

CO-Operator of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 92 No. 11 Countryside, IL 60525 <u>www.cookcfb.org</u> November 2018

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

6th Election Day Page 9 17th Winter Porch Pot Workshop West End Florist Page 1

MARCH 2019

9th & Beginning Beekeeping Course Page 2

APRIL 2019

6th & Advanced Beekeeping Course Page 2

IN OTHER NEWS...

A.S.A.P Intern Application Page 6

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to www.cookcfb.org, or contact the office at 708-354-3276.

You can register for most programs using the member service center at www.cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau wants you to join us ...

Winter Porch Pot Workshop



WEST END GARDEN

CENTER
3800 OLD GLENVIEW RD

EVANSTON 60201

847-251-1943

Winter Porch Pot at West End Florist Garden Center

Evanston, Il
When: Saturday, November 17, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM
Fee: \$45.00

- Includes: 12" wide patio pot,
 premium mixture of winter
 greens, berries and curly willow
 Additional accessories available
- Additional accessories available for purchase
 Hands-on fun and festivities

West End Florist & Garden Center is a family-owned Ag business located in northern Cook and a proud Cook County Farm Bureau® member!

Grab some friends or family, enjoy a fun morning, and jump start your seasonal decorating!

Members and guests register and pay prior to event at time of registering:

• Call Debbie at 708-354-3276 - Credit card at no additional charge

 Register online via Member Center using your member number cookcfb.org/membership Questions: Contact Debbie at 708-354-3276 or membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Hurricane Relief

Two recent hurricanes, Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, have had a devastating impact on agriculture and farmers in the southeastern portion of the country. Individuals interested in assisting these farmers and their families are encouraged to do so. Below are several hurricane relief funds that have been set up by state Farm Bureaus in impacted areas.

North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc.

It will take years for North Carolina farm families and rural communities to recover from the catastrophic flooding and property damage resulting from Hurricane Florence. Many of the communities affected were also still recovering from flooding due to Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

In response to this tragedy and the tremendous needs of our farmers and rural communities, North Carolina Farm Bureau has established the "Florence Relief Fund." Contributions to this fund will be used to support our state's farmers and rural neighbors as recovery efforts in their communities become more apparent.

Contributions to the fund should be made to the North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc. which is a charitable non-profit foundation established by the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

Continued on page 12

Question of the Month

How many Acres of Industrial Hemp is planted worldwide?

 $\not \simeq Bonus \not \simeq$: What page of this publication is CCFB mascot Corny Calvin "hanging out" on this month?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or fax your answer to 708-579-6056 for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 gas card. If you will be emailing your entry, our email address has changed. Please email your answers to FBCooperator@gmail.com (Please include Name, FB# and phone number)

October winner is Annie Williams.

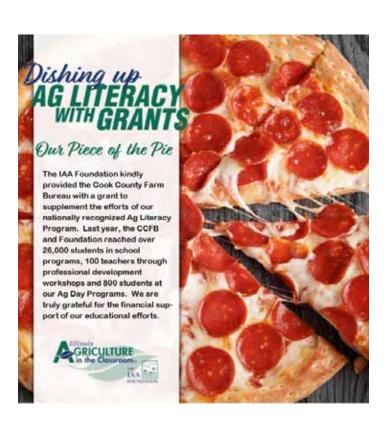
Last Month's Question:
What local Farm Bureau business was recently
"caught" by photo with a Cook County Farm
Bureau display on its check-out counter?

Answer: Ludwig's Feedstore

☆Bonus☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, Corny Calvin, was hanging out in the August issue of the Co-Operator was... page 6.



Amy Hansmann, Farm Bureau volunteer presented Commissioner Timothy Schneider with a 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau Award. Commissioner Schneider has demonstrated an outstanding voting record on agriculture and small business government issues.



Giant Pumpkin Sets Youth Record!



Jessica Miller's 1st place youth Giant Pumpkin set a record at 378lbs!

See more photos and event results on page 4.

Co-Operator November 2018 Cook County Farm Bureau

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate "Do most farmers have off-farm-jobs?"

Janet McCabe, Cook County Farmer

Answered by Janet McCabe, Cook County Farmer

Every member of our family has an off-farm-job in addition to farming our family farm. Along with our two adult children and daughter-in-law, we grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa hay.

Our family isn't alone, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, over 49 percent of farmers have a primary occupation other than farming. There

are many reasons that farmers may have an offfarm-job including that the farm is too small to support their families; over 34 percent of Illinois farms are less than 50 acres. Families may also have an off-farm-job for insurance or benefits. Some families also have an off-farm-job that

compliments the farm industry such as selling seed, crop protectants, or crop insurance.

Farmers with off-farm-jobs must be excellent jugglers- we juggle family, work, and farm commitments. We also do a lot of farming after 5 p.m. and on the weekends.

Seeking Memorabilia and Artifacts





Roger Freeman, Cook County Farm Bureau board member, donated his High School FFA jacket as an Agricultural connection for display for the Farm Bureau's 100 year Anniversary in 2020.

Dear Members:

Agriculture and Cook County Farm Bureau has changed a lot since the organization was created by a group of leading farmers back in 1920.

As we consider the long, storied history of the Cook County Farm Bureau, we have begun seeking memorabilia and artifacts that can help tell the story.

We are asking members to check your attics, closets, bookshelves and basement storage areas for items that can help us chronicle agricultural and Farm Bureau history in Cook County. We also welcome any affiliated company history such as Lake-Cook Farm Service Supply, Country Companies, etc.

Items may include: photographs, member signs, clothing, newspapers, lapel pins, old "give-a-away" promotional items, documents, and other keep sakes.

If there is a story behind the item, please share it with us as well. We will be pleased to credit you and your family. Items can be provided on loan or donated.

We hope to be able to partially recreate the evolution of Agriculture and Farm Bureau through the power of memory items!

Please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email us at ccfb@coockfb.org Thank you for your help!

Bob Rohrer, Manager

Crafters Had Fun at the Build A Board Workshop





CCFB member Tracy McCarthy and her daughter created beautiful artwork at our 2nd Build A Board workshop. From sanding, to picking out paint colors and creating a masterpiece, the group had a great time being "artsy" for a night. They were all about creativity and socializing! Thank you to instructor Teri Cann from Sassypants Productions for your assistance! Keep an eye out for a Build A Board workshop in the spring.

Beekeeping Courses Offered in 2019 at the Cook County Farm Bureau



• Beginning Beekeeping March 9th & 10th | Saturday & Sunday 9AM – 3PM both days \$75 for CCFB & CDBA members

 Advanced Beekeeping April 6th & 7th | Saturday & Sunday 9AM – 3PM both days \$75 for CCFB & CDBA members

Register by calling 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Gracias THANK YOU Gratified The Gratitude Box

Each month, there are people that go out of their way to lend a hand to help with our cause in many ways, big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- · Ag Literacy Team Member Greg Stack for leading an amazing workshop on using PLANTS in the classroom and Ted's Greenhouse for hosting the event.
- The many volunteers and 100 or so guests that joined us for this year's edition of the Giant Pumpkin Contest!
- The Executive Board members of the Cook County Farm Bureau Political Action Committee that interviewed many candidates in September and October to consider supporting those that want a strong agriculture and small business presence in Cook County.
- Roger Freeman for donating his high school FFA jacket to the Cook County Farm Bureau as an artifact for the 100-year anniversary of the organization display.
- The IAA Foundation for the generous donation to help us with our Ag Literacy efforts in Cook County Schools.
- All the farmers and landowners of Cook County that completed the Census of Agriculture...you helped Illinois have the number 1 response rate in the Country at 77%! The data is scheduled for release in February 2019.

Translate to Other Languages

We are very fortunate to have members that come from various backgrounds and countries. While we publish this publication in English, the Google Translate App can convert the publication text through your smart phone screen into Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and a host of other languages. Check it out. Enjoy and happy reading!

