



Co-Operator

official publication 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. 1

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

January 2018

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

- 30th Food Evolution in Wilmington Page 9
- 31st Crop Insurance Meeting @ Will CFB Page 2

FEBRUARY

- 1st Food Checkout Day School Delivery Page 6
- 1st IAA Foundation Scholarship Deadline Page 12
- 6th Community Urban Grant App Deadline Page 3
- 10th New Farmer Training Page 12
- 16th CCFB Foundation Scholarship Deadline Page 12
- 24th Beginning Beekeeping-Class 1 of 2 (Must attend both classes) Page 11
- 25th Beginning Beekeeping-Class 2 of 2 (Must attend both classes) Page 11

MARCH

- 1st FB Policy Town Hall Phone Meeting Page 9
- 10th Farming For Our Future Gala Page 12
- 10th Advanced Beekeeping Page 11

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

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



Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Gala tickets are a great idea for the person who loves to have fun for a cause! See page 12 for details.

Help Us Celebrate Food Checkout Day by Partnering With Us to Support Ronald McDonald House Charities®



With Food Checkout Day scheduled for February 6, 2018 Farm Bureau families and partners have joined together to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when a child is ill. Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow.

Through YOUR support we've been able to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is not a concern of theirs during these times. Help us to collect non-perishable food, money, and pop tabs. Food, cash and pop tab donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

Cook County Farm Bureau®
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, Illinois 60525
708-354-3276

In 2017, we were able to donate over \$10,000 to the five area Ronald McDonald Houses. Due to your efforts, Ronald McDonald Houses remain open to all families regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Please partner with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana in support of Food Checkout Day. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.

Sponsor Food Checkout Day 2018

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow. Through our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana supporters are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill.

Please consider partnering with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity. Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

Veggies Sponsor - \$500

Includes advance promotions, event signage, and media inclusion.

Sweet Corn Sponsor - \$250

Includes promotion on cart signs at Chicago and Oak Lawn grocery store events, signage, and media inclusion.

Grains Sponsor - \$150

Includes event signage and media inclusion.

For two weeks prior to Food Checkout Day, Cook County Farm Bureau® invites any sponsors, organizations, or groups to help us celebrate Food Checkout Day by submitting a picture for use on social media to help us countdown the days to Food Checkout Day.

FCOD DONATION FORM

SELECT DONATION LEVEL:

- \$500 Veggie Sponsor
- \$250 Sweet Corn Sponsor
- \$150 Grains Sponsor
- \$_____ Other amount

Company/
Individual Name _____
(As you wish it to appear in publications or on signage)

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

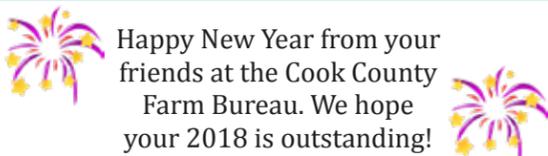
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If affiliated with a Country Financial Agency, please indicate: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF CHICAGOLAND AND NORTHWEST INDIANA.

For more information contact
Bona Heinsohn at the Cook County Farm Bureau®
at 708-354-3276 or bona@cookcfb.org.



Question of the Month

The Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Group recently sponsored a successful "teen toys for the holidays" drive. What not-for-profit group in Orland Park received the toys that will be provided to the teens?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, fax your answer to 708-579-6056, or email your answer to membershplinda@cookcfb.org (Please include Name, FB# and phone number) for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 gas card.

December's winner is **Marilyn Szkodzinski**.

Last Month's Question: Mr. Jim Gutzmer recently retired as President & Leader of the Cook County Farm Bureau. How many years did he serve in that position?

Answer: 7 Years

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate "Is organic food safer to eat?"

Answered by Pat Horcher, vegetable and greenhouse farmer from Wheeling



Pat Horcher

First, it's important to define "organic." For a food product to be certified by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as "organic", the farmer must undergo a rigorous certification process including: adopting specific management practices, as well as an application, document inspection, and site inspection by a USDA-accredited

certifying agent. "Organic" refers to how the food item is grown, including not being produced with chemicals, antibiotics or pesticides.

At this time, information is still mixed about whether organically grown food is nutritionally better for you. What isn't in question is the importance of eating fruits and vegetables; did you know that half of

your plate could be filled with them? Remember the saying "eat the rainbow" by selecting a variety of fruits and vegetables of all different colors.

Have a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.

Country Financial Announces Winter Crop Seminar Date

Country Financial, Illinois Farm Bureau affiliated company, has set up a number of winter crop seminar programs across the state. The seminar nearest to Cook County will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at the Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Rd., Joliet, IL 60433. The program will begin at 6:00 PM.

The seminar provides a great opportunity for farmers to learn about new federal crop – insurance options. Doug Yoder, crop agency manager at Country Financial, said one of the brand-new features for federal crop insurance that will be available this year is Uninsured Unavoidable Fire (UUF)/Third Party Protection. What it does is it basically allows us to identify damages to your crop caused by a third party.

Yoder continued, saying, "If a third-party damages your crop, Federal crop insurance can't pay a claim on the damage, but adjusters can identify and measure that loss and exclude those damaged acres from your actual production history. This is important as past yields go into a farmer's guarantee for future coverage. Country Financial remains committed to participating in the federal crop insurance program, and these winter seminars play an important role in the process."

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 this text through your smart phone screen into Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and a host of other languages. Enjoy and happy reading!



Harold Bergman with his son, Steve, a long-time resident of Palatine, passed away on Saturday, December 9, 2017 in his son's home in Naperville. Bergman was 101 years of age. He was a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau for decades and actively farmed in the Hoffman Estates area until retiring at age 99. He helped found the Northern Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District in 1946.

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

The Gratitude Box

Each month we would like to give thanks to those who have helped us in some way.

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- Julie Michaels and Amy Hansmann for being named 2017 Volunteers of the Year for the Cook County Farm Bureau.
- Ruth Zeldenrust, Dan Biernacki, Gerry Kopping, Jim Bloomstrand and Karen Biernacki for being inducted into the Master Membership Club of the Cook County Farm Bureau for their outstanding recruitment of members into the organization.
- Joe Youngman for his outstanding leadership and mentoring as a Country Financial agency manager of the Chicago Northeast agency. You will be missed! Congrats on the promotion!
- Shelley and Laurie for surprising our office staff with bagels. We loved them!
- Jim Bloomstrand for donating Corny Calvin's cousin, Kernel Shucks, to our office. He may be appearing in a future issue of The Co-Operator.
- John Tuttle, the new General Manager of Conserv FS, for stopping into the December Board Meeting to get to know the group.
- Leah Walton for providing excellent input regarding the 2018 Co-operator publication.

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

Gratitude

Recognition Appreciative Gratitude

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6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
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(e-mail) ccfb@cookcfb.org (website) www.cookcfb.org

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

This month's column dedicated to those born in another century

"What century were you born in, buddy?" I ask myself sometimes when I accidentally write the year as 1999 on a check (Yes, I still write checks because they are like cash... that green stuff the government prints which is supposed to be like currency). I still make the mistake of not only writing the wrong year but the wrong century! For those of you who accidentally write 1899, I *am* impressed!

