

Randolph County FARMAER 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 6 • December 2023 / January 2024

RCFB Foundation 2024 Scholarship Deadline is February 15th

The Randolph County Farm Bureau Foundation was formed in 1994. The purpose for the Foundation is to promote agricultural education. The importance of educating the general public about the agriculture industry is crucial in moving forward. Scholarships awarded each year are based on application completion, financial need, involvement within the agriculture industry, and future plans.

<u>To be eligible for consider-</u> ation, an applicant must:

• Be a high school senior graduating in May of 2024, or a current college student

• Be a member or child of a member of the Randolph County Farm Bureau

• Be accepted or plan to enroll as a full-time student in post-secondary education within an Agriculture curriculum

• Exhibit potential for successful completion of course of study, 2.0 minimum GPA

• Be a resident of Randolph County

In the selection of scholarship recipients, consideration will be given to the following criteria:

- Scholastic achievement
- Financial need

• Participation in agriculture activities

• Demonstrated leadership in school and community activities

Deadline for all requirements is February 15, 2024. The application is available on our website at https://www.rcfb. org/foundation .

• This year the scholarship application is a JotForm. You will not be able to save and continue later, so we recommend that you type your essays in Word or Google Docs and copy and paste into the form. In that JotForm, you can attach any of the required documents listed below or mail them to:

RCFB Foundation 1403 N Hillcrest Dr, P.O. Box 504 Sparta, IL 62286-0504 **Required are:** • Two Letters of Recommen-

dation

• Current copy High School and/or College Transcript (Unofficial or official)

• and a Headshot Photo.

Thank you for your interest in Agriculture and Ag Related Fields and our scholarship program. If you have any questions concerning the scholarship or the application, please call the Farm Bureau office at 618-443-4511 or email information@ rcfb.org





New RCFB Board of Directors after election at the 107th Annual Meeting, November 20, 2023. L to R Front, Danny Brewer; Tim Harle, vice-president; Derek Uffelmann, Michael McConachie, secretary; Kenny Hecht. Back, Christopher Fullerton, Jared McCormick, Ronald Kothe, Nathan Salger, Diane Schoenbeck, treasurer; Mike Coop; missing is Christine Smith.

106th Annual Meeting of the Randolph County Farm Bureau

At 5:35 pm, Kent Liefer, President of the Randolph County Farm Bureau, called the meeting to order at the American Legion in Chester, IL. on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Kent Liefer led those who were attending meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael McConachie, Secretary of the Randolph County Farm Bureau, read the official call of the 106th Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Directors for a threeyear term from each of the four regions for the A seat positions.

Kent Liefer declared a quorum and the meeting was declared legally convened.

Minutes from the 105th Annual Meeting were provided to the individuals who were attending. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given by treasurer Diane Schoenbeck. A complete copy of the Financial Report was provided for those attending the meeting. *(See Meeting on page 2)*

2024 Annual RCFB Trivia Night

The Randolph County Farm Bureau Foundation will host its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Evansville, IL. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and we will start at 7 pm with the

first round. Tables can have no more than 8 people and the fee is \$15 a person. Due to demand and space in the KC Hall, we are limiting our number of tables to 21. Please call ahead to reserve your table. Please feel free to bring your own snacks. Drinks must be purchased from the bar. All proceeds from the evening will go towards the Ag-in-the-Classroom program and the Scholarship Fund. To register your table or for questions, call 618.443.4511.

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

PRESIDENT	KENT LIEFER
VICE PRESIDENT	TIM HARLE
SECRETARY	MICHAEL MCCONACHIE
TREASURER	DIANE SCHOENBECK

Randolph County Farm Bureau BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-23 ATTENDANCE					
DIRECTORS	REGION & SEAT	Oct'23	Nov'23	Dec'22	
Timothy Harle	Region 1 Seat A	Р	А	10/12	
Retha Meyerhoff	Region 1 Seat B	Р	Р	12/12	
Dean Campbell	Region 1 Seat C	А	Р	9/12	
Jared McCormick	Region 2 Seat A	Р	Р	12/12	
Kenneth Hecht	Region 2 Seat B	Р	Р	11/12	
Christine Smith	Region 2 Seat C	Р	Р	10/12	
Nathan Salger	Region 3 Seat A	Р	Р	11/12	
Kent Liefer	Region 3 Seat B	Р	Р	12/12	
Derek Uffelmann	Region 3 Seat C	Р	Р	11/12	
Diane Schoenbeck	Region 4 Seat A	Р	Р	12/12	
Michael McConachie	Region 4 Seat B	Р	Р	11/12	
Danny Brewer	Region 4 Seat C	А	А	7/12	