Co-Operator

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ownwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager "Older than Dirt"

Most farms (with the exception of those wacky hydroponic, non-soil based operations that are trendy today) consider dirt (soil) pretty important. Soil, as the plant's growing medium, is one of the main factors in growing crops. Start with quality soil and throw in a bit of sun and timely moisture you have the makings of a pretty darn good farm.

So, what is dirt? It is a mixture of rocks, silt, sand, clay, loam, moisture, minerals and organic material. This combination can support life. There are hundreds of types of soil. The soil "parts" are produced from rocks (parent material) through the processes of weathering and natural erosion. Water, wind, temperature change, gravity, chemical interaction, living organisms and pressure differences break down the rocks. It takes hundreds of thousands of years to create some of these great soils we enjoy in the Midwest that support so much life. Some soils date nearly back to the creation of the earth, millions of years ago.

And thus, the creation of the phrase, you are "older than dirt".

I saw a quiz the other day on the world's greatest of time waster, Facebook, and could not help myself. I took the "older than dirt" quiz. I passed easily with the following "yes, I vividly remember" questions:

You might be "older than dirt" if you remember...

- Candy cigarettes (I could have been the Marlboro Kid)
- Soda pop machines with glass bottles (I once drank 6 Mountain Dews from a bottle dispensing machine to set my personal best)
- Five and Dime (Having a spare quarter while in the Ben Franklin Five and Dime candy aisle was near heaven)
- Metal lunch-boxes (I wonder...did I get beat up a lunch time because I had a Charlie Brown lunch box or a PB&J sandwich in it?)
- Metal ice cube trays (Perhaps the most aggravating, frustrating ice making system
- Wax coke bottle candy (Drink a taste of sugar water and then chew on wax... brilliant concept)

There were a few "older than dirt" questions that I did not remember...

- Party telephone lines (do college dorms count?)
- Butch wax (my bowl hair cut style eliminated the need for this and Brylcream)
- Blackjack gum (I went for the Bubble Yum with its secret ingredient, spider eggs)
- Home milk delivery in glass bottles (Our cow delivered home milk in a bucket)

I can't help noticing all of the "older than Dirt" questions that I best related to were associated with candy, beverage and food. And maybe that is telling...strong memories connect to something one finds important; in my case, FOOD.

So, now that it is official that I achieved "Older than Dirt" status, I find there is a level of pride and achievement that comes as a result. Over my many years above the dirt on this planet, I conquered my candy cigarette addiction. My lunch-box is now a plastic Target shopping bag and no one has beat me up this entire year. Spare quarters go into my vacation jar and eventually I will save enough to shop the candy aisle again. I can't remember the last time I chewed on wax. I do still drink an occasional Mountain Dew...just not by the 6-pack.

And being older than dirt, I have a great appreciation for soil, farmers use and care of this great resource and especially the FOOD it supports and provides! Thank you, Mother Earth and thank you, Farmers!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.



Angelica Carmen, Professional Member, sent a photo of her with her new Pillow Pet. a stuffed pillow in the shape of a Massey Ferguson tractor. Several members who upgraded their membership from "Associate" to "Professional" Member prior to August 31st received the bonus gift!

Recipe of the Month: Spiced Winter Root Vegetable Soup

1 onion roughly chopped

2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped

T olive oil

- 1 butternut squash, peeled + roughly chopped (about 3 cups)
- 1 sweet potato, peeled + roughly chopped 2 carrots, peeled + chopped roughly

5 c vegetable stock

1 t cumin and coriander

½ t cinnamon, nutmeg, cayenne

1 c almond milk

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat olive oil over a low heat; add onion and garlic, gently fry until translucent. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to a low boil. Simmer for 30 minutes. Blend the soup until smooth and adjust seasoning to taste.

Recipe reprinted with permission from member Marcia Kuchta, found in our 2018 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb. org/discover-local/recipes

You can submit your recipes for the 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure by mailing to the Farm Bureau or to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

**October Recipe Correction -Pumpkin Nut Chocolate Chip Cookies: 1 cup (2 sticks) butter!

Cow Fun Facts!



- People were herding dairy cows over 7,500 years ago, even before they engaged in agriculture.
- · A cow turns grass into milk within 2-3 days.
- Milk has every nutrient your body needs. A person could survive wholly on
- Depending on the breed, one dairy cow can produce 6.5-8 gallons of milk per dav.
- Cows have a four-compartment stomach which includes the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum.
- The udder is the part of a dairy cow that produces, stores, and dispenses milk.
- A dairy cow spends 8 hours per day eating, 8 hours chewing her cud, and 8 hours sleeping.
- On average, it takes only 48 hours for milk to travel from the farm to the store.
- The process of heating and cooling milk to kill bacteria and protect milk's purity and flavor is called pasteurization.
- · An average dairy cow weighs 1,200 pounds.
- Most dairy cows are milked 2-3 times per day.
- · Cows have an acute sense of smell and can smell something up to six miles
- It takes more than 21 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter.
- · Dairy cows are social animals, and they naturally form herds. Like people, they make friends with some and avoid others.
- *From the Illinois Agriculture in the ClassroomSM 2018-19 Calendar for Teachers

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



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Industrial Hemp Tricky Crop to Grow, Store, Sell

Kay Shipman, FarmWeek

Illinois farmers await state rules to grow industrial hemp. However, those rules won't tackle marketing challenges and agronomic unknowns. Currently, the federal government classifies industrial hemp as a controlled substance under the scope of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The 2014 farm bill authorized hemp research by land grant universities and state agriculture departments.

Illinois starts hemp field trials

This year, Illinois embarked on its first industrial hemp field trials lead by Win Phippen, a professor of plant breeding and genetics at Western Illinois University (WIU), and two cooperating farmers in Warren and Mason counties. Both Illinois farmers grew hemp to harvest the leaves for cannabidiol or CBD oil. That required 5-foot spacing between plants and 5 feet between rows, Phippen said. One farmer planted 1,200 plants, and the other planted less than 100. The crop was either seeded or transplanted as 4- to 5-inch seedlings when soil temperatures reached 55 degrees in mid to late May. By late August, the plants grew to 5 to 6 feet in height.

Phippen and the farmers were surprised by weather problems. Because the plants were topped to increase leaf production, they became bushy, top-heavy and susceptible to wind damage. One crop was protected from wind. The other wasn't and was destroyed when high winds knocked down the plants. "Nowhere in the rule book does it say, 'Watch out for wind," Phippen said. For soil fertility, the farmers incorporated 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre preplant, but Phippen said Illinois will need fertility studies for industrial hemp.

After the two hemp crops were established, weeds couldn't compete and weren't a problem. The 5-foot grid spacing also allowed mowing to control weeds. Neither grower experienced much insect damage, but Phippen speculated insects may become a problem with increased hemp acres.

With only two certified labs in Illinois, Phippen anticipated a bottleneck if large numbers of farmers growing industrial hemp need frequent test results from two labs that also provide testing services for the state's medicinal marijuana sector.

Illinois' potential industrial hemp crop is generating a lot of interest. Phippen said he's received calls from farmers who want to do everything from growing a crop to raising transplant plugs, and from drying harvested crops to extracting oil. He frequently gets calls from individuals wanting to buy harvested hemp.

Industrial Hemp basics...

Farmers planted only 300,000 acres worldwide.

Illinois farmers should decide what part – flower, seed or biomass – they plan to harvest before planting hemp.

Hemp produces optimal yields in well-drained, silt loam soil. Kentucky farmers use conventional tillage and a drill to seed hemp at a quarter inch depth.

Some farmers have used no-till, but the shallow depth makes that more difficult.

Hemp seed size varies from 10,000 to 50,000 per pound. General hemp seedling vigor is very poor.

A heavy rain that crusts soil will destroy a crop and standing water for 48 hours will drown it.

Hemp grown for CBD is labor-intensive and requires extra attention, especially before harvest. Starting in late August, farmers must frequently monitor the leaves' THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) levels to ensure those don't exceed regulated thresholds.