As I look at the calendar, I cannot believe that we are entering the year 2018 (or is that 1918?). I am ready to put 2017—A year in which I experienced various injuries and body damage—behind me. 2018 promises a brand-new year full of opportunity and the potential of no emergency room visits!

The other day, I received a quarterly Country Financial® informational booklet. In it was an article that talked about the group of kids that will be graduating as a part of the high school class of 2018. I found it to be fascinating to think about this next generation of adults some are calling post-millennial or the iGeneration. Here are the facts from that piece...

- Women have always been able to graduate from the Citadel, as far as they know.
- They don't remember John F. Kennedy, Jr. (Nor Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Hillary's husband)
Just guessing but I also bet the iGens don't know farm facts like...
 - In the 1900s, farmers mechanically cultivated crops.
 - In the 1900s, farmers used to use something called a mold board plow to turn over the soil.
 - In the 1900s, farmers milked cows by hand.
 - In the 1900s, farmers fed pigs slop and garbage instead of a balance feed diet.
 - And walking beans does not require a leash.

I'm sure if any of these youngsters read this column (on their phone, of course), he or she would probably say "this old geezer has no idea about _____ fill in the blank" and they would be correct!

It's no surprise that these 2018 graduates don't work like I do. They don't communicate the same way I do. They are immensely comfortable with technology, apps, and digital. They have a phone implanted onto their body.

And that's good because the world has changed. It is not the same as the farm world I grew up knowing. These "2000 babies" are better equipped to handle, manage, and succeed in this new world. I'd rather bury my head in the sand. Oh for the 1900s!

Happy 2018!

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Your South Holland Agency



Jeff Orman
Agency Manager
708-560-7777



Andrew Carrell
South Holland
708-596-3999



Jim Verduin
South Holland
708-596-0008



Randall Cox
Matteson
708-679-1870



Elliot Day
Matteson
708-679-1870



Gary Molenhouse
Matteson
708-679-1870



Jason Riha
Worth
708-361-4330



Pat Hickey
Worth
708-361-4081



Tim Winters
Worth
708-480-5094



Josh Van Namen
Worth
708-361-3925



Jim Pathmore
Orland Park
708-745-5151



Tim Perchinski
Steger
708-754-7300



Bob Smith
Homewood
708-798-4844



Paul Turay
Mokena
708-478-0423



John VanGennep
Mokena
708-478-5500



Bob Deenik
Lansing
708-474-5600



Tim Van Zuidam
St. John, IN
219-365-1781



Mike Cerf
Oak Forest
708-560-7777



Corey White
Oak Forrest
708-560-7777

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2018 Community Urban Garden Grant Program Applications Available



2018 Grant Program Applications are now available. All community-based urban gardens in Cook County are encouraged to apply. Grant details and applications are available on our website at cookcfb.org/buy-local/programs or by calling 708-354-3276.

Helping you protect what matters most

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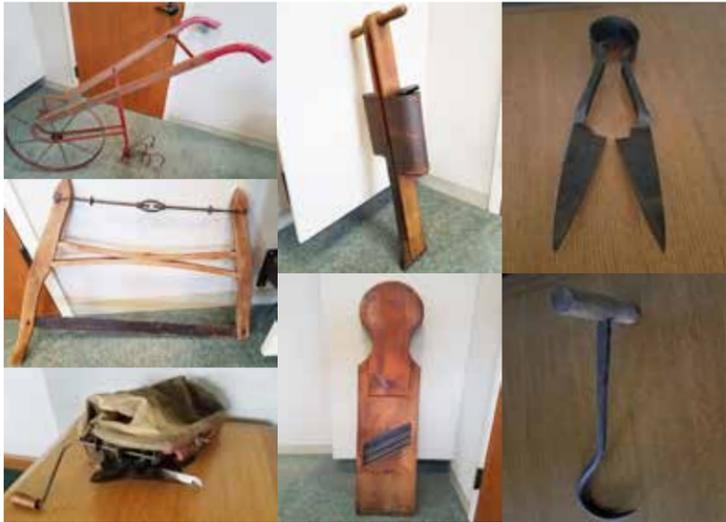


Last Month's "Where Am I?"

In last month's "Where Am I?" Calvin was at the United Center in front of the Michael Jordan statue in Chicago, IL. **Congratulations to Rocco Pelletiere** for being last month's winner!

Antique Farm Tool Contest

We have already received submissions for the Antique Farm Tool contest, but there is still time to enter. We will be pulling a winner on January 15th. Please be sure to mail in, fax (708-579-6056), or email your entries to membership@cookcfb.org by the 15th! If you named all seven tools correctly, you will be entered. Stay tuned for the winner in February's Co-Operator!



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 ...

Janet McCabe



- President of the Cook County Farm Bureau. Janet has served on the CCFB Board of Directors since 2011, and was recently elected President.
- Has been a critical care nurse for 35 years. She has wanted to be a nurse since she watched M*A*S*H as a kid and saw the nurses running toward the helicopters in the opening credits.
- Didn't grow up around farming, but has come to love it!
- Loves to read, bake and hang out her family.
- Farms with her husband, Joe, and son, Kevin.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

I grew up in the NW Suburbs and didn't even cut the grass so my first farm memories were made when I met my husband in college. I loved riding with him in the tractor or the combine when I would come visit from NIU.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

My International 1466 that I rake hay with, no cab, plenty of sun, listening to my tunes in the fresh air. Nothing better.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?

Freshly cut hay.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Birthday dinner when I was a child, my mom would always make our favorite which was pork chops with Shake N Bake, Acorn Squash with butter and brown sugar, these cheesy hash browns and chocolate cake with buttercream frosting. I can still taste it and see my Mom every time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CCFB MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

The hotel discounts and Culvers. Who doesn't like frozen custard?

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

Hay mostly and have cattle. I don't like loose dirt farming so grain farming would not be up by alley if I got to choose.

Young Leaders Toy Drive



The Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Group exceeded their goal of collecting 100 toys for teens when Young Leader members Jessica Biernacki and Kristen Yunker delivered 193 toys and \$300 in donations to the Toy Box Connection charity on December 8th. The objective was to bring smiles to youth in need, ages 12 to 19, this upcoming Christmas.

the charity for 10 years and the Young Leaders Group took over the benefit program efforts two years ago.

Toy Box Connection Charity director, Michelle Maxia, expressed gratitude for the efforts and generosity of the Farm Bureau members and organization. The Cook County Farm Bureau has supported

Kristen Yunker, Coordinator of the Toys for Teens collection efforts for the Cook County Farm Bureau® Young Leaders group, said today "we have all been blessed in our lives and we appreciate the opportunity to give back to those in need during this holiday season."

Young Leader Group Chair, Jessica Biernacki, said, "I was thrilled to be a part of this effort and the Young Leaders Group really appreciates the amazing generosity of the community!"



“From the Country” Avoid Surprises with Annual Insurance and Financial Reviews



Cary Tate
Country Agency Manager
Orland Park Agency

According to a survey by Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, a company specializing in estimating home construction costs, about two out of every three homes nationwide are under-insured. Fire damage, theft, an injury on your property or any other accident can be devastating and stressful, especially if you do not have adequate insurance coverage.

Make sure you have adequate insurance protection by meeting with your financial representative for a periodic insurance and financial review.