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS
Ag-in-the-Classroom Coalition	Andrea Kuehner
Finance Committee	Diane Schoenbeck
Foundation Committee	Jack McCormick
Governmental Affairs Committee	
Issue Management Committee	Kent Liefer
Livestock Committee	
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

Braylee Finck, 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.

Notice:

Current RCFB staff email address are as follows:

randolph@rcfb.org - General (manager)

<u>manager@rcfb.org -</u> Manager

kendra.beattie@rcfb.org - Membership

tammy.little@rcfb.org - Bookkeeping

aitc@rcfb.org - Ag in the Classroom

<u>information@rcfb.org</u> - General (secretarial)

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

Welcome to the 107th Annual meeting of the Randolph County Farm Bureau. I have been honored to serve as your County Farm Bureau President for the past year. I will remember it as a year of change. I will no longer be serving as your County President, as I will be tenured off the board in December. We will also be transitioning to a new manager as our previous manager Allyson Lintker will be moving to St. Clair County. Our new manager's name is Braylee Finck. Our membership secretary, Kendra Beattie, will be retiring at the end of December. She has spent 25 years with the organization. Lastly, former RCFB Manager, Mike Hodge, retired from Executive Director of Membership and Field Staff for IFB, former manager Ryan Ford was promoted to his position, and former RCFB President Richard Guebert will tenure off as IFB President in December.

During the past year, your County Farm Bureau has been as busy with programs and projects. Andrea Kuehner has been active with the Ag in the Classroom, as she educates children about production agriculture. We also have continued our Pull-for-Ag event which helps fund Ag in the Classroom and sold ice cream at the Grand

Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

It was moved and seconded to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Kent Leifer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the individuals who had been nominated for a three-year term for the Board of Directors Position of the Randolph County Farm Bureau.

Region 1 Seat A - Tim Harle Region 2 Seat A - Jared Mc-Cormick

Region 3 Seat A - Nathan Salger

Region 4 Seat A - Diane

American Trap Shoot to raise money for the Foundation. Our Women's Committee has been busy with programs. The Young Leaders have also remained active.

As an organization, one of our priorities is our relationship with our elected officials. We once again hosted our Evening in the Country with all the office holders from Randolph County Courthouse, as well as our legislative representatives. As your President, I would like to ask and encourage all Randolph County Farm Bureau members to become FB Act members. We need your input and participation in the legislative process. As the number of farmer's become fewer, our voice must become louder.

As board members we are confronted with different issues. At the local level, we continued our close contact with the County Commissioners, we are involved in Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders Inc., and we have current and former board members as a part of the Gateway Advertising Committee. On the state level we started to work with a new adopted legislator, since our previous adopted legislator did not seek re-election. Our new adopted legislators name is Rep Abdelnasser Rashid. We were

Schoenbeck

A motion was made to close the nominations, suspend the rules, and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for those nominated. Motion was seconded. Motion Carried.

Michael McConachie casted a unanimous ballot and declared those nominated District Directors for a three year term.

President Kent Liefer asked for a motion to allow the Board of Directors to appoint delegates to the Illinois Agricultural Association Annual Meeting for 2022. A motion was made and seconded. Motion Carried.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the 106th Annual Meet-

able to travel to his district in September to visit with him and his staff to learn about issues in his district. We look forward to hosting the representative in our county soon. We were once again present for the awarding of the Friend of Ag Award to Congressman Mike Bost and Representative David Friess.

I would like to thank our now former Manager Allyson Lintker for all the hard work and dedication she has given our organization over the past four years. I look forward to working with our new manager Braylee Finck. Also, thanks to Tammy Little our bookkeeper, Kendra Beattie our membership secretary and Andrea Kuehner our Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for their continuing efforts. Lastly, I appreciate the time and dedication the board members give to serve our organization, especially those who tenure off the board this year.