Hemp leaf harvest requires hand labor. The stems, measuring 3 to 4 inches thick, are cut with a sickle bar, then hauled to a location where the stalks are hung upside down and dried. One farmer used a pole building with fans and louvers to provide sufficient aeration. Air movement is most important in a cool and dark space.

This article is a compilation of articles written by Kay Shipman, FarmWeek.



Cook County Farm Bureau® President Janet McCabe (pictured left) presented State Representative Frances "Fran" Hurley and State Senator William "Bill" Cunningham a 2018 Friend of Agriculture award. Both Representative Hurley and Senator Cunningham have a demonstrated commitment to agriculture and small business issues.

Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. **This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...**

Tim Stuenkel

- Tim has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2013.
- Tim is the Global Marketing Communications Manager at TeeJet Technologies, a leading global manufacturer of crop protection application and precision farming equipment based in Wheaton.
- Tim has served in various roles including technical support, sales, and international market development since joining the company in 2000
- Tim was raised on a corn, soybean and hog farm in Cook County and continues to raise corn and soybeans with his sisters.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?

Fresh tilled soil, fresh cut alfalfa, diesel exhaust, new tires, that fresh smell in the air after a warm spring rain, so many good ones to choose from.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD? I really like ham salad, something I grew up with and still make today. After Sunday dinner, I always liked helping mom make it on the old handcrank, universal meat grinder.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

Country Insurance– I always receive excellent service and response.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

International 1066 and International Farmall M.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE? Apollo 13

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Summertime corn shelling. The sights, the sounds, the smells, the piles of cobs, the big lunch, neighbors helping neighbors, and of course many scurrying mice – you learned to keep a watchful eye on your pant cuff.

IF YOU CAN BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?

Corn & soybean. Although, I think having a vineyard and winery would be pretty cool too.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

Hogs- the smartest (and most pigheaded) of all farm animals.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY? Pizza

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO CONTROL CALORIES?

Try not to over eat.

18th Annual Giant Pumpkins, Dessert, Carving, and Local Honey Contest

Giant Pumpkin Contest | Adult Giant Pumpkin Contest | Adult Giant Pumpkin Contest | Adult Giant Pumpkin Contest | Youth Giant Pumpkin Contest | Youth **Local Honey Contest Local Honey Contest Local Honey Contest Pumpkin Carving Contest Pumpkin Carving Contest Pumpkin Carving Contest Pumpkin Dessert Contest Pumpkin Dessert Contest Pumpkin Dessert Contest** Pumpkin Decorating Contest | 0-6 yrs Pumpkin Decorating Contest | 0-6 yrs Pumpkin Decorating Contest |7-11 Pumpkin Decorating Contest 17-11 Pumpkin Decorating Contest | 12-16 Pumpkin Decorating Contest |12-16

1st Don Carlson 2nd Keith Van Drunen 3rd Joe Miller 1st Jessica Miller Carolina & Cassandra Rivera 2nd 1st Mike Davies 2nd Joe Miller Marge Trocki 3rd Daisy Rivera 1st 2nd Liz Van Drunen Mary Gavenda 1st Theresa Doorneweerd 2nd Mary Gavenda Maricela Rivera 3rd 1st Reed H

3rd Maricela River
1st Reed H
runner up Lena H
1st Kaitlyn G
runner up Trista D
1st Cassandra R
runner up Tess O

646 lbs 374 lbs 321 lbs 378 lbs* record setter

Moraine Valley Honey Farm Miller Honey Bee Wild Honey

Pumpkin Harvest Spice Cake Cream Puffs w/Pumpkin Cream Cheese Pumpkin Carmel Cheesecake





CCFB Team member Sheri Latash (left), CDBA President & Board member, Pete Soltesz & Neil Sexton judge the Honey Contest



CCFB Team member, Alex Wojciechowski and Board members Roger Freeman and Dan Biernacki (left to right) had the hard job of Dessert judging.



Liz VanDrunen's pumpkin carving earned her a 2nd place prize!



Don Carlson does it again – his homegrown giant pumpkin weighed in at 646 lbs. It took 9 men to get it on the scale!

"From the Country"

When Winter Covers Your Roof, Make Sure to Cover Your Home



Cary Tate, Country Financial Agency Manager Orland Park

A roof covered high in snow might provide the perfect backdrop for your holiday card photo or a soft landing pad for Santa and his sleigh.

But a serious risk to your home and family may be lurking beneath that beautiful bed of

Heavy snow and ice buildup can routinely cause roof

collapses. Even partial collapses can cause extensive damage to the interior contents of a home or business. And you're not out of the storm when warmer weather begins to roll in. Rain on top of snow can significantly add to the weight on your roof, and poor drainage can mean interior flooding.

As little as 6 inches of snow packed on your roof could cause major damage to your home—and your wallet.

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) research shows about \$1 of every \$5 paid for home and business property losses in recent years has stemmed from damage due to freezing weather, snow and water leaks.

With many areas of the country witnessing record snowfall and the wintry season lasting longer, the risk factors for roof and home damage could be snowballing.

The IBHS has some guidelines to help you determine the risk posed to your home and roof. First, the age and design of your roof are major factors:

- Light metal buildings typically have less capacity to handle a high snow load, so it's essential to keep all outbuildings clear as well as your home.
- · For flat roofs, the step-down area between roof sections is a potential source of roof overload because of the tendency for ice and snow collection.

Fresh snow is two to four times lighter than old snow, so your roof could hold up to four feet of fresh snow safely. But new snow on top of old snow can multiply the risk of collapse. Ice mixed with snow is extremely heavy—just one inch of ice can weigh as much as 12 inches of fresh snow.

To be safe, consider hiring a licensed roof contractor to remove any snowfall over two feet.

To help reduce the risk of roof damage and flooding during the winter, take these preventative measures throughout the rest of the year:

- Clear roof valleys and gutters of debris in the fall.
- · Caulk all cracks and openings in the foundation.
- · Inspect downspouts. They should carry water at least five feet away from foundation walls.
- Ensure that the surrounding landscape is graded away from your home.
- · If applicable, test sump pumps before the wet season. Install a battery backup system. If you do not have a sump pump in your basement, consider having a professional install a system with battery backup.

Most home insurance plans cover roof collapse, but many older policies may not. So don't let your family get left out in the cold. Check with your COUNTRY Financial representative to make sure your home and family are covered.

Cary can be reached at cary.tate@countryfinancial.com



Cook County Commissioner Sean Morrison (pictured centered) received a 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau award from the Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee. Commissioner Morrison has received the award routinely since being appointed to the seat. Pictured left to right: Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Commissioner Morrison, and Cindy Gustafson.



Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Senator Napoleon Harris received the 2018 Friend of Agriculture award in recognition of his outstanding voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Pictured left to right is Mark Schneidewind, Will County Farm Bureau® manager; Senator Harris; and Cindy Gustafson, Cook County Farm Bureau® leader.



Cook County Farm Bureau® President Janet McCabe hosted nutrition and dietician graduate students from the University of Illinois Chicago at her family farm in Manhattan. Students discussed the food choices of today's consumers and the importance of reading and understanding food labels.

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Co-Operator November 2018 Cook County Farm Bureau



Agricultural Literacy

& Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: Choices Abound By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

As we anticipate the celebration of Thanksgiving this month, we join many cultures in being thankful for the food provided by our farmers. No matter what your tradition is

for Thanksgiving, whether it be football or turkey, it all originates from the farm. As the holiday approaches, we make our shopping lists and the food generally isn't hunted and gathered in the true sense, but it's hunted and gathered at the grocery stores.

Our Thanksgiving meals didn't change much while I was growing up. We pretty much always had turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, cranberries, Jell-O, rolls, salad and pumpkin pie. Who prepared what generally didn't change much either as you knew Aunt Sarah brought the Jell-O "mold," Aunt Josie made the pumpkin pie and so on.

When the next generation took over, the same recipes prevailed. None of us really thought much about the farmer who harvested the wheat, raised the turkeys or grew the pumpkins.

