lengthy, often challenging growing season. It is my hope that my fellow farmers remain diligent during these long days and nights as we head into another bountiful harvest in Illinois.

2023 Membership Citrus Campaign

Pricing for this year's Citrus Campaign was not available in time for printing in this FARMER Issue! Mascot has not set their price for pecans yet.

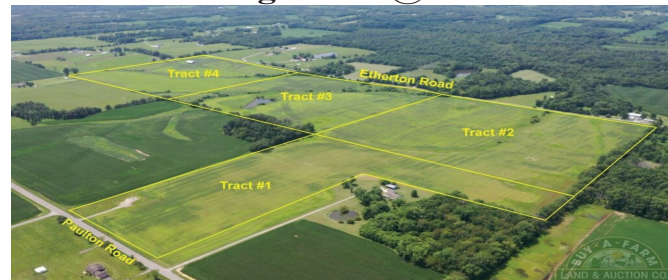
At this time, we have not decided to offer any different products, but will know more later and hope to still include order sheets in the mailing of Annual meeting invitations.

If you are an associate member and have ordered before,

we will mail your order sheets as soon as they are finalized. If you have not ordered our citrus or pecans before and would like to have your name added to this mailing, or just have questions, please call us at 618-443-4511.



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Bidding closes @ 8 PM.**



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