In closing, I would like to thank each one of you for your membership. It has been a privilege to serve on the board for the past nine years and as the Board President for the past five years. May you and your family have a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

Kent M. Liefer, President Randolph County Farm Bureau

ing of the Randolph County Farm Bureau. Motion Carried.

Richard Wegener called the 28th Annual Meeting of the Randolph County Farm Bureau Foundation to order. Richard gave a report for the foundation and announced that 11 applicants had been awarded scholarships. Richard asked for a motion to reelect the current directors of the Foundation for another year. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Kent Liefer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McConachie, Secretary



Randolph County President's Report

Randolph County Manager's Report

As you are reading this report, I will no longer be the Randolph County Farm Bureau manager. On November 1, I became the St. Clair County Farm Bureau manager, replacing Cassie Luechtefeld when she retires. Leaving Randolph County was one of the most challenging decisions, and I will be forever grateful for the times I had here. This opportunity in St. Clair allows me to grow my skill set and work in a larger County Farm Bureau while working closer to my family farm in rural St. Libory.

This year has been good for the Randolph County Farm Bureau. To start, the Farm Bureau worked a lot on consumer engagement and reaching out to non-farming members of our community. We added various programs, including charcuterie board classes, meal prep, and library programs. As a Farm Bureau, it is essential to educate our consumers locally.

We ended our membership year on August 31 and made quota. This is the fourth year we have met a quota goal. This would not be possible without the help of our COUNTRY agents, Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff. Membership drives this organization, and we need our members now more than ever to be involved and encourage membership.

I thank Troy, Alinda, Matt, Steve, Tyler, and agency manager Greg. These agents do so much great work for our members and community, and without them, we would not be where we are today. They have been the best to work with, and I am proud to say Randolph County is known

for its excellent relationship with COUNTRY.

I would also like to thank the ladies in the office. Tammy and Kendra have always gone above and beyond to keep everything running smoothly. Our AITC coordinator, Andrea Kuehner, has done a great job in the classroom and with teachers. This is not just my farewell but also Kendra Beattie's. Kendra has been with the organization for 25 years, and our office will not be the same without her. I want to say congratulations on her retirement in December.

The past four years here have been a whirlwind of ups and downs, events, and more. From dealing with a global pandemic a few months into my career to scooping out ice cream, I feel like, as an organization, we have done so much in the short time I was here. The past years went by so quickly, and I can't believe it is over. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here, and I thank the Board of Directors, the membership, and the community for taking me in and making me feel so welcome.

Luckily, I am not leaving the organization and will still be a part of the Farm Bureau. I look forward to seeing Randolph County members at statewide and district events. I also know Braylee Finck, the new manager, will do an excellent job. I had the opportunity to train her for a few weeks, and I can confidently say she will be an asset to this organization.

Thank you again Randolph County.

Get 3% off total

bill of electrical

sales or service

Grain Handling

Equipment.

Allyson Lintker



IFB Director Stallman retiring from board

By Tammie Sloup FarmWeek

Even through the darkest times, Steve Stallman continues to look for the positive.

The Ilinois Farm Bureau Board District 16 director is retiring after nine years on the board due to health reasons

Stallman, 71, is in hospice care at his daughter's house in Glen Carbon after being diagnosed with glioblastoma - an aggressive brain tumor.

He recently met with Farm-Week to talk about his lifelong ties to Randolph County, his family's longtime farming roots, his involvement with Farm Bureau and coming to terms with his cancer.

Stallman grew up on his family's farm in Chester, where they grew wheat, soybeans and corn and raised dairy cows. At the age of 21, he took over the farm for his father in 1973. Stallman stopped the dairy farming and concentrated on the crops.

However, he points to his early experience milking cows as a lesson.

"Growing up on a dairy farm, I learned the values of hard work and being focused every day of the year," he said.

Close to his father as a child, Stallman fondly remembers riding with him on the various farm equipment, taking in the day-today work.

"I just knew I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps," Stallman said. "He was a great mentor."

Along with the values of farming, Stallman's father, Paul, taught him to hunt, as there was lots of wild game on the farm, including squirrels, rabbits and quail.

He attended some junior college classes before taking over the farm, noting he was "fortunate" his father entrusted him with the operation at such a young age.