As we prepare dinner for this

Thanksgiving and include the newest generation I do believe they are more aware of where their food comes from and certainly have more questions. They may insist on an all-natural turkey, non-GMO fresh green beans (which is all of them!), skip the Jell-O and buy locally grown microgreens.

I've also noticed a drastic change in the volume of food and the decrease in "casseroles." Perhaps we are returning more to the historical foods that are believed to be eaten at the early Thanksgiving feasts such as fish, fruits such as plums, melons and grapes and vegetables like leeks, wild onions, beans, and squash.

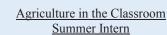
One thing is for sure, we Americans have choices. Perhaps too many, perhaps too complicated. So, when you run out this month to buy your turkey what kind will you choose? A fresh, frozen, pre-brined, kosher, natural, organic, freerange, heritage, hen or tom will be among your options. We have those choices thanks to our farmers.

Good luck planning your holiday menu and enjoying your family traditions this holiday season.

Diane can be reached at aitc@ cookcfb.org.



Horticulturist Greg Stack lead an Ag in the Classroom workshop on The Power of Plants at Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park in October. Topics and activities focused on plant parts, kitchen scrap gardening, working with plants to identify what products are produced from them and ways to connect plants with literary resources. Stack also shared his collection of historic seed catalogs and an antique Seed Box. The workshop received outstanding reviews and provided teachers with lessons and materials to use with their students. For future workshops, visit http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources.



The Ag in the Classroom program is offering a summer internship to a college student majoring in Ag Communications or Ag Education. The individual selected for this paid internship will assist with all educational programming including: preparing agricultural education materials for Summer Professional Development Conference, planning lessons for youth programs and local library presentations, updating social media including Facebook. Candidate will do group presentations for adults and students and should have knowledge of Illinois commodities such as corn, wheat, soybeans. Position requires excellent organizational skills and strong oral/written communication skills. Transportation required as travel throughout Cook County to conduct programs is necessary. Position runs from June 1st- August 1st.

Contact: For more details visit http://www.cookefb.org/foundation/internships or contact Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator at via email at aitc@cookefb.org. Open application period until filled.

Student Leaders Learn Career Options

FFA students from Chicago were selected to participate in the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag Leadership Academy that took place October 17th. Heading from Chicago to Peotone, thirty students and two teachers from the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences and John Marshall Metropolitan High School explored the education and job skills necessary for a successful career in our industry.

The first speaker of the day was Dakota Cowger, a 4th generation farmer who graduated from Illinois State University in 2017 with degrees in Agronomy Management and Ag Communications. Dakota provided a tour of his family's dairy and row crop farm and explained his intense passion for farming and his decision to come back to the farm after college. "It was an amazing opportunity to visit a dairy farm. I would never think about what happens before the products get into stores." stated student Tim Williamson. Lunch was held at Peotone High School with their FFA students and provided a chance for the three chapters to interact and discuss the differences between their FFA chapters and coursework. This experience was the most highly rated of the day with all three schools learning about how much they had in common, yet how their chapters all function so differently. Our thanks to Ms. Abby Jacbobs, Ag Teacher at Peotone High School for arranging this wonderful experience. Our final stop of the day was at Johnson Farms in Monee where 2013 University of Illinois graduate Corey Johnson spoke about his career path since graduating from the University of IL where he received a degree in Crop Sciences & Agribusiness. While taking students onto his freshly combined corn field, he discussed best management practices including soil testing and field mapping and the ways technology is helping farmers produce more using less.

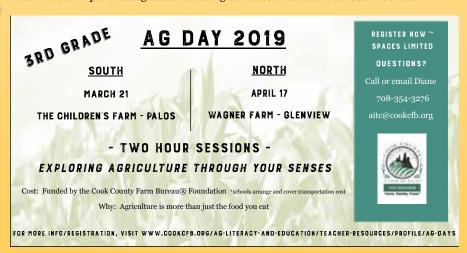
Students would like to thank the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation for sponsoring this experience. "Thank you for funding this trip so that I can learn more about agriculture and the great opportunities it has to offer."



It was an interesting experience for students to learn about the steps involved in getting milk from the farm to the store, a concept few had thought about previously. Dakota Cowger was able to explain the chain from the birthing of calves to the capturing of milk before it gets hauled out of the farm to the processing facility. Students also gained an understanding of the grain bins used to store feed for the cows.



After a discussion about how the technology used to plant and harvest the corn and soybean crops, Corey Johnson provided a close-up look at the machinery used on his family farm. Shown here is his planter where students learned about how many seeds go into each bin and how they are spaced on the fields. Corey also provided insight into the decisions farmers need to make in purchasing seeds including varieties available and costs involved.



AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

Turker

While we are thankful for so much each month of the year, November provides a special day to focus on our gratitude. Many gather to celebrate with a focus on food, friendship and family, so we'd like to share some of the origins of traditional Thanksgiving

food in this month's edition of Ag Adventures for Families. We also thank the farmers of Illinois for all they produce for our plates and their dedication to providing for all.

"gobblers," after the "gobble" call they make to announce themselves to females (which are called "hens") and compete with other males. An adult Tom weighs 16 to 22 pounds on average, whereas a hen is smaller, weighing around 8 to 12 pounds. Both genders have a snood (a dangly appendage on the face), wattle (the red dangly bit under the chin) and only a few feathers on the head. Toms and hens are raised separately, but eat similar diets of corn,

soybean meal and vitamins.

Our state fruit is the Goldrush Apple that are long-keeping

"goldrush" refers to the golden color and the "rush" of

rich, spicy flavor. A properly stored goldrush apple will

keep its crisp, firm texture and complex flavor for at least

and have a delicious sweet-tart taste. The name

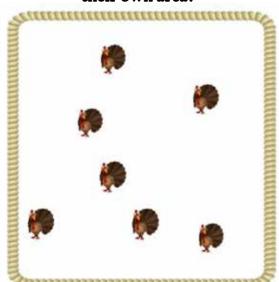
Minnesota continues to be the top turkey

SNeet Potatoe

Sweet Corp

A yam and sweet potato are not botanically related, although the USDA has made it a requirement that the label "yam" must also say "sweet potato". Sweet potatoes are roots found mainly in tropical America and are part of the Morning Glory family. Yams are tubers (or bulbs) of a tropical vine found in Central and South America, the West Indies, Africa and Asia. Both yams and sweet potatoes grow from October through March. North Carolina produces nearly 60% of the nation's sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes are full of vitamin A (they contain even more than carrots), while yams contain very little.

Using only three straight lines, can you separate the turkeys into their own area?



Sweet corn is produced for the fresh, frozen and canned markets.

According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, sweet corn was harvested on over 25,000 farms and in all 50 states. In terms of production and value, sweet corn is the second largest processing crop, surpassed only by tomatoes.

seven months. The skin of a goldrush apple is greenish-yellow with occasional bronze to red blush at harvest.

Illinois is home to Libby's pumpkin processing plant in Morton, IL the pumpkin capital of the U.S. More than 80% of the world's canned pumpkin is provided by Libby's. Their pumpkins are oval and pale orange and very different from the ornamental or carving pumpkins. They are meaty and grown specifically for canning.

Wisconsin is the top producer of cranberries (and green snap beans) with about 60% of all berries coming from our neighbor. Last month many cranberry farms in Wisconsin flooded their beds with water for harvest time where special machinery gathers the floating cranberries and sends them to harvest into cranberry products such as sauces and juice.

In honor of Veteran's Day (November 11) and Thanksgiving, we would like to thank our veterans for their service and for protecting our country!!



November Word Search

by word search

T T T M R Z U P E A Y G Y V F P В D V G Н C Η

Apple Pie Potatoes Cranberries Pumpkin Gather Sweet Corn Gobble Thanksgiving Hen Tom Illinois Turkey Libbys Veteran Morton Yams

Name:
Phone #:
Membership #:
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

Beggar's Pizza GC. HRI GC. 3 Movie Ti:

___Beggar's Pizza GC ___HRI GC ___3 Movie Tix (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056 Email to: FBCooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2018 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!



