Agmazing 500

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Randolph County Farm Bureau
State: IL
Membership Category: 3,001-5,000
Year: 2014
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Program Description: With the help of sixty-five volunteers, the Randolph County Farm Bureau hosted the Agmazing 500. This regional "Amazing Race" themed industry tour brought fifteen Congressional staff together from four different states for a three-day experience around the greater St. Louis area. The group visited the Donald Danforth Plant and Science Center, took a barge trip up the Mississippi River and toured a number of places including a farm, grain handling terminal, fertilizer plant and a beverage manufacturing plant.

The Randolph County Farm Bureau participated in this effort to promote the vibrant agricultural economy of southern Illinois and the greater St. Louis area. In an area surrounded by farms, agricultural companies and agribusiness leaders; volunteers put together a tour that highlighted sustainable farming practices, animal care and river transportation. This bi-partisan effort consisted of staff from Illinois and Missouri as well as ranking members of the transportation, agriculture, and energy committees from the House and Senate.

Planning for the Agazing 500 started a year in advance with a planning committee and sub-committee structure developed to divide the work amongst the sixty-five volunteers, eighteen businesses, twenty farm families, six staff, and the House and Senate ethics committees. In addition, over 100 hours of volunteer time, 1000 pieces of communication, four food vendors, four airlines, a bus company, eight venues and one hotel went into making the Agmazing 500 a success.