When should I perform a review?

An insurance and financial review will help eliminate gaps in coverage and provide a better understanding of your insurance needs to best protect you and your family.

Many believe performing a review is only necessary after major life changes, such as purchasing a new home or having a child. While these life changes are cause to review your insurance coverage, it is also important to keep little changes in mind. For example, buying a new car, changing jobs or making improvements to your home are changes that can make a difference in your insurance coverage needs. No matter how big or small your life changes, review your insurance coverages to make sure you have the best protection for you and your family.

Can you replace your home and personal property at today's prices?

Replacement cost coverage may be available on your homeowner's policy to help protect you from economic fluctuations and depreciation if you have a claim. Replacement cost coverage comes in three different options: Personal Property Replacement Cost, Extended Replacement Cost and Additional Replacement Cost.

Extended Replacement Cost coverage provides replacement cost coverage on your dwelling. It will pay the amount needed, up to a fixed percentage above the policy limit. The percentage is 120 percent.

Additional Replacement Cost coverage provides the same coverage, but will pay the amount needed regardless of the policy limit.^[1]

When you have Personal Property Replacement Cost coverage, if damaged items cannot be repaired then your policy pays the amount needed, up to the policy limit, to replace the items with identical or similar items without a deduction for depreciation.

Annual reviews also allow you to examine rebuilding costs for your home and replacement costs for your belongings. Fluctuations in the economy and depreciation of household items often make it hard to determine the exact cost to rebuild your home and replace its contents.

Being under-insured may result in a claim payment less than the amount of the damaged item. Annual reviews and purchasing the appropriate replacement cost coverage are ways to ensure you won't be unpleasantly surprised if you have a claim.

Performing annual reviews can help you balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future. You will also better understand your insurance coverages so you know what to expect if you have a claim. Talk to a COUNTRY Financial® representative about scheduling a review and ask about replacement cost options.^[2]

¹ Coverage options may vary by state.

² Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

Cary Tate can be reached by email at cary.tate@countryfinancial.com or by contacting his office at 708-226-1111

Attendees Loved the Holiday Planter Workshop at Ted's Greenhouse

Cook County Farm Bureau's "Planter Series" continued with a Holiday Planter Workshop at our member business, Ted's Greenhouse, in Tinley Park. This "pop-up" workshop at Ted's put all 20 attendees in the holiday spirit as they created and took home planters for their home. Thank you to Greg and Tilly for their great instruction; Bob Resch for his volunteer assistance; and Dan, Karen, Ted, Jessica and Becca Biernacki for hosting a wonderful morning.



Your Orland Park Agency



Cary Tate
708-226-1111
Agency Manager
Orland Park, IL



Piero Setta
708-226-0431
7601 W. 191st St
Tinley Park, IL



Jim Andresen
708-633-6490
17605 S Oak Park Ave
Tinley Park, IL



Thomas Geraghty
708-425-9700
5003 W 95th St
Oak Lawn, IL



Mark Wright
708-403-2416
7601 W. 191st St
Tinley Park, IL



George Parthemore
708-226-1896
9432 W 143rd St
Orland Park, IL



Dean Reszel
708-478-3136
11056 W 179th St
Orland Park, IL



Mike Skrabis
708-226-1666
9731 W 165th St
Orland Park, IL



Tony Palumbo
708-403-5708
7601 W. 191st St
Tinley Park, IL



Mike Spadoni
708-425-1825
3923 W. 95th st
Evergreen Park, IL



Bob Johnson
708-429-9422
17605 S Oak Park Ave
Tinley Park, IL



Dan Stumpf
708-614-1688
17605 S Oak Park Ave
Tinley Park, IL



Bill Thompson
708-361-1304
12130 S Harlem Ave
Palos Heights, IL



Nora Beverly
708-429-7789
17605 S Oak Park Ave
Tinley Park, IL



Brian Zielinski
630-257-6100
106 Stephen St
Lemont, IL



Nick Burke
708-425-1816
3923 W. 95th st
Evergreen Park, IL



Mike Thauer
708-425-1559
3923 W. 95th st
Evergreen Park, IL



Erica Storrs-Gray
708-671-1465
12130 S Harlem Ave
Palos Heights, IL



Terry LaMastus
708-754-5900
3308 Chicago Rd
Steger, IL



Joe Voves
708-425-1527
3923 W. 95th st
Evergreen Park, IL



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9731 W 165th St Suite 36 Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1111

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Recipe of the Month: One Pot Wonder Chicken Lo Mein

- ½ lb boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into small chunks
- 1 – 13 to 16 oz. box of linguini or fettuccini pasta, broken in half
- 4 medium carrots, peeled and cut in thin 3-inch long strips
- 1-2 medium red bell peppers cut in thin 3-inch long strips
- Other vegetables as you like—broccoli, snow peas, zucchini, summer squash, etc.
- 1 bunch green onions, white part sliced and green part cut in 3 inch long strips
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ c soy sauce
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 t corn starch
- 1 t sugar
- ½ t red pepper flakes
- 4 c chicken or vegetable broth

Add olive oil, chicken chunks, then pasta and remaining ingredients to a large stockpot and cover. Bring to a rolling boil over high heat. Stir and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook covered for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cook until most of the liquid is gone and the chicken is cooked through. Remove lid and let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Reprinted with permission from Lindsay Hodges in Mount Prospect from our 2017 CookFresh Recipe Brochure.

You can now submit your recipes for our 2018 CookFresh® Recipe Brochure! Please submit your recipes to Debbie at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or mail them to the Farm Bureau.



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: New Year, New Labels By Diane Merrion



With the new year often comes New Year's resolutions. What are the most common resolutions? Exercise more, lose weight and eat healthier are often the frontrunners. Just how does one eat healthier? I say by reading the labels and, as one of our classroom presenters Toni teaches, eat as close to the farm as possible. I love that saying! If you can choose between an apple, an apple granola bar or an apple nutri-grain bar, pick the apple. If the apple isn't available, read the labels on your other choices. We hear it now and we're going to hear it a lot more as the new labels appear on packages this year.

You'd think it would be a great choice just to pick a product by its name, but that's not always the case. There's been a huge surge in branding with many items containing names to suggest they are the perfect choice (which some may be). Nature Made Vitamins, Earthbound Greens, Skinny Cow, Country Fresh, Happy Eggs (can an egg really be happy?), Happy Farms, KIND bars and then there are all the

"natural" and "healthy" names on thousands of foods.

As you peruse the grocery ads each week and walk up and down the aisles at your store, pay attention to the label and see if the product ingredients and nutritional information coincides with the name. The new labels provide information on Vitamin D vs. Vitamin A, include separate information on added sugars, and change the definition of serving sizes.

By law, serving sizes must be based on amounts of foods and beverages that people are actually eating, not what they should be eating. For example, the reference amount used to set a serving of ice cream was previously 1/2 cup but is changing to 2/3 cup. The reference amount used to set a serving of soda is changing from 8 ounces to 12 ounces.

The labeling topic is quite complex and can't be given justice here, but I encourage you delve further as you try to accomplish your New Year's resolutions regarding food choices. If your resolution is to eat healthier, start reading your labels. The choice you think is the best may not truly be the best once you become a more informed consumer.