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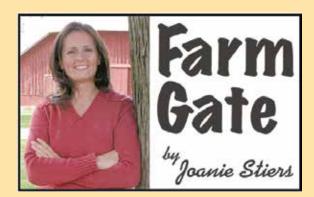
Last month's word search winner is....



John Deir



Co-Operator November 2018 8 Cook County Farm Bureau



Consecutive Crossing Closures Disregard Farms, Rural Residents

Our son cheered, the neighbor texted, a local farmer called twice, and the mailman sighed in relief. Our country road and the next road to the east had re-opened after nearly two weeks of closed railroad crossings that detoured our lives and livelihoods.

Two roads may seem like no big deal and two weeks a small portion of life. But, the morning of those consecutive crossing closures (a surprise to us), we logged an extra 14 miles roundtrip to school. Keep in mind, we don't have streets as frequent as city blocks out here, but rather roads a mile or more apart. Add to that, roads in this immediate area dead-end to the west. The closings eliminated access to the south. And we have only a curvy gravel road to the north that triggers more motion sickness than it saves time. We drove east to go anywhere, and then west.

I literally called for a compromise. I explained to the railroad representative over the phone that if they closed only one rural crossing at a time – rather than two consecutive ones – then locals would have a reasonable and tolerable detour. He said it was more efficient for them to close two consecutive rural crossings at once for maintenance. That was that. It was their right and obligation to maintain the crossings, and I quickly realized our rights and obligations didn't matter.

The consecutive crossings closed for more days than contractors worked. Meanwhile, combines held off harvesting fields across the railroad tracks in hopes of a prompt re-opening. A nearby farmer drove 11 miles roundtrip to haul water for his cattle from a farm well typically less than a mile away. And the neighboring fire district likely could beat our home district to the scene if our house caught fire. Worse yet, the fire chief of my district never received official word of the temporary closures.

In this situation, two consecutive crossing closures at once jeopardized the safety of residents north of those railroad tracks, where they temporarily lived miles more away from emergency services. It burdened residents with significant extra traveling time and fuel. And it hampered the livelihoods of farm families during harvest time, a critical season for Illinois' largest industry. Illinois contains the second most railroad crossings in the nation behind Texas. Throughout Illinois, the next immediate detour for a farmer may require miles more of travel with slow farm equipment or involve a railroad underpass too small for farm machinery.

The removal of the barricades at both crossings that September day released a rhetorical sigh that reciprocated for country miles. Shortly after, the cattle farmer hauled water and a combine crossed the tracks to harvest corn. Half of each crossing awaits updates, so we anticipate another closure. Time will tell if they honor the request to compromise and temporarily close one at a time to regard our safety and livelihoods.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from west-central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.



Family Food Bytes

MILK CARTON "SELL BY" DATES MORE ACCURATE (FarmWeek) The "sell-by" and "best-by" dates on milk cartons may soon become more meaningful and accurate. Cornell University food scientists have created a new predictive model that examines spore forming bacteria and when they emerge. Consumers often discard milk if it's past the "sell-by" date despite the fact that there is little science behind those dates as they are experience-based guesses. The goal of the research was to put good science to use, reduce food waste and reduce food spillage.

HOT OFF THE PRESS (AFBF) The new Food and Farm Facts Junior edition, produced by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, is now available. This edition explains farm practices to young learners in an age-appropriate way. Questions explored in the 12-page full-color book, which was developed for kindergarten through third-grade students, include:



- Who is a farmer?
- What is agriculture?
- How do farmers use the land and take care of it?
- What is food safety?
- Does chocolate milk come from brown cows?
- What is the difference between wool and cotton?
- What happens when I flip on a light switch?
- Where does my pizza come from?
- Who works on the weekends?
- Who is driving the tractor?
- Who will I be in agriculture?

Copies of Food and Farm Facts Junior may be purchased for \$3.00 each. Visit http://bit. ly/FFFJR18 for more information.

MY AMERICAN FARM UPDATES (FarmWeek) The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has released three new books into new videos to complement an updated My American Farm game – called - My Little Ag Me. Focused on information about egg careers, the three books are geared towards a fifth-grade audience. A special code at the end of the books unlocks a secret level of the My Little Ag Me game. Two videos highlight a host of careers in agriculture ranging from information technology programmer to mechanical engineer. Visit myamericanfarm.org/classroom to check them out

LAMB INCREASING IN POPULARITY (FarmWeek) Americans say they're eating more lamb and fully enjoying it according to a recent survey conducted by the American Lamb Board. The online study of 2,084 US adults age 18 to 74 years showed 24% ate lamb in the past year, up from 20% in 2011. 35% of those who ate lamb said they liked everything about the meat, including the flavor and tenderness, compared to 19% in 2011. 68% said they have a strong desire to purchase American raised lamb.

IFB TO EXPLORE MEMBER HEALTH PLAN (FarmWeek) The Illinois Farm Bureau's Board of Directors recently endorsed a working group's recommendation to explore providing health insurance to members through an Association Health Plan, amongst other items. Other recommendations included potentially entering into partnership with other Illinois-based associations of self-employed people, increasing medications to members about healthcare issues and options, communications to legislators about the high cost of health insurance for self-employed individuals, studying other healthcare options, and considering the viability of legislation to establish a non-actuarial health care plan similar to what Iowa has instituted.

WALMART, SAMS CLUB TO TRACK CERTAIN FOOD ITEMS (Reuters) In an effort to improve food safety, Walmart and Sam's Club will be asking leafy greens suppliers to implement new safety measures. Suppliers will be required to utilize real-time, farm-to-store tracking technology.

 $\textbf{TRUMP DIRECTS E-15 RULEMAKING PROCESS} \, (\textbf{Deana Stroisch}, \textbf{FarmWeek} \,$



Currently, E15 cannot be sold during the summer months in most of the country. (Illinois Farm Bureau file photo) President Donald Trump has directed the U.S. Environmental Protection

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin a rulemaking process to allow the year-round sale of E15 ethanol fuel.

Farm and ethanol groups across the country applauded the announcement. Supporters said eliminating the summertime ban will save consumers money, reduce emissions, enhance competition and provide a boost to the ag economy.

Getting approval of year-round sale of E15 has been a priority for many agriculture and ethanol groups, including Illinois Farm Bureau.

In 2011, EPA approved the use of E15 in all light-duty vehicles built in 2001 or later, meaning more than 90 percent of cars and trucks on the road today are legally approved to use the fuel. E15 cannot be sold during the summer months in most of the country. According to the Renewable Fuel Association (RFA), E15 is available at more than 1,300 retail stations in 29 states, and it is expected that elimination of the summertime ban will result in rapid expansion of the availability of E15 nationwide.

NEW CEO OF COUNTRY FINANCIAL SELECTED (FarmWeek). Mr. Jim Jacobs, General Counsel for the Illinois Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial, will become COUNTRY'S CEO early next year. He succeeds Mr. Kurt Bock who is retiring January 31 after serving as CEO for seven years. Jacobs has served as General Counsel, Sec. and chief legal officer for COUNTRY, IFB and other affiliated companies since 2008. Prior to joining IFB, Jacobs was a litigation attorney for 14 years in Louisiana and a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Murphy, Rogers, Sloss, and Gambel. He holds a law degree from Wake Forest University school of Law and a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Evansville. Jacobs is a native of Chenoa, Illinois, where he grew up on a family farm.

About Family Food Bytes: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.

Co-Operator November 2018 Cook County Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau Actively Engaging in Conversations **Regarding the Cook County Wheel Tax**

In September, Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to the Department of Revenue and Cook County Commissioners regarding the Wheel

Numerous Cook County Farm Bureau® members have voiced concerns regarding the Cook County Wheel Tax. We appreciate your willingness to engage in conversations regarding the issue. In reviewing ordinance 18-5810, we have some concerns. Please feel free to contact me at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@ cookcfb.org.