"It allowed me to build my own farming career," he said.

And he did so on the same farmland his German ancestors grew crops on starting in 1859.

The elder Stallman was involved in Farm Bureau for many years, serving as a county board director until 1976, when he asked his son to take his position on the board

Stallman served in many positions on the county board, including 10 years as the Randolph County Farm Bureau president.

Mike Hodge, who started as RCFB manager in 1989, worked closely with Stallman for many years.

"He helped build a culture of building leadership," Hodge told FarmWeek. "Steve was good at thinking outside the box. He was also member-focused and wants what's best for ag and Farm Bureau."

Stallman was also partly responsible for recruiting one wellknown Farm Bureau leader.

"One of my greatest accomplishments on the county board was encouraging Rich (Guebert) to join the board," he said. "I made the phone call to Rich and he said he'd have to run it by (his wife) Nancy."

Guebert, who is serving his 10th and last year as Illinois Farm Bureau president, eventually joined the board, replacing a board member from his district who also asked Guebert to take his place.

Stallman was always impressed by the IAA directors from District 16, and occasionally thought of serving in that position. He was also encouraged to run by two fellow Farm Bureau members, but with two young children, the time commitment was an issue.

The stars aligned in 2014, when his children were older, and Stallman ran and was elected to the state board.

"As my brothers were reaching retirement age, they were willing to help me fill in on the farm," he said. "I was truly honored when my district stood behind me and nominated me to take my predecessor's place to serve on the state board."

He has been grateful for the knowledge and dedication of his fellow state directors, adding they're truly a good group of representatives from around the state.

He also complimented IFB staff, "who not only provide information and guidance from the board, but also provide services to each and every Farm Bureau member throughout the state.

"They provide expertise so we can make very informed decisions.'

During his nine years on the board, Stallman chaired the now reorganized MSPR Committee and has served on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program and Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) boards, among other boards.

He credits the ALOT program for helping develop him as a leader within Farm Bureau.

"I've always felt honored and privileged to serve on the board with the other directors as we have become a family," he said. "The entire board is very close. At the end of the day, we may have differing opinions, but once we vote, we're 100% behind the motion."

Guebert and Stallman have known each other for decades, and live about five minutes apart. Guebert told FarmWeek. Their two families have also attended the same church, where Guebert remembers Stallman and his brothers singing in the choir. In fact, Stallman and his brothers also were part of a quartet that performed throughout the county.

Guebert said the retiring director always brought a "Stallman's perspective" to the board, or "a southern Illinois approach."

"He also brings a lot of history to the board," Guebert said. "Steve has been committed and dedicated to Illinois agriculture, Randolph County agriculture and Farm Bureau. He has served ag very well."

Today, Stallman is focusing on short-term goals. Talking with FarmWeek in late October, he was looking forward to Halloween and doing some "quality control" on candy.

(See Director on page 8)



Randolph County Farm Bureau

DECEMBER 1ST - 5TH IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH Fruit Delivery is expected and if you ordered, we will call the contact # (that you provided) when it is ready to pickup

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 7:00 p.m

DECEMBER 25TH – JANUARY 1ST Farm Bureau office will be close

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all of our members! Stay Safe & Take Care!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND People Speak on WHCO @ 9:20 a.m.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH Martin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH eting @ 7:00 p.m

FEBRUARY 2TH-4TH Young Leader Conference, Springfield, IL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH Farmer's Exchange Ads Deadling

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH RCFB Foundation Trivia Night Door open 6:30, Begins at 7 p.m. at Evansville KC Hall

2023 Membership Report

Here is the 2023 Membership Report. The numbers are from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. This membership year coincides with the Illinois Farm Bureau fiscal year and not ours.

Voting Quota	2023 Quota	Voting Membership on 8/31/2023	Net Gain/Loss		
(+7)	1.006	1,008	+2		

This year's quota goals increased and changed from last year. The Voting Quota is +7 members which is .75% active gain. This only includes MM and PM members (farming and professional) and does not include MS and PS, which are spouses. Associate quota was a goal in the past, but this year quota was only for voting memberships, MM and PM. As you can see above, we had a +2 member gain.