Students Excited to Meet Author

Reading from her newest book, *The Popcorn Astronauts*, author Deborah Ruddell captured the attention of students at Calmecca School in Chicago and at St. Germaine School in Oak Lawn. The book features poems titled "21 Things to Do with an Apple", "The Picky Ogre", "Voyage of the Great Baked Potato Canoes" and "Arrival of the Popcorn Astronauts" to name a few. Ms. Ruddell explained the process of writing and re-writing for many years before a book

can be published and how editors can be like teachers by sending their students back for another yet another draft of their work. This book was selected by the Illinois Reading Council, a statewide project promoting reading for Illinois citizens. ILLINOIS READS annually selects six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers with an emphasis on selections written by authors with ties to Illinois.



Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Opens Teacher Grants for 2018

Embryology Grant
This project will help students develop awareness of agriculture through life sciences. This teacher led, hands-on project is designed to give students the opportunity to hatch chicks in their own classroom using a grant-funded incubator and

egg turner. Applications due 2/1/18.
School Garden Grant
This \$300 grant will provide a funding supplement for a Cook County elementary, middle or high school for the implementation or enhancement of a school garden to bring awareness

of local farm products and agriculture to students. Visit <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy/teachers-resources/grants> for applications and information or contact the Ag Literacy staff at aite2@cookcfb.org.

Field Trip Awarded to Students



7th Grade Family Sciences students at Westchester Middle School concluded their studies of pork production and agriculture with a visit to Fair Oaks Farms in Indiana. Teacher Cathy Malloy applied for and received a grant from the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation that was funded by the Illinois Pork Producers. Students studied pre-work provided by the Ag Literacy Coordinator, Diane Merrion, and used that knowledge as they toured the farrowing and gestation areas of the facility. All of the studying in the world couldn't have prepared the students for the opportunity to see the birth of piglets right before their eyes. "The Fair Oaks Farm trip was a powerful learning tool for my students. They saw firsthand information we talked about in class and witnessed life-changing experiences they might not be a part of again. My students learned in a real world setting what a text-book can only wish to teach. I am grateful and so thankful to Diane Merrion at the Cook County Farm Bureau and Jenny Jackson from the Illinois Pork Producers Association for this amazing opportunity," stated teacher Cathy Malloy.

National Milk Day

Pour a glass of milk on January 11th and join the celebration of National Milk Day. Dairy cows come in many colors besides the familiar black and white Holsteins. Various breeds of cows produce milk richer in protein or fat which farmers consider when choosing a breed of cows. If you'd like to trace the origin of your milk, check out the code on every package that details the farm your milk comes from. Find the code and visit www.wherismymilkfrom.com.

Teachers can reach out to our Ag Literacy Coordinator to obtain lessons and posters to study more about this topic including science activities, historical facts, nutritional guides and even a Dairy Learning Kit to check out for two weeks. Email aite@cookcfb.org for more information



School Food Drive 2018



Presented by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag in the Classroom
benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

- WHAT:** We are collecting easy-to-prepare meals and snacks for families staying at the 5 Chicagoland Houses. The Houses could also use cleaning supplies such as napkins, laundry detergent, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, and garbage bags. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® could use tooth brushes (individually wrapped) and toothpaste.
- WHEN:** January 16 - February 1, 2018
- WHO:** Grade Schools, High Schools, Student Council, or other school activities groups.
- TO JOIN US:** Email aite@cookcfb.org for more information on how your school can join our efforts.

Schools donating the greatest supply will receive a recognition plaque for your school and all schools will be rewarded with an Amazon gift card as a small thank you.

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

December 3, 1818 - By now you probably know the significance of that date as our state has already begun the celebration! What celebration is that? Our state's bicentennial. This year our Family Adventures page will focus on fun facts about Illinois and about the importance of Cook County to our state's history.

While agriculture will be our focus, other fun facts will be shared along the way. Let's start our journey with a little information about the early years of statehood and city beginnings.



Before Illinois became a State, it was known as the *Illinois Territory*. Illinois was discovered in 1673, settled in 1720 and entered the Union on December 3, 1818.

In early 1818, the General Assembly of the Illinois Territory sent a petition to the United States Congress asking to be admitted into the Union. Part of the process for being admitted as a State was for Illinois to adopt its own constitution.

Illinois is surrounded by bodies of water on nearly every border: the Mississippi River on the west; the Ohio and Wabash Rivers in the south, and Lake Michigan in the North.

Chicago was incorporated as a town in 1833 and as a city in 1837, when its population reached 4,000. William Ogden became the first mayor. In 1848 Chicago got its first telegraph and railroad. Two innovations—grain elevators and the Board of Trade's wheat grading standards—quickly transformed the way crops were sold. By 1854 the city was the world's largest grain port and had more than 30,000 residents, many of them European immigrants.

During the 1830s and 1840s, farmers purchased most of the available land in the county and began raising crops and livestock. Without railroads, some farmers hauled their harvest to Chicago, but others went to closer, smaller settlements. By 1840, Wheeling, Gross Point (now Wilmette), Lyons, Summit, Brighton, Willow Springs, Calumet, Blue Island, and Thornton were thriving settlements. Most were agricultural centers, serving the farmers in their vicinity with small stores, churches, and schools.

We will provide more information on our state throughout the year...Stay tuned!

Source: Encyclopedia.org & History.com

State Symbols

This month, let's start off by introducing you to some state symbols that relate to agriculture.

Sweet Corn *Official State Vegetable & Grain of Illinois*



Illinois designated sweet corn as the official state vegetable in 2015. Elementary school students from Chatham, Illinois worked with their local legislator to propose a state vegetable to the General Assembly. Effective January 1, 2018, corn will also be the official state grain.

Popcorn *Official State Snack Food of Illinois*

Illinois designated popcorn as the official state snack food in 2003 when second and third-grade students (with help from their teacher) at Cunningham Elementary School in Joliet completed a class project attempting to make popcorn the official snack of Illinois. There are 333 farms in Illinois that grow popcorn on 47,000 acres. Corn is native to the Americas, probably first cultivated in Mexico about 5,000 years ago; native Americans started growing corn in Illinois about 100 A.D.



Pumpkin Pie *Official State Pie of Illinois*

Pumpkin pie was designated as the official state pie of Illinois in 2015 (Illinois also recognizes a state fruit, state vegetable, and a state snack food). According to the Chicago Tribune, State Representative Keith Sommer of Morton sponsored the legislation as a tribute to how much pumpkin is produced in Illinois. About 85 percent of consumed pumpkins in the U.S. comes from our great state.



Source: StateSymbolsUSA.org

Illinois FUN FACTS



- Illinois has 102 counties.
- Des Plaines is home to the first ever McDonald's.
- Dixon is the boyhood home of former President Ronald Reagan.
- The Illinois state dance is square dancing.
- The Dairy Queen franchise was first opened in Joliet, Illinois, on June 22, 1940.

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: membership@cookcfb.org

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!



Maggie Conroy
Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!