License requirement

Sec. 74-552 provides that the operator of a vehicle subject to the Wheel Tax is subject to the same penalties as the vehicle owner. In this situation, the operator could be a child, employee, or a friend of the owner. Since the operator isn't the owner of the vehicle, they can't register the vehicle so why should they be punished for the vehicle operator not following the Code?

Business vehicle information

Sec. 74-559 provides that any vehicle that an employee is operating in the transportation of property upon the public ways of unincorporated Cook County must have the name and address of the owner and a serial number clearly painted on the side of the vehicle.

While many business vehicles already inconspicuously provide the business name and a department of transportation number, a pickup truck and trailer being used to haul a commodity like hay or straw may not have the farm name and number painted on the side. In this situation, the vehicle is not only being used by the business but it could also be used for personal. Both the truck and trailer will have farm plates, but the farm plates on the truck enable it to be used for non-farm activities like dropping the kids off at school.

Senior and no-fee licenses

Sec. 74-554 provides that certain vehicle operators are exempt from the Wheel Tax. Cook County Farm Bureau recommends that the Code be amended to include a reduced cost for vehicles used exclusively in the commission of agricultural production. These vehicles operate during a very limited timeframe, including planting and harvest. Provided below are definitions that can be used for agricultural production and crops, livestock, and livestock and aquatic products.

"Agricultural production" means the production for commercial purposes of crop, livestock, and livestock and aquatic products, but not land or portions thereof used for process of such crops, livestock, or livestock or aquatic products. (505 ILCS 5/3.01)

"Crops, livestock, and livestock and aquatic products" include but are not limited to the following: legume, hay, grain, fruit, and truck or vegetable crops, floriculture, horticulture, mushroom growing, nurseries, orchards, forestry, greenhouses and aquatic products as defined in the Aquaculture Development Act; the keeping, raising and feeding of livestock or poultry, including dairying, poultry, swine, sheep, beef cattle, pony and horse production, fur and wildlife farms, farm buildings used for growing, harvesting and preparing crop products for market, or for use on the farm; roadside stands, farm buildings for storing and protecting farm machinery and equipment from the elements, for housing livestock or poultry and for preparing livestock or poultry products for market; farm dwellings occupied by farm owners, operators, tenants or seasonal or yearround hired workers. (505 ILCS 5/3.02)

Fee schedule

License Classes & Fees	FEES	FEES
	Cook	
	County	Illinois
Smaller passenger vehicles with a curb weight under 4,500 pounds	\$80	\$101
Larger passenger vehicles with a curb weight of at least 4,500 pounds	\$100	\$101
Motorcycles	\$80	\$41
All commercial trailers regardless of gross weight	\$150	
All non-commercial recreational trailers	\$60	\$41
Motor trucks, tractors semi-trailers units up to 10,000 pounds	\$100	\$54- \$106

The fee schedule above illustrates that the fees being charged by the county are too much. For example, the county motorcycle fee is double the state license plate fee for the same vehicle, and the county's small vehicle license fee is over three-quarters of the cost of the state license plate fee for the same vehicle.

Funds from vehicle sticker purchases have long been used for roadway repairs. But despite the income, many municipalities have eliminated the program citing the cost of enforcement, staff time, and the printing of stickers. Vehicle stickers are also one of the most hated fees a unit of government can implement, which begs the question of why Cook County government still assesses motor vehicle licenses.

According to the Fiscal Year 2019 preliminary budget estimate, the county is facing a deficit of \$82 million. That same document provides that the wheel tax is estimated to raise a little more than \$4 million or less than five percent of the deficit. Given the limited revenue combined with unequal enforcement and the cost of enforcement, is the tax a necessary burden on the residents of unincorporated Cook County?

In addition, revenue from vehicle stickers are typically used to fund road improvement projects, bridge repairs, or public safety in the areas the fees are being collected from. Can Cook County demonstrate the projects that have been funded with revenue from this license cost?



By Bona Heinsohn, CCFB Affairs and P.R.

Since 2010, Cook County Farm Bureau® has operated a Political **Action Committee**

(PAC) designed to support candidates who are supportive

of the policies, priorities and mission of the Farm Bureau while promoting the economic and social well-being of farmers and farm-related interests in Cook County.

Since 2010, the PAC has made 51 endorsements. Not all incumbents. Not all challengers. Not all major party candidates. But candidates who Governance Committee members felt would make the largest impact on their District and the County.

Members of the Cook CFB PAC Committee are charged with making endorsements. When considering a candidate, members consider the results of the candidates' interviews, questionnaires, support of Farm Bureau policies, and when applicable, voting record.

Of the candidates running for Cook County office, Governance Committee members interviewed candidates for Cook County Board and Metropolitan

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure Water Reclamation District.

For Cook County Board District 14, PAC members interviewed incumbent Commissioner Gregg Goslin and challenger Democrat Scott Britton. Goslin has long been an advocate for more efficient use of taxpavers' resources. As a 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau, Goslin stood firm against the beverage tax and other fee and tax increases. PAC members were impressed by Britton's resume and experience but disheartened by his desire to incorporate all unincorporated areas. For Cook County Board District 14 it's incumbent Gregg Goslin.

PAC members met with both incumbent Commissioner Timothy Schneider and his Democrat opponent Kevin Morrison in the race for Cook County Board District 15. Schneider is a vocal opponent of tax and fee increases and is a strong advocate for small businesses. Schneider, like Goslin, is a 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau recipient and a leader on the repeal of the Cook County beverage tax. We were disheartened by his opponent Kevin Morrison's refusal to commit to no new or increased taxes. For Cook County Board District 15 it's incumbent Timothy Schneider.

Unfortunately, incumbent Commissioner Sean Morrison's opponent, Abdelnasser Rashid cancelled his meeting with the PAC and opted not to reschedule despite numerous opportunities to do so. Since his appointment in 2015, Commissioner Sean Morrison has been a vocal advocate for reducing the size and overreach of Cook County government. Sean Morrison, like his colleagues Goslin and Schneider, was named 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau recipient in recognition of his outstanding voting record on issues of importance to Farm Bureau. For Cook County Board District 17 it's incumbent Sean Morrison.

The November ballot will not only be full of candidates for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, but it will be one of the most confusing MWRD ballots. Voters will have the opportunity to elect three individuals to six-year seats and two individuals to two-vear terms. Adding to the confusion is that many people don't know exactly what the District does. Simply put, MWRD handles what you rinse down the drain and what is flushed down your toilet.

PAC members met with virtually

all candidates with the exception of a handful who did not respond to interview requests. For the six-year seats, incumbent Commissioner Debra Shore has 12 years on the board and has long been an advocate for innovative treatment methods and new avenues for nutrient reduction and possible reuse. Shore is also an outspoken advocate for an Inspector General for the District. Shore's colleague, Kari Steele is a chemist and recently became a licensed real estate agent to learn more about property management and valuation since the District is one of the largest land owners in Cook County. For MWRD six-year seats it's incumbents Commissioners Debra Shore and Kari

For one of the two-year seats, the PAC met with Kimberly Neely Dubuclet a former state representative from 2011 to 2013 and current director of legislative and community affairs for the Chicago Park District. Although the MWRD operates differently than the statehouse, Dubuclet brings a wealth of legislative experience. For the two-year term it's Kimberly Neely Dubuclet.

Members are reminded to vote on November 6.

New Member Benefit Platform Sign up to access over 302,000 discounts https://ilfb.abenity.com

Access local and national discounts at work, at home, or on the go! Save on thousands of hotels, restaurants, movie tickets, retailers, florist, theme parks, national attractions, concerts, and events.

Sign up today! https://ilfb.abenity.com



A Medical Alarm Protects Your Loved Ones At Home With Just The Push Of A Button!

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Members receive one month free of monitoring and no initial fees!



