

The Henry, Rock Island, Mercer, Whiteside and Stark county farm bureaus recently wrapped up their Second Annual “Bushels for Hunger” grain drive for the RiverBend Foodbank with a check in the amount of \$ 22,258.70.

The District 3 County Farm Bureaus began a relationship with the Food bank several years ago when the Harvest for All campaign netted a check to the food bank for \$ 750.00. In 2010, the idea was discussed between IAA District 3 Director Wayne Anderson and IFB District 3 Young Leader Representative Todd Verheecke to see if there was interest in a district wide grain drive for the regional food bank.

The first Bushels for Hunger kicked off in August of 2010 and farmers could donate grain to any of the participating elevators until November 30th. That 2010 Bushels for Hunger yielded a \$9,500+ check to the RiverBend Food bank. Each of the cfb’s reviewed the first year project and agreed to continue again in 2011 with increased publicity and more elevators for farmers to donate grain to. The 2011 Bushels for Hunger kicked off in August with 11 participating elevators (including 2 ethanol plants).

Todd Verheecke, Henry County young farmer and IFB District 3 Young Leader representative indicated, “we were pleased with the amount of grain donated in 2010 we knew we could grow in 2011. And quite honestly – we’re ecstatic. “

IAA District 3 Director Wayne Anderson feels the program is a great way for farmers to help out families in need during the holiday season and for farmers to donate grain that will provide over 100,000-plus meals to the QC region is humbling.

Special thanks to the following elevators and ethanol plants for their participation in the Bushels for Hunger program: ADM Grain, Atkinson Grain, Big River Resources, Cargill, Gold Star FS, Hillsdale Elevator, Michlig AgriCenter, Patriot Renewable Fuels and CGB, Kistler Prairie Mill, River Gulf Grain, River Valley Cooperative and Rumbold & Kuhn.