January Word Search

J Q A T D N Z C Y I S X C N R
U I Q P I O H R P Q E W L N M
C F L A I I O D A V L Y J R M
M H R L C T K H P V O E A O T
J G Z A I U N A E D D B E C O
P R G R B N O R W T I P O T P
O O R G Q I O J O C A Y N E E
R E V S H N C I E C U T W E V
T H A S U B S N S X P T S W Y
H N O I T U T I T S N O C S W
S N A C K E W N A P S V P T P
Z C O U N T I E S P L B C N K
C J S N M O A T Q I O P V X P
T I I Q S J C L S E B E L K U
B A T T G S M V E T M B K A M
L Y V Y E L P G B O Y D I B P
Y R O T S I H E O J S I T D K
V K H K O Y S G B N F O E N I
E Q A U E N B X E V P E A L N
G R I F A P L T G T Q R G L S

Bicentennial
Chicago
City
Constitution
Counties
Grain
History
Illinois

Pie
Popcorn
Pumpkins
Snack
Statehood
Sweetcorn
Symbols
Territory

Name: _____

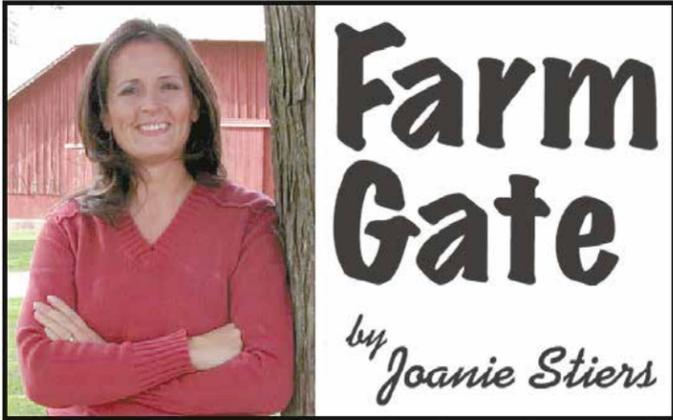
Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Coaxing Kids to Be Cool With the ‘Uncool’

Love doesn't keep a tally, so I'll just say that our nine-year-old son frequently tells me, "My friends don't have to do that."

Chores, yard work, extra division practice, typing tutorials ... the reference to what his friends are doing (or not doing) provides the universal excuse to negotiate or avoid Mom's assigned task. At bedtime, I analyze my day as a mother and often pray for help to be better at my role. In these days of instant communication, slipping work ethic, decreased privacy and increasing conceitedness, I face persistent challenges to keep my kids grounded in values of hard work, self-sufficiency, humbleness and consideration for others. We can't escape these cultural influences out here in farm country, and I assume we share these challenges with our urban and suburban counterparts who have similar values. Contrary to our son's belief, I think some kids do "have to do that."

But, I'm afraid not enough. Popular culture and mainstream media consistently throw darts at my day. They tell kids it's cool to be athletic, own a cell phone at a young age, and voice their opinion on social media rather than possess the self-control to remain reserved. It's cool to publicly showcase private moments. It's cool to be entertained and on-the-go all the time. It's cool to be successful, with success measured by fame, wealth and materialism.

Mike Rowe, former host of the TV Show "Dirty Jobs," deserves credit for publicly associating lack of coolness with the skills gap: Our culture generally lacks interest in and respect for physically demanding careers and thus don't train for these jobs that now have employee shortages. I find that the analogy applies not only to uncelebrated blue-collar jobs, but that some accomplishments and values also consistently fall short of the societal praise and celebration they deserve. Like privacy rather than publicizing your day on Facebook or Twitter. Like diving deep into a talent or 4-H project rather than playing every single sport that's glorified in our nation's school systems. Like work ethic, at-home parenting, domestic responsibilities or owning a minivan.

Individually, we give value to what we prioritize. Often, I find that popular culture does not always align with our household's values, which is fine except when counter opinions publicly marginalize our choices. I want our kids to uphold values that speak to them without society speaking for them. I want them to feel appreciated when there is no engraved trophy or even financial gain to recognize what they set out to accomplish. In the end, only they can be cool with what society deems uncool, and I hope they live a fulfilling life with chosen values that will shape who they want to become.

About the author: Joanie Stiers is a mother of two farm kids in West-Central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle

Cook County Farm Bureau® Helps Enact State Farm Bureau Policy/Direction

The Cook County Farm Bureau® played an active role in the 2017 Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Annual Meeting held in December in Chicago. The group's delegates helped lead a District 5 Sense of the Delegate Resolution calling on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board to seek out solutions for farmer member families and small businesses on the devastating impact rising health insurance costs are having throughout the state.

"Healthcare is a major concern because it's a major cost issue for our membership," said Mark Gebhards, Executive Director, Governmental Affairs and Commodities, IFB. "What the delegate body asked for in this particular resolution was for our board of directors to look for options that might be out there. As an organization, are there opportunities where we can try to provide some choices or option in this health insurance area for our membership to look at?"

The meeting represents one of the organization's most honored and respected traditions: grassroots, member-driven discussion to set the organization's policy for the coming year. Delegates also passed a sense of the delegate body resolution expressing strong support for North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and trade agreements.

Gebhards said the resolution emphasized remaining in NAFTA and ensuring there's a plan in place for agriculture if the U.S. would happen to withdraw. To underscore support for the 23-year-old trade deal, members sent more than 1,100 text messages to members of Congress during annual meeting in support of NAFTA.

Delegates also focused their energy on several important policy submittals and changes, including solar energy, pesticide management, endangered species, conservation programs and the 2018 farm bill.

To finish the delegate business, the delegates re-elected President Richard Guebert, Jr., of Ellis Grove in Randolph County. They also elected a new vice president in Brian Duncan of Polo in Ogle County.

The Cook County Farm Bureau earned recognition from the organization with gold stars in Communication and Promotion as well as Member Relations. Silver stars were earned in the areas of Ag Literacy, Commodities and Marketing, Legislative/Political Process, Local Affairs, Policy Development and Foundation. The Bronze Star was earned in the area of Health and Safety. Most Outstanding Projects awards were received for the "Farm Crawl" and "Join the Conversation."

Cook CFB Vice President Mike Rauch spoke to the delegates about The Sense of the Delegate Body resolution proposed by the District 5 County Farm Bureaus (Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kendall, and Will Counties) calling on the Illinois Farm Bureau to seek out affordable health insurance options for farmer and small business members.



From left to right, Gerry Kopping, President Janet McCabe, Jim Gutzmer and Tim Stuenkel were among the group of delegates made up of Cook County Farm Bureau Board members that rotated throughout a day and a half of policy discussions, delegate discussions and Illinois Farm Bureau leadership elections. Other directors rotating in the delegate seats included Mark Yunker, Mike Rauch, Ruth Zeldenrust, Jim Bloomstrand, Dan Biernacki and Roger Freeman.



Team Kick-Off Recognitions

During the December 13, 2017 kickoff to the 2018 Team's program year, several recognitions of volunteers were made for the positive impacts that they made on the organization in the past year.



The first class was inducted into the Master Member Club (R to L Gerry Kopping, Jim Bloomstrand, Karen Biernacki, Dan Biernacki, and Ruth Zeldenrust with Pres. Janet McCabe) for signing up new Farmer, Professional and Associate members in 2017. Each signed up at least 2 new farmer members to be inducted.



New Cook County Farm Bureau President, Janet McCabe, presented to recently retired President, Jim Gutzmer, a gavel plaque recognizing him for his 7 quality years as the organization's elected leader.