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Cook County Farm Bureau Member Health Benefits



Free hearing screening! Free annual electronic hearing evaluation and a 20% discount off the dispensers' regular list price on hearing aid purchases is provided. Visit www.beltone.com to find the nearest Beltone location near you or call Beltone Hearing Center at 877-710-6228. Members present their Cook County Farm Bureau Membership Card to receive the discount use code #www.decenter.com to receive the discount use code



You can save at over 57,000 participating pharmacies including just about every major pharmacy chain from CVS to Wal-Mart. Visit www.cookcfb.org for more information and to print a card online OR contact our office at 708-354-3276 and request a prescription card. Once you receive it, you can take it to a pharmacy near you to receive your discount!



Lasik eye surgery with a savings of up to 45% off the national average cost for traditional Lasik. Call 1-866-977-3012 for a quote.

Cook Country Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



Ilir Numani

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy Ste. 200. in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



odd Naumai

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager Todd Nauman has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave. in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-687-0443. Todd has been a Financial Representative since December 2016.



Larry Jached

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager Larry Jachec has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5112. Larry has been a Career Financial Representative since September 1988.



Craig Cline

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager Craig Cline has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste. 550 in Skokie, IL. His phone number is 847-563-9992. Craig has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Bill Schutz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager Bill Schutz has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 51 W. Seegers Rd., St.1, Arlington Heights, IL. His phone number is 847-690-1980. Bill has been a Financial Representative since November 1985.



Faustino Ramirez

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial
Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is
located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 930 in Schaumburg, IL.
His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial
Representative since October 2017.



Martha Dominguez

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Martha Dominguez has been named Chicago South Career
Financial Representative of the month for September 2018.
Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted St. in Chicago, IL. Her
phone number is 773-254-5810. Martha has been a Career
Financial Representative since June 2012.



Steve Phillips

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager Steve Phillips has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-583-1416. Steve has been a Financial Representative since November 2014.



Jim Andresen

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Jim Andresen has been named Career Financial Rep of the
Month for September 2018. His office is located at 17605 S. Oak
Park Ave., Ste. C & D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number
is 708-633-6490. Jim has been a Financial Representative since
January 2003.



Dan Gallivan

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Dan Gallivan has been named Employee Financial Rep of
the Month for September 2018. His office is located at 12130 S.
Harlem Ave., Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-3814015. Dan has been a Financial Representative since January
2018



Tim Hansen

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager Tim Hansen has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for September 2018. His office is located 301 White St., Suite AA, in Frankfort, IL. His phone is 815-464-6058. Tim has been a Financial Representative since December 2002.



Charmaine Toney-Adkins

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager Charmaine Toney-Adkins has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for September 2018. Her office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is 708-560-7777. Charmaine has been a Financial Representative since November 2017.

From the Farm Desk

TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE CAREFUL AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS (Jim Taylor, FarmWeek). Illinois has the second-most railroad crossings in the U.S., and more than 100 collisions occurred in the state last year. Don't become complacent at crossings you see every day, says state safety

coordinator.

Illinois has the second-most railroad crossings nationally, with approximately 7,800, and some of them are safer than others, according to Chip Pew, coordinator of Illinois Operation Lifesaver for the Illinois Commerce

Commission. "Of those 7,800, there's still probably about 2,000 that are passive – just static signs and symbols, no electrical or mechanical lights, bells and gates to give indication to the motorist that a train is coming,"

Only Texas has more crossings than Illinois.

According to statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration, 109 collisions occurred at Illinois rail crossings in 2017, which accounted for 25 deaths and 29 injuries. Only California had more fatalities at crossings, with 38.

"Once the lights at the crossing start flashing, the federal minimum is 20 seconds," Pew said. "That train has to provide 20 seconds of warning time before it can enter that crossing, so it does give somebody some indication as to how long it's going to be before the train gets there."

PATRIOTIC PATH (FarmWeekNow.com) – American Farm Bureau



American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall (Photo courtesy of AFBF)

nomenclature.

Federation President Zippy Duvall recently laid out agriculture's preferred path forward on trade. The five steps do not include a prolonged tariff war with China. "We're patriots. Probably better patriots than most citizens across this country," Duvall said. "But we can't be patriots if we're going broke and losing our farms."

- 1. Finish up a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico and Canada.
- 2. Reconsider entry into the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- 3. Conduct bilateral trade negotiations with Japan.
- 4. Conduct bilateral trade negotiations with the European Union (EU).
- 5. Negotiate an end to the tariff war with China.

DON'T CALL BULL (Business Insider) – A Dutch company near Amsterdam is set to debut the world's first floating dairy. The facility, complete with 40 dairy cows, is said to be 89-by-89 feet and will produce an average of 211 gallons of milk each day.

AUTONOMOUS TRACTOR-GRAIN CART TESTED IN FIELDS (Prairie

Farmer) – Smart Ag has introduced AutoCart, a system allowing an autonomous tractor to function in the same way it would with a driver behind the wheel. Smart Ag isn't the first company to demonstrate an autonomous tractor but is the first company to offer this system as a commercial product.

GREAT PUMPKINS (FarmWeekNow.com) – Despite early season rains that put a scare into pumpkin producers this year, harvest results so far indicate an above-average crop in terms of both quantity and quality, according to Jim Ackerman, with Nestle Libby's in Morton. The commercial crop dried out and has excelled, but, meanwhile, output was a bit patchier for specialty growers.

FDA MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANT-BASED PRODUCT LABELING (Agri-Pulse) – The FDA is moving forward with changes that could potentially prevent plant-based products, such as almond milk, from using dairy

NEW COMMODITY? (FarmWeekNow.com) – While Illinois prepares to license industrial hemp production, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) point person helping develop new rules emphasized the focus is reasonable regulations. IDOA "wants to treat industrial hemp like a commodity (crop) as much as possible," said Jeff Cox, head of IDOA's medicinal plant bureau. But farmers "must understand this is a regulated program. You can't just go plant."

About From the Farm Desk: There are a lot of farm related news items that cross the Editor's desk to share with area farmers and farm supporters. This collection of news briefs is gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep farmer members and leaders up to date. The articles are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions.

Classifieds

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/ classifieds. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad. Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to FBCooperator@ gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline date for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following month's Co-Operator. Members may run up to four non-commercial classified ads annually for free. Any ads submitted after the fourth free, will be charged. If mailing your ad, please mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attention: Classified Ads, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056.

For Sale

2 Pull behind lawn detachers, a garden

cart, and a 2-wheeled hand truck. Reasonable. Call Raymond at 708-448-3013.

91pc. Mikasa china set. Twelve five pc. place setting plus misc. pcs. Lexington pattern (#L2808), never used, in original packaging and box. Retail value \$1500. Asking \$550.

Teeter EP 970 Inversion table, used five times. Access teeter website for more detailed information. Retail value \$450 asking \$350. Tradesman! 28'commercial grade extension ladders type 1A, 300lb rating. Like new condition. Retail value \$350 asking \$275. Call Rich at 630-222-025

Cemetery lot-Mount Vernon Cemetery Garden of Apostles lot 1. For pricing call Albert at 630-863-3801.

Commercial brick building full basement with front/back entrance. Free standing ideal location near major highways and Arlington park train station. Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828.

Brick home 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bathroom, gorgeous kitchen intriguing atrium double garage and fenced yard in Dekalb, IL. Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828

Vehicle

1976 M.G. Midget runs great no rust. New carb, gas tank and top. Moving to Florida garage kept. \$2900.00 Call Louis at 847-361-9292.

For Rent

Time Share – January 2019 3rd & 4th week in beautiful Marco Island Florida on a beach facing Gulf of Mexico second floor sleeps 6 (no pets allowed). Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828

Wanted

Wanting to buy your electric trains and slot cars, turn those unwanted Trains and Slot Cars into cash! Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

Petroliana wanted old oil cans, signs, old gas station stuff, even old motorcycle cans, and signs etc. Call Jim at 708-361-8230

Wanted 1971 & older cars, trucks or parts/ unfinished projects. Call Attilio at 708-439-9770.