I am happy to say that this year we have achieved our quota. This is thanks to our leadership, volunteers, and COUN-TRY Financial agents. Troy, Alinda, Matt, Steve, and Tyler all do a great job working with our membership and signing members. We are also thankful to all the FS employees who recruit members for patronage as well.

Our committee is always looking at numbers, member perception, how to get new members, retain the current members, and what is the best for the average member. In other words, how can we be all things to all members and still stay in the black financially. We are looking toward the future. If you have any suggestions on

membership recruitment, please let us know.

Our committee does help to bring the services and programs of Farm Bureau to life for the members. Within Illinois and Randolph County Farm Bureau, there are over 302,000+ discounts available, free ads in the Randolph County "Farmer", information readily available on the website, social media, and much more. We are always looking for new services and new members.

2022-2023 RCFB Membership Outlook				
Associate Members*	2,089			
Voting Members*	1,019			
Total Membership	3.108			

*Numbers are based on totals as of August 31, 2023

2023 Membership Citrus Campaign

If you ordered fruit, it should be coming in Wednesday, Dec. 13th. We will call your contact number when it is ready for pick-up.

Please plan to pick up fruit orders before 4:00 Friday, Dec. 15th, as we can not refrigerate.

Director

(Continued from Page 7)

"I've looked at things differently after my (brain) operation last year," he said.

A religious man, he continues to pray every evening, making sure to thank God.

"I've enjoyed most of my dreams," he said.

Stallman's son, Wesley, lives in Chester and works an off-the-farm job. His daughter Lindsey, who lives in Glen Carbon with her husband, Dan, and their two children, works in the medical field.

As his health started to decline, he moved in with his daughter in mid-July and receives at-home nursing care. His wife, Jane, passed away in 2022.

He smiles as he says his daugh-

ter is now "repaying" him for what he provided her in her younger years. And getting to spend more time with his grandchildren is invaluable.

"While living here I have the privilege of watching my grandchildren grow up on a daily basis," he said. "Sometimes positive things happen even through a challenging time in your life."

Looking to the future, Stallman said he's still trying to figure out how to keep the farm operation in his family's name.

"I'm proud of the heritage," he said. "It's been in my family for over 160 years."

While he was well enough to plant his crops this past spring, his older brothers, Don and Paul, stepped in and helped with harvesting this fall as Stallman's health has deteriorated. "My brothers have been truly amazing," he said. "I'm so very proud of them."

While he's saddened to step down from his director's role in December, he's thankful for the time he's spent on the board.

"Out of great respect for our organization, because of my condition, I do not feel I can give 100% obligation," he said. "After serving nine years on the state board, I'm encouraging someone else from my district to be the representative on the state board."

Stallman repeatedly emphasized the honor and privilege of serving the Farm Bureau organization.

"I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped me and encouraged me to allow me to be a representative on the IFB Board of Directors," he said.

RAIN FALL (INCHES) REPORTS FOR APR. - SEP. 2023

								L
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total	
Baldwin - Gerald Cox	3.8	1.6	2.3	3.6	5.0	3.4	19.7	
Chester - Mike & Janet Vasquez	n/a	1.8	0.5	6.0	3.7	1.1	13.1	
Coulterville - Sherwood Burns	3.3	1.9	2.1	3.4	3.0	2.0	15.7	
Ellis Grove - JoAnn Meyer	4.4	2.9	0.8	4.9	5.4	0.7	19.1	
Modoc - Rose Curten	n/a	n/a	1.4	5.8	4.9	1.4	13.5	
Pr Du Rocher - Arnold Donjon	2.7	2.0	2.0	6.4	4.1	1.5	18.7	
Red Bud - Vernon Lucht	2.32	1.91	2.26	4.07	4.5	2.01	17.07	
Sparta - Farm Bureau Office	4.6	2.1	1.6	4.3	6.7	2.7	22.0	
Steeleville - Keith Meyer	n/a	n/a	1.0	5.0	5.0	1.4	12.4	
Walsh - Clarence & Marcia Kloth	n/a	2.3	n/a	3.0	n/a	0.5	5.8	

FARMER'S EXCHANGE

Items for this column need to reach our office by January 17, 2024 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 – information@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: Square bales of straw, \$4 each. 618-965-3008 FOR SALE: EarthWay High Wheel cultivator model 6500, \$75. 618-606-5170



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