Member Relations Chairman Jim Bloomstrand and Pres. Janet McCabe presented the Volunteers of the Year awards to member Amy Hansmann (Public Relations and Governmental Affairs Teams) and Julie Michaels (Member Relations Team and Gala Planning Committee)! This recognition goes to members of the organization that demonstrate exemplary leadership and service to agriculture, a willingness to promote agriculture, and assist in the organization in a major way(s).



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- Dieselelex® Gold
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- Suprex® Gold Lubricants

Try our Synthetic 5W-40 for better fuel economy

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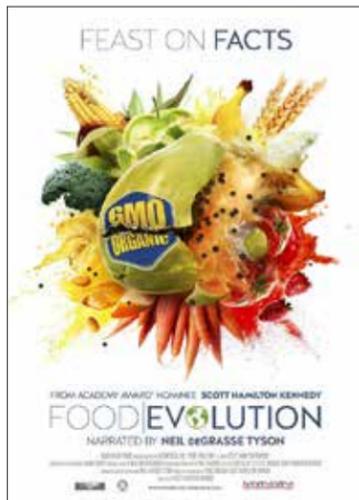


Mr. John Tuttle, CPA and General Manager of Conserv FS, spoke to the Board of Directors during the December 13th meeting. He provided his background, discussed the strengths of Conserv FS, provided energy data and responded to questions.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Food Evolution Returns

Have a non-farmer friend, relative, doctor, lawyer, dietitian, kid's teachers or other influencers in the Chicagoland area that could be enlightened and entertained about today's agriculture? Illinois Farm Bureau, Cook County Farm Bureau, Will County Farm Bureau, Illinois Farm Families, Illinois Science Council and the Chicago chapter of the Institute of Food Technologists will host a public screening of "Food Evolution" on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mar Theatre, 121 S. Main Street in Wilmington.



Movie-goers are encouraged to stay after the screening for a panel discussion. Among the panelists is Gloria Dollinger, Food Nutrition Specialist for the Joliet Park District.

A link to reserve tickets is available at cookcfb.org. Tickets are free. Seating is limited so reservations are recommended.

To learn more about "Food Evolution" and to view the trailer visit: <https://www.foodevolutionmovie.com/>.

Farm Bureau Policy Changes Approved by Delegates

In December, Farm Bureau delegates approved the policies submitted by the Cook County Farm Bureau. Policy successes include:

Policy enabling elected local and state officials having access to a 457 plan rather than a taxpayer-funded pension.

Seven percent of members support elected state and local officials receiving taxpayer-funded pensions. However, 74 percent of farmers responding support giving elected state and local officials access to a 457 plan.

The second policy supports the absorption, dissolution, disconnection, and consolidation of units of local government by front door referendum.

Over 80 percent of farmer members responding to the 2017 Viewpoint Survey believe that a referendum to consolidate or

dissolve a unit of local governments should be initiated by the registered voters residing within the unit of government.

The final policy resolution supports allowing units of local government that go dormant (no projects or expenditures) for more than two years automatically going before the voters to determine if the unit of local government should continue to be in existence.

Over 86 percent of farmer members responding to the 2017 Viewpoint Survey support units of government that go dormant for over two years automatically going before voters to determine if the unit of government should be continued.

Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 with any questions or ideas for future policy discussions.

Farm Bureau Members are Encouraged to Participate in a Policy Discussion Without Leaving their Homes, Through the Phone

Farm Bureau will host a policy discussion on Thursday, March 1 at 7 p.m. To participate in the discussion, farmer members will receive an automated call just prior to the discussion asking them if they'd like to participate in a town hall phone conference format. Once on the call, members will be able to hear the discussion,

ask questions, and discuss topics of interest to them. Members will be able to participate using their phones and will not need to travel.

Additional information regarding the call will be available shortly. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 1.

Coming to Your Mailboxes Soon: Viewpoint Surveys

Cook County Farm Bureau® works hard to be a leader on legislative and regulatory issues that impact Farm Bureau members. As we prepare to represent farmers' interests, we're reaching out to you to determine what our highest priority advocacy activities should be in 2018.

Farmer members are encouraged to share their expertise and concerns by responding to the Viewpoint Survey. Farm Bureau will use your feedback to make critical decisions regarding our legislative activities for the year.

Survey topics include: local government consolidation, county taxation, and food labeling.

Voting members are encouraged to return their surveys as soon as possible (due date listed is listed on survey).

Rauner, Hurley Connect with Members at Annual Meeting



Gov. Bruce Rauner reaffirmed his support for Illinois farmers and the state's agriculture industry last month, in addressing Illinois Farm Bureau delegates at the organization's Annual Meeting in Chicago. "Our farm families are the backbone of Illinois' economy, and their success is Illinois' success," Rauner told reporters after his address to IFB voting delegates. "We need to do everything we can to support our farm families, help them grow their businesses and help all agriculture businesses across the state of Illinois." Gov. Rauner was one of many elected officials who joined Farm Bureau members during the four-day meeting. (Photo courtesy of FarmWeekNow).



State Representative Fran Hurley joined Cook County Farm Bureau® members at Annual Meeting in December. Rep. Hurley is an active member of Farm Bureau's Adopt-a-Legislator® program. Rep. Hurley's district includes parts of Chicago, Evergreen Park, Marrionette Park, Oak Lawn, Chicago Ridge, Palos Heights, Orland Hills, Orland Park, and Tinley Park. Pictured left to right is: CCFB President Janet McCabe, Farm Bureau staff Christina Nourie, and Rep. Hurley.



By Bona Heinsohn

Next to asking my kids what they want from Santa (if anyone is wondering it was a skid-loader for my loud, big-little boy and an American Girl horse for my blue-eyed girl), asking people about their New Year's resolutions is my next favorite conversation. Each year I promise to start running. Eat more vegetables. And drink more water. Occasionally, there's an off the wall idea thrown in like starting to watch "Star Wars" movies or reading the "Lord of the Rings" series. Each year, I make it a couple of weeks then slip back into old habits. Walking, but no running. Dr. Pepper over water. And mashed potatoes rather than Brussels sprouts. Potatoes are technically veggies just with buttery deliciousness.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Oh, and I'm more of a Harry Potter kind of gal.

This year, I'd like to suggest some resolutions. First, no more new or improved local taxes. Let's take a moment to remember Cook County's disastrous sugar tax. Granted Toni Preckwinkle's tax didn't deter me from having a Dr. Pepper, but I wasn't buying a six- or twelve-pack either. And I, especially, wasn't buying a Diet Dr. Pepper and paying a sugar tax for no sugar.

The tax was pitched as a way to deter sugar consumption and improve public health as opposed to just raising funds for a government that continues to give raises large enough to make corporate America blush. The tax was repealed, but the bitterness is lasting. I'm still checking my receipt to make sure there's no lingering Preckwinkle

tax (in addition to her sales tax increase from several years ago).

Next, at the end of 2016, I penned a letter to Santa and asked him for two things. Fuzzy black ear muffs and leadership from the nation's top officeholder. Santa let me down, but I did get a great hat with a pom-pom and even better, a portion of its sales supported pediatric cancer research. This year instead of penning a lovely note to Santa, I'm suggesting another resolution: we, Americans, will show leadership by demonstrating and honestly embracing acceptance of our differences and of our similarities.