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Farm Prod-ucts Locator at:

www.cookcfb.org/disc over-local

- Big John's Farm Market Chicago Hts
- Clarke's Garden Center Chicago Hts
 - Gorman Tree Farm Monee
 - Horcher's Farm Wheeling
- Kolze's Corner Garden Woodstock
- McCarthy Farm Stand Orland Park
- Melka's Garden Center Mokena
 - Puckerville Farms Lemont
 - Ted's Greenhouse Tinley Park
 - Wagner Farm Glenview
- West End Garden Center Evanston

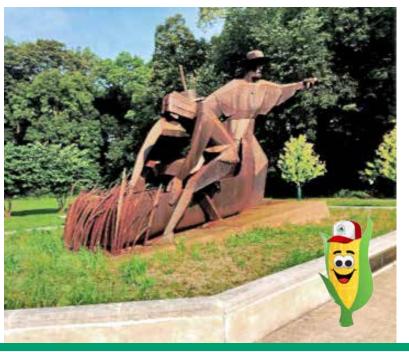




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Where Is Calvin This Month?



If you can guess where in Cook County Calvin was when this photo was taken, you will be entered to win a \$25 gas gift card!

To enter, call us at 708-354-3276 with your answer OR email your answer (please include name & member number) to juanita@cookcfb.org using the subject "Where Am I?"

A name will be drawn at random.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

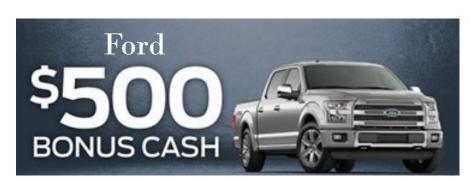
Native Landscape Design Workshop - Free -Saturday, 11/3/18, 10 am - 12 noon at Little Red School House, Willow Springs. For more info call: 773.233.2900 and register at: www.go.illinois.edu/ CatH-design

Creating Habitats for Native Pollinators in Your Garden - Free - Saturday, 11/10/18, 1-2 PM at River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook. For more information call: 847.824.8360

This article is for local farmstands, farm markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations that are hosting farm-related activities, events, workshops and gatherings that will occur soon.

To promote your activity, email membershipdebbie@ cookefb.org or call 708-354-3276 by the 15th of the month. Please include your name, the event date/time, a onesentence description of the event, and how a reader can obtain further information in the email. We will edit submissions based on space allowances in the publication.

In addition, we will post farm, garden or livestock related photos on our social media platform if you forward those to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.





Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2017/2018 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2017/2018 Lincoln vehicle.

Enjoy valuable savings on your choice of vehicles from our comfortable and capable lineup!

Take advantage of this exclusive special offer today by visiting our home page at www.cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

*Must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days to take advantage of the Ford/Lincoln program.



Ford Bonus Cash + Ford Conquest Cash Program

Starts October 15, 2018 - January 2, 2019!



During the promotional period, members who qualify for the Farm Bureau, Association eCertificate Offer will be eligible to receive an additional \$500 Conquest Bonus Cash towards the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2018/2019 MY Ford vehicle, if they have a non-Ford/Lincoln or Mercury vehicle registered in their household that is 1995 or newer.

Cook County Farm Bureau Members Get \$500 Bonus Cash + \$ 500 Conquest Cash

- Buy Now, Save Now. Up to \$1,000.
- Now's a great time to buy or lease an eligible new Ford vehicle especially if you're currently driving, or have a registered non-Ford/Lincoln/Mercury vehicle in your household
- Right now, get \$500 Bonus Cash PLUS \$500 Conquest Cash when you purchase or lease a new Ford. But hurry, this is a limited time offer. See your dealer today for details.

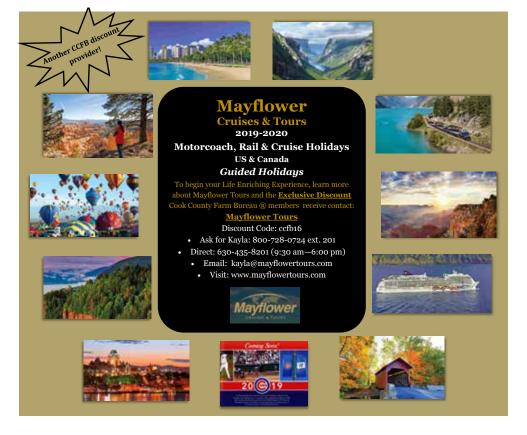
Conquest Cash Rules

- 1. Customer must be eligible for the Farm Bureau Bonus Cash Offer
- 2. Conquest Cash offer is valid from 10/15/2018 through 1/2/19
- 3. Customer must have a registered 1995 or newer non-Ford/Lincoln/Mercury vehicle in their name for at least 30 days
- 4. Customer does not need to trade in their conquest vehicle to receive the Conquest Cash offer 5. Conquest Cash offer is valid for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2018/2019 model year Ford/ Lincoln vehicle
- $6. \quad \text{Conquest Cash offer is not available on Shelby GT350\$, Shelby\$ GT350R, Mustang BULLITT, Ford GT,}\\$ Focus RS, F-150 Raptor and F-150 Diesel
- Conquest Cash offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company or Lincoln
- Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply
- 9. Limit one Bonus Cash and Conquest Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease

Farm Bureau Members will be responsible for generating the Farm Bureau Association eCertificate Offer and then Dealers will be responsible for confirming eligibility and registering customers for the Conquest Bonus Cash Program in Smart VINCENT.

For Ford Visit www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il

For Lincoln Visit www.lincolnspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il



Hurricane Relief

Continued from page 1

Contributions can be made using https://www.ncfb.org/Florence-Relief-Fund or make checks payable to:

North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation, Inc.

Florence Relief Fund

PO Box 27766

Raleigh, NC 27611-7766

Attn: Perry Crutchfield Georgia Farm Bureau Establishes Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Michael had a devastating impact on many farmers in south and central Georgia. From row crops, vegetables and tree nuts to farm equipment, chicken houses and buying points, Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc on agriculture. Within 24 hours, some Georgia farmers lost entire crops. Damage from Hurricane Michael wasn't limited to just agriculture. All along the storm's path, homes and automobiles were damaged or destroyed and people were left homeless. The effects will be felt for many years.

The Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is accepting taxdeductible donations to aid in the relief effort following the devastation from Hurricane Michael. This fund will collect and distribute monetary contributions only. One hundred percent of the donations to this fund will be dispersed to Georgians, farmers and ranchers across the state who have been affected by the devastation. Learn more and donate at www.gfb.org/stormrelief.cms.

Hurricane Relief Fund Will Aid Alabama Farmers

The Alabama Farmers Federation has established a relief fund to help Alabama farmers recover from Hurricane Michael's destruction. Tax-deductible donations may be made online by entering a custom amount or choosing from preset options. All funds collected will be targeted toward farmer losses not covered by a farmowner policy, crop insurance or disaster relief programs.

"Farmers in south Alabama have received an outpouring of support from neighbors and people across the country," said Federation President, Jimmy Parnell. "Many have asked where they can donate to help farmers who've lost their crops and barns, so we have created a special fund within the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation to accept these gifts." Learn more and donate at http:// alabamafarmersfoundation.org/.

Florida Farm Bureau Establishes Hurricane Relief Fund

In response to the devastating losses Hurricane Michael inflicted upon north Florida farm families, the Florida Farm Bureau Federation has created a relief fund to assist with the recovery from agriculture-related damage.

Money collected on behalf of the fund will support farmers and ranchers who are struggling to manage their properties in the wake of the storm. All donations to the Hurricane Michael Relief Fund for Agriculture are tax-deductible.

Donors can make checks payable to:

Florida Farm Bureau Women's Fund

Memo: Hurricane Michael Relief for Agriculture

P.O. Box 147030

Gainesville, FL 32614

Contact G.B. Crawford at gb.crawford@ffbf.org or Staci Sims at staci.sims@ffbf.org.