The final resolution is that everyone involved in Illinois government will embody the attitude of "statesmanship" and put the partisanship and bickering aside. I realize that this is a big ask since 2018 is a gubernatorial election

and the current partisan atmosphere has encouraged many of the great statesmen to retire. Unfortunately, true progress and reform will be difficult until individuals set aside their alliances to political parties and campaign donors and strive to work for the good of all residents.

Perhaps the above resolution should be extended to Cook County government. This spring, all commissioners along with the President, Sheriff, Assessor, and Clerk are up for election. Bitterness over the sugar tax, distrust of the property tax system, and distrust of government remain prevalent within the electorate.

May this New Year bring not only cheer, but renewed hope and a brighter time for Cook County, Illinois, and the U.S.

MEMBER RELATIONS

Special Offer for Cook County Farm Bureau Members



Cook County Farm Bureau Members can save up to \$10 on the purchase of tickets to see Disney on Ice: Dare to Dream, at the United Center from January 31st to February 4th, 2018. Visit cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits for details and dates. To order tickets call 312-455-7469.

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>

Fulfill at least one of your Resolutions in 2018!

Travel for pleasure more and let your CCFB Member Benefits help you!



Exclusive Member Savings to travel locally or see the world!

Travel is fun and members can enjoy the benefits of travelling with Mayflower Tours, and enjoy life enriching experiences while creating lasting memories!

Cook County Farm Bureau® members and their guests will enjoy exclusive savings on top of any and all discounts, promotions, and travel deals offered by Mayflower Tours.

Members simply provide our exclusive member discount code: **ccfb16** to receive the direct savings! To begin your Life Enriching Experience and learn more about Mayflower Tours call Kayla at 630-435-8201 ext. 201 and state that you're a Cook County Farm Bureau member to receive the added savings.

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.



Ilir Numani

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2017. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy, #200 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Career Financial Representative since April 2005.



Kamila Rosinska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Kamila Rosinska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for November 2017. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2659. Kamila has been an Employee Financial Representative since June 2015.



Nader Mikhaeil

Chicago Northeast Agency, Joe Youngman, Agency Manager
 Nader Mikhaeil has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for November 2017. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave, Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8874. Nader has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2006.



Joe Munch

Chicago Northeast Agency, Joe Youngman, Agency Manager
 Joe Munch has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2017. His office is located at 25 NW Point Blvd, Ste 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8835. Joe has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Brett Riekens

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Brett Riekens has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for November 2017. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St. in Prairie View, IL. His phone number is 847-415-2666. Brett has been a Career Financial Representative since May 2011.



Renata Bondarowicz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for November 2017. Her office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd. in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been an Employee Financial Representative since July 2016.



Martha Dominguez

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Martha Dominguez has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for November 2017. Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted St. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-254-5963. Martha has been a Career Financial Representative since June 2012.



Steve Phillips

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Steve Phillips has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for November 2017. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-846-4722. Steve has been an Employee Financial Representative since November 2014.



Nick Burke

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Nick Burke has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for November 2017. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is 708-425-1816. Nick has been a Career Financial Representative since September 2005.



Kevin Gardner

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for October 2017. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is 708-425-2251. Kevin has been an Employee Financial Representative since July 2016.



Andy Erler

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Andy Erler has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for November 2017. His office is located at 301 White St., Ste AA in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-8094. Andy has been a Career Financial Representative since June 2000.



Tim Winters

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Tim Winters has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for October 2017. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave, Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone number is 708-361-4330. Tim has been an Employee Financial Representative since May 2016.

"546,000"

Co-Operators went to households in the last year!

Classifieds

All items listed are for the accommodation of the membership and without guarantee of the publisher. 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 membershplinda@cookcfb.org. 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.

Miscellaneous

Like new Kurzweil Ensemble grande upright piano. Ebony finish, synthesizer type, bought in 1989, hardly played. Would be great for music teacher, band, or church choir practice

room. Ask \$3,500 (Bench included). Please call 847-462-0516.

Portable generator, Kawasaki 4000, 2-120 volt, 1-20 amp, 1-30 amp, 2-120/240 volt, \$200. Call 708-349-3142.

24' Werner fiberglass extension ladder \$125. 32' Keller Aluminum extension ladder, \$100. Call 847-699-2352.

18 cubic foot Frigidaire white refrigerator-freezer, brand new ice maker installed \$200. Call Joe at 708-927-2545.

White upright frost-free freezer, textured front door, good cond., \$150. Call 708-439-9770.

Hot Wheels Jeep with owner's manual and

charger. Fully charged. Fisher Price, \$50. Lil Wrangler 4x4. Call anytime 708-687-3894.

Motorized Vehicles, Boats and Accessories

Lincoln Town car, Signature series, under 60,000 miles, 2005-2010. Call 847-358-1831.

Tractors, Farm Equipment, Snow Blowers

Toro Snowblower 3 H.P. electric start, very good condition, \$150. Call 847-699-2352.

Member-to-Member Discount Program

Are you a business owner and a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau?



A Member-to-Member discount program was created to provide members with businesses the opportunity to promote goods and services offered through their business to the other members of the organization. By offering a discount to the members of the organization, business owner members receive free advertising and promotion

on our website and, as space permits, in our monthly publication The Cooperator. It is designed to be a win-win program for members of the Cook County Farm Bureau!

Please visit www.cookcfb.org/membermember.html for details, to sign up for the program, and to view a list of current participating member-to-member businesses.

Beekeeping Classes offered at the Farm Bureau

The Cook County Farm Bureau and the Cook Du Page Beekeepers Association have joined together to help get you started down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees, by offering beekeeping workshops at the Farm Bureau! Pete Soltész and Kim Kulton of the CDBA will be conducting the classes.

- **Beginning Beekeeping**

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 & Sunday, February 25, 2018

Time: Sat: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM (working lunch) and Sun: 12:30-3:30 pm

Cost: \$85.00 for CCFB & CDBA Members | \$105 for non-members

- **Advanced Beekeeping**

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2017

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cost: \$40 for CCFB & CDBA Members | \$60 for non-members

Class Location: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

Registration: Call Debbie (CCFB) at 708-354-3276 or mail: membershplinda@cookcfb.org or Online at Member Center at www.cookcfb.org

Payment: Credit card payment accepted by phone at no additional charge or mail in a check made out to the Cook County Farm Bureau

For Course outlines go to: www.cookcfb.org/Events or 708-354-3276



Farm and Food Bytes

USDA DELAYS ORGANIC LIVESTOCK, POULTRY

RULE EFFECTIVE DATE (FarmWeek) The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is delaying the effective date of its Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices final rule until May 18, 2018. The delay of the rule is so that important questions such as the likely costs and benefits can be more fully assessed through the comment period before making a final decision. This final rule amends organic livestock and poultry production requirements by adding new provisions for livestock handling and transport for slaughter and bird living conditions and expands and clarifies existing requirements covering livestock care, production practices and mammal living conditions.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE COMING SOON (FarmWeek)

About 3 million farmers across the country will receive the U.S. Census of Agriculture this month. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the census every five years. The 24-page questionnaire can be completed online or by mail.

The census captures information about who produces America's food, what they produce and how they are doing it.

New questions this year attempt to capture changing farming demographics – including veterans, women and new and beginner farmers. Other census questions request information about acreage, land use practices, crop insurance and government program use, production practices, use of fertilizers and chemicals, renewable energy, types of machinery and equipment, and amount of farm labor.

CHICAGO WASTEWATER UTILITY MARKS WATER PROJECT COMPLETION (FarmWeek)

Chicago's massive 3.5-billion-gallon reservoir, part of a public water project, is complete and was celebrated Dec. 3, 2017 by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It marks completion of Stage I of the McCook Reservoir, part of the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. Illinois Farm Bureau and MWRD are exploring collaborative opportunities for agriculture and the utility to address water quality issues. The tunnel and reservoir plan comprise one of the nation's largest public works projects for pollution and flood control.

The first stage will provide reduced flooding benefits worth an estimated \$114 million annually to Chicago and 36 other communities. After a second stage is finished, McCook can store 10 billion gallons for an estimated \$143 million in annual reduced flooding benefits. Dubbed "Deep Tunnel," the tunnel and reservoir plan comprise one of the nation's largest public works projects for pollution and flood control, and a 375-mile area. Completed in 2006, a 109-mile tunnel system can capture 2.3 billion gallons of water 150 to 300 feet below ground.

FEWER FARM-USE ANTIBIOTICS SOLD (NPR's The Salt)– The FDA released its annual report of antibiotics sold in the U.S. for food animal use, finding that sales of medically important antibiotics in 2016 declined by 14 percent compared with 2015. The report is the strongest evidence so far that the FDA's efforts to limit antibiotic use on farms are having an affect.

EPA TO LAUNCH PUBLIC CLIMATE DEBATE (Reuters)– The U.S. EPA could launch a public debate about climate change as soon as January, according to administrator Scott Pruitt. The agency has been working over the last several months to set up a "red team, blue team" debate on the science relating to man-made climate change to give the public a "real-time review of questions and answers around the issue of CO2," Pruitt said.

The Cooperator, official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, does accept paid advertising. A copy of the rate card may be accessed at www.cookcfb.org in News and Views or call the CCFB office at 708.354.3276 for a copy.

The publication goes to more than 40,000 households each month.

2018 Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 20th Annual Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue his/her higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided ten scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$3,000 each.

The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to a High School Senior in an approved FFA Program.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 16th, 2018. Late applications will not be considered.
- All applicants must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year. (Except for the Conserv FS FFA Award)
- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.

- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agriculturally related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character. For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or print an application out from our website at cookcfb.org/foundation/scholarships.

What is an Agricultural Career? Here are 3 examples...



Additional opportunity
IAA FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE, IFB FAMILIES

The Illinois Agriculture Association (IAA) Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, encourages agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau families to apply for 76 college scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 annually. A total of \$144,800 will be awarded for the 2018-19 school year. The application deadline is Feb. 1, 2018.

The scholarships include three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships that awards each recipient \$5,000. The Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy

of Leadership scholarship recipient will receive \$7,500.

Eligible applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted into or students already enrolled at an accredited college, university or community college. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academic ability, leadership and financial need. Previous recipients of an IAA Foundation scholarship may apply again. For a full list of available scholarships, eligibility guidelines and applications, visit the foundation website at iaafoundation.org.

The CCFB Foundation cordially invites you to the 2nd Annual

Farming for our Future Gala
A benefit for farm and food literacy in Cook County

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018

Ruffled Feathers Country Club
1 Pete Dye Drive, Lemont IL
6:00 PM - 11:30 PM

\$100 DONATION PER PERSON
\$125 DONATION AFTER 1/31/18
\$1,000 DONATION FOR A TABLE OF 10

Only 250 seats* available
*Each seat purchased is also an entry for a door prize. A number of \$100/\$200/\$500 door prizes will be distributed.

Call 708.354.3276 to order tickets or for more info go to www.cookcfb.org/foundation

THE EVENING INCLUDES FILET MIGNON/CHICKEN DINNER, OPEN BAR, THE BELVEDERE BAND, DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTION, LIVE AUCTION, LUCKY CHANCE, HEADS/TAILS GAME AND 50/50 OPPORTUNITIES!

Black Tie Optional

Ag in the Classroom Summer Intern

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 two Summer Professional Development Conferences, planning craft projects for youth summer camp and local library presentations, developing brochures, as well as updating social media including Facebook and YouTube. Intern 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. Some area travel required.

Contact: Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator at aite@cookcfb.org or view information on our website: <http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation/internships>

County Assessor Deadline for Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit

The Cook County Assessor's office has a deadline date of January 31st for filing the 2018 Cook County Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit. Forms are available at: www.cookcountyassessor.com, click Forms>Farms>Download. Filing of this form is necessary on an annual basis to maintain the farm assessment of the property that is farmed in Cook County. The Cook County Assessor's Office annually reviews the status of all properties classified as farms in the County. If the affidavit is not provided, the county will reclassify its usage which will likely increase the assessment value and increase the tax burden as a result.

We recommend that you maintain a copy of the document for your records for future use. The Cook County Farm Bureau does provide a notary service for members (required on the form). Please call the office at 708-354-3276 in advance to verify that Melanie or Kelli will be available to provide this service.

New Farmer Training

When: Saturday, February 10, 2018
Time: 9:00 AM to Noon
Where: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
Fee: \$20.00 member fee; \$30 non-member

Join the growing agricultural community members who are creating adventures in their backyard by growing food, producing honey, and finding natural resource opportunities on their property or for land they are looking to purchase. By looking outside the box and finding your niche enterprise you may be able to make a little or a lot of money.

Need ideas for putting your land to work for you? Or do you have an idea and need to know what to do next? Whether it is starting a backyard farm or keeping it simple by raising honey bees, this workshop will help you evaluate your options as you begin planning your enterprise. If you live in the country, suburbs, or an urban area, and are interested in earning additional revenue from your land consider joining us at the Cook County Farm Bureau in Countryside, IL on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 9:00 AM to noon.

This workshop will provide practical, common-sense information to explore starting an ag

Where's the Dollar in Your Yard?

Join the growing agricultural community members who are

- enterprise including:
- Evaluating Your Resource: Land, soil, water, people
 - Accessing the Help You Need: Training and educational opportunities
 - Marketing Your Products: Finding a market
 - Cook County Do's and Don'ts for Ag: Rules and regulations you need to know
 - Business Planning Tools: Planning and analyzing the finances of the farm
 - Risk (Legal and Liability Considerations): Risks to think about, insurance to consider
 - Moving Your Ag Enterprise from "Paper" to "Business": Finding land and money
 - Realities from the Farm: Producers share their experiences

Registration: Early registration is recommended due to space limitations and material preparation. For more information and to register, call Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or on-line registration at the Member Center at cookcfb.org.



PROCEEDS GO TO FUNDING OF AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS, AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAMMING, AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCES FOR YOUTH.

FOR DETAILS, INCLUDING SPONSORSHIP AND LIVE/SILENT AUCTION OPPORTUNITIES, GO TO WWW.COOKCFB.ORG/FOUNDATION.

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS: