



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. 91 No. 3

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

March 2017

Planter Workshop Series continues...

CCFB member Greenhouses hosting 3 new workshop this Spring!

Spring

We are excited to be sponsoring Planter Workshops as part of our on-going series hosted by Cook County Farm Bureau member Greenhouses this Spring, Summer and Fall. The fun began at Melka's last Winter and the fun continues this Spring by hosting not 1, not 2, but **3 new Spring Planter Workshops!** See workshop locations and details below and register for 1, 2 or all 3 and bring a guest!

Class size is limited! Register early!

Sponsored by Cook County Farm Bureau® Commodities/Marketing Team

Registration & Payment Required. Call the Farm Bureau at: 708-354-3276 or Register online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org

Spring Planter Workshop at Zeldenrust Farms
1001 Glenwood Dyer | Chicago Heights South Cook
Saturday, April 22, 2017 | 10 AM Fee: \$25.00
Make a spring planter to display on your porch, patio or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil, plantings and instruction. Each registrant will also receive a \$10 gift card that can be used to upgrade the container or use for a future purchase.

Spring Planter Workshop at Horcher Farms & Flower Shop
910 McHenry Rd | Wheeling, IL 60090 North Cook
Wednesday, May 3, 2017 | 6:30-8:00 PM Fee: \$25.00
Make a spring planter to display on your porch, patio or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil, and plantings.

Fairy Garden Workshop at Van Kalker Farms & Greenhouses
1808 E. Joe Orr Road | Chicago Heights IL, 60411 South Cook
Saturday, May 6, 2017 | 10 AM Fee: \$35.00
Make a fairy garden planter that includes pot, two plants and two fairy accessories, soil, rocks, moss, etc...with instruction from an expert. Parent & child are welcome. Each registrant will receive a \$10 gift card that can be used to upgrade the container, add additional fairy accessories or use for a future purchase.

Country Financial Top Tier Sponsor of F & G Show '17 Farm Bureau Supporting Effort

Country Financial, an Illinois Farm Bureau affiliated company, has entered into a top tier sponsorship with the 2017 Flower and Garden Show. The show, held March 18th – 26th at Chicago's Navy Pier, kicks off the spring gardening season in the area.

Country Financial will feature an agricultural themed and influenced garden that is being constructed and proudly displayed for guests at the show (with assistance from Ted's Greenhouse, Tinley Park, the Cook County Farm Bureau, Buck Brothers,

Walnut Grove Farms, and Freeman Fence). The garden will feature a John Deere tractor pulling a planter with corn growing. The garden transitions into an urbanscape with container, patio and fence related vegetable and flower plantings.

Country Financial crop insurance reps and Farm Bureau volunteer leaders from Cook, Lake and Corn Growers from the region will present in the garden to answer farm related questions. In addition, message boards and videos about farming will

provide answers to consumer questions.

During the week days of the show, the Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy program will be coordinating activities for kids on bus trips in the Learning Garden. Country Financial reps will be present in booths throughout the event in the Market Place... providing experiences and information.

Members seeking a discount into the show will want to purchase advanced tickets through the show's website. Details are as follows:

2017 Chicago Flower & Garden Show March 18th-26th Chicago's Navy Pier



Receive \$2 off the current online ticket pricing. To purchase your discounted tickets to the Flower and Garden show, please visit: <http://chicagoflower.com/tickets/> and use Code: CCFB17

Online Weekday ticket price: \$15 (purchased on or after March 18th)
Online Weekend ticket price: \$17 (purchased on or after March 18th)
Children Ticket Price (Ages 4-12): \$5

*Advance Weekday ticket prices: \$13
*Advance Weekend ticket prices: \$15
*Must purchase tickets before March 18th

Flower & Garden Show Hours:
Sunday thru Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

2017 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection Recipes Wanted!

The 2017 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is looking for your favorite recipes that you proudly cook using the freshest locally grown and raised ingredients.

Recipes submitted will be included in a special drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to a member Farm Stand or grocery retailer near you. Mail or email your recipe along with your name and phone number to:

membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org, or mail to:
Cook County Farm Bureau, Attn: Debbie
6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside IL 60525

Deadline: March 24, 2017



Other Upcoming Events

On-the-Road Seminar March 30th	Page 2
1-Day Beginning Beekeeping Course March 11th (LAST CHANCE to register)	Page 4
Babysitting Class for Pre-Teen/Teens May 6th	Page 10
"Are GMO's Really Safe?" Discussion March 13th & March 20th	Page 12
Electronic Recycling/Shred Day April 1st	Page 12
Workshop on Preparing Wills & Trusts April 19th	Page 12

Question of the Month

In Illinois, each farmer produces enough food, crops, and livestock to feed how many people?

Call the Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276, fax your answer to (708)579-6056, or email your answer to: membershiplinda@cookcfb.org (Please include Name, FB# and phone number) for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25.00 gas card.

February's winner is Jennifer Cordova.

Last Month's Question: What is a female pig, which is used for breeding, called?

Answer: Sow

THE POWER OF (A) AWARDS

Cook County Farm Bureau Winner of the Power of 'A' 2012 Summit Award

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate Why are animals kept indoors?

Some farmers keep their animals outdoors and other farmers keep their animals indoors. Barns, like the one in the photo enable farmers to protect their animals from the extreme Midwest weather.



Farmers routinely check their animals' health and comfort. They also ensure that animals have access to high quality feed and fresh water.

Many Midwest livestock barns have heavy "curtains" that can be lowered in the winter to protect the animals from harsh winds. The same "curtains" can be raised in the summer to allow in warm weather breezes. Even with the "curtains" there's clean, fresh air circulating throughout the barn to keep the animals healthy. Many barns also have sprinklers that automatically turn on when the temperature is above 78 degrees. Sprinklers

run for a short interval then turn off, which allows for the water to evaporate and cool the animals. Fans will also turn on at 78 degrees and run continuously. Barns are designed to allow for

maximum air circulation, which along with fresh food and clean water helps to keep the animals healthy.

Barns also allow farmers to closely monitor animals' health and diet and if needed, to quickly provide care and medical attention. They also provide a more controlled environment so the animals stay cleaner and healthier. Farmers are committed to keep their animals healthy.

Got 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*.

On-the-Road Seminar

Motor Vehicle Regulations for Illinois Farmers

Trucking regulations are complicated, and farm exemptions compound that complexity. Seems everyone has a different answer to your question. We have worked with our friends at Will County Farm Bureau for members to attend a session to sort truth from conjecture and fact from rumor. **Come join us at 6:00 pm at Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Road in Joliet on March 30, 2017.**

The program is a two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws—both new and well-worn—specifically for farmers. We'll take a special look at the latest rules and

you'll have the chance to ask those farm trucking questions for which for which answers are so elusive.

Laws have been reshaped in the past 24 months with more changes scheduled for 2017! Rules recently affected include: the medical card, equipment inspection requirements, out-of-state CDL use, the USDOT Number, post-trip inspections, and something called the URS. New for 2017 is the MSCR-1, Process Agents and Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs).

We'll cover these and some of the more-established—but still misunderstood—rules such as the USDOT

Number, UCR registrations, and driver's license classifications.

Presenting the seminar will be Kevin Rund who has specialized in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau® for more than 35 years. And you'll receive take-home materials covering these topics.

The seminar is free courtesy of Will and Cook County FBs and Illinois Farm Bureau®, but advance registration is requested. There will be snacks available but no meal. **Please call 708-354-3276 to reserve your place at the On-the-Road Seminar.**



The Cook County Farm Bureau picked up a number of National Agriculture Day T-shirts that we will sell for the very inexpensive cost of \$12 apiece (Shipping additional). Sizes are M, L and XL ... Supplies are limited. Call the office at 708-354-3276 to purchase and pay by credit card.

Dear Reader,

You receive the "Cooperator" because you or a family member is a Farm Bureau member. Our farm owners and operators, as members, benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to a strong and productive agricultural way of life.

Members without direct ties to farming, help to promote a strong local and regional farming lifestyle, encourage wise use of our limited natural resources, and help preserve our farming heritage. In addition, members are provided the opportunity to enjoy our affiliated company, Country Financial and have access to the many other benefits provided by Cook County Farm Bureau.

Thank you for your membership and continued support. We welcome member input on content, including suggestions of farm, home, food, natural resource, renewable energy, agricultural heritage and farm history for future issues.

Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Editor

P.S. For more information, please access www.cookcfb.org and checkout the "Who We Are" video and the Country Financial Connection history.

The "Cooperator", the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, is available to members through mail delivery, e-mail, or by viewing at www.cookcfb.org. Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to membershiplinda@cookcfb.org with the subject: E-Cooperator.

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

The Gratitude Box

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

No matter how big or small...We appreciate you!

This month, we would like to thank:

- The many people who have come together to make the first annual Farming for our Future Gala benefit for the Foundation a rousing success... Sponsors, silent auction donors, and volunteers attending and participating – thank you! (We will do a BIG thank you spread next month!)
- All of the Country Financial Representatives, Agency Managers, and support staff (over 100) that attended our January Roundtable discussions and provided such great conversation and input regarding the 2017
- partnership shared by Cook County Farm Bureau and Country Financial!
- The wonderful members, affiliated companies, schools, and volunteers of the Cook County Farm Bureau that participated to make the Food Checkout Day benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities in 2017 another true success!
- The folks at Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park for assisting our friends at Country Financial in creating a farm and agricultural themed garden at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, 2017 as a part of Country's top-tier sponsorship of the event.

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Sticks for Dinner? No. Thank you.”

Today (2/16/17), as I write this month’s column, the local and national news is abuzz with the “Day without Immigrants” protests in which a number of restaurants and businesses across the country closed to demonstrate the importance of immigrant labor and immigrant people in the United States. Farming and agriculture in the United States depends on labor in order to provide food for this nation’s people...immigrant labor is an important part, especially in certain types of farms.

What would happen if farmers decided to hold a similar event... a Day without Agriculture? What would that day look like? Would anyone care? Would anyone know? Would there be marches on Washington DC? Would there be Riots on the street? I don’t think so.

Our food, fiber, and fuel system (fortunately) comes with plenty of bulk handling, warehouse storage, and freezer space...one day of “no farming/no agriculture” may have little direct impact in people’s lives in the grand scheme of things. We have food aplenty!

But try this...A Week or a Month without Agriculture would seriously damage this thriving Country. Imagine the ramifications...

- No fresh milk (maybe plenty of sour cream)
- No fresh eggs (also difficult on juvenile delinquents)
- Shortage of Hay (that’s animal abuse)
- Less clothing (some things, you don’t want to see)
- No bacon (sacrilege)
- Shortage of pharmaceuticals (sorry sick people)
- Fewer apples (no keeping

- doctors away)
- No broccoli (and President H. W. Bush cheers)
- High priced cornflakes (There goes a major food group)
- Wilted flowers (Sorry Dear)
- Less fuel (finally a reason to own a Volt)
- Shortage of Christmas trees (good for Walmart)
- No pumpkins (cancel Halloween)
- No steaks (no Soy-steaks either)
- Tobacco habit...big problem. (there goes government tax revenue)
- No beets (I found a positive)
- No honey (bees are happy)
- No white meat verses dark meat (no fighting at Thanksgiving)
- Chocolate dipped strawberries for Valentine’s Day (perhaps a rock substitute)
- No local produced micro greens (sorry urban hipsters)
- A run on beer, wine, or spirits (water perhaps)
- Bourbon (With 3 to 5 years of barrel aging, this may not be an issue)
- We would have to eat sticks?

My dresser drawers are full of event-based running and Cubs T-shirts. However, one shirt (compliments of my colleague at the Rock Island County Farm Bureau) is different, clearly conveying today’s message...



If we had a Year without Agriculture, society as we know it would end. A sound food supply has been the basis of society for many millennium. Today, in the United States, 1 % of the population is producing food which allows the other 99% to choose another vocation... lawyer, doctor, marketer,

politician, accountant, lobbyist, salesman, designer, architect, construction worker, bureaucrat and farm bureau manager. But what if the 99% had to grow/raise their own food?

National Agriculture Day will be observed on March 21, as the season changing from winter to spring. This is a

day of new life, fresh growth, reflecting on farming and optimism. Pictured on page 2 (look left) is this year’s Ag Day T-shirt. Food, fiber, fuel... tough to argue about.

So this National Ag Day, I think I will just say “thank you” to farmers for allowing me not to farm! No protesting necessary.

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We were sorry to hear about the passing of Ms. Laura Hinze on January 22nd. Laura was the spouse of former Cook County Farm Bureau board member Raymond Hinze (deceased) and mother-in-law to Jim (Karen) Gutzmer, Cook County Farm Bureau President.



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Farm Bureau Partnered With Local Charity To Celebrate Food Checkout Day



Chicago Police officer White, Trujillo and PPO Ruppert raced against representatives from the Chicago Fire Department to fill Ronald McDonald House Charities' pantries as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Together with representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Department along with financial representatives from Country Financial and local schools over 11,800 pounds of food was donated.

Since 2001 the Cook County farmers and the Cook County Farm Bureau® have been celebrating Food Checkout Day. Through Farm Bureau's partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Farm Bureau members are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill. "Cook County and Illinois farmers are committed to growing safe and nutritious food for our families and for others," said James Gutzmer, President of Cook County Farm Bureau®. "Food Checkout Day allows us to recognize the importance of healthy, nutritious food while supporting a local charity."

As part of Food Checkout Day, Farm Bureau sponsored a scavenger hunt between representatives from the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department at the Jewel-Osco® in the Old Towne Triangle. Farm Bureau also sponsored a shopping spree at Jewel-Osco® in Oak Lawn. Representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments raced against each other to collect the most non-perishable food items.

Additionally, members of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, Cook County 4-H programs, County Financial Agencies, sponsors, and schools donated food, pop tabs, and money to RMHC® CNI. Ronald McDonald House® provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment in the Chicagoland area. The food collected will be used to help feed families staying at the house.

"This year we've asked our members to open their hearts to the families calling our local Ronald McDonald Houses their temporary home," said Janet McCabe, Chairwoman of the Public Relations Team. "I'm proud to say that not only did they accept the challenge but have worked to ensure that even more families and



Cook County Farm Bureau members loaded food collected from this year's Food Checkout Day scavenger hunt. Together with sponsors and Country Financial representatives, Farm Bureau donated over \$10,000 to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

businesses contributed to Food Checkout Day and our area Ronald McDonald Houses."

Food donations were collected by:
John Dore Elementary, Chicago
St. John Fisher School, Chicago
Komarek School, North Riverside
Nathan Hale Middle School, Crestwood
St. Germaine, Oak Lawn
Most Holy Redeemer, Evergreen Park
Proviso West High School, Hillside
Southwest School, Evergreen Park
McCord Elementary School, Burbank
St. Rita High School, Chicago
Tobin Elementary School, Burbank

Food donations were also collected by representatives from the following Country Financial agencies:

Chicago North Country Financial
Chicago South Country Financial
Chicago Northeast Country Financial
Chicago Northwest Country Financial
Orland Park Country Financial
South Holland Country Financial

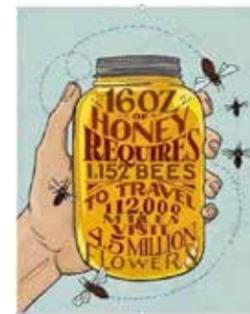
Food Checkout Day is in cooperation with:

Jewel-Osco®
IAA Credit Union
American Ag Insurance
Ted's Greenhouse
Jeff and Bona Heinsohn
Cook County Farm Bureau® members
Kopping Farms
Joe and Janet McCabe
Bob and Jayne Rohrer
Jim and Kathy Bloomstrand
Steve Jameson, Country Fin. Crop Specialist
All-Types Elevators
Rauch Farms
Harold Bergman
Zeldenrust Farms

Beekeeping Courses offered at the Farm Bureau

The Cook County Farm Bureau and the Cook Du Page Beekeepers Assoc. have joined together to help get you started and continuing down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees, by offering beekeeping workshops at the Farm Bureau!

Pete Soltesz of the CDBA will be conducting the classes.



Last chance to register!

1 Day Beginning Beekeeping Course (8 hour)

I want to be a Beekeeper-Launching the Adventure!

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2017

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 P | with a working lunch

Cost: \$85 for CCFB & CDBA Members / \$110 for non-members
 Bee Packages will be made available for purchase!

Registration: Call Debbie (CCFB) at 708-354-3276 or email: membershipdebbie@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

Location: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
 708-354-3276

For Course outline go to: www.cookcfb.org/Events
 or visit the [Buy-Local/Programs](#) page

Save the Date

Round Table Discussion/Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June, 2017

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 PM

Topic and details to follow!

Farm and Food Bytes

US consumers will pay more if Mexico food imports are taxed (FarmWeek). If the United States adds a 20% tax on Mexican imports, the result could be far-reaching for Mexico's farmers and economy as well as American consumers and businesses, especially restaurants, according to the Specialty Food Association.

Mexico exports more fresh produce to the United States than any other nation – nearly 70% of US vegetable imports and almost 40% of US fruit imports according to the USDA. The US also imports many other foods and beverages from Mexico. Here are some examples:

- avocados – the US imports 70% of Mexico's avocado production according to the US Agency for international development
- tomatoes – 70% of tomatoes sold in the US come from Mexico according to the USDA
- sugar – Roughly 15% of all sugar consumed in the United States is imported from Mexico according to the USDA
- alcohol – the US imports 79% of Mexico's annual tequila exports and 1.3 billion in Mexican beer according to the Statista and Tequila Regulatory Counsel

Online grocery shopping may reach 20% in 10 years

(FarmWeek). Consumer demand for online grocery shopping is expected to grow and may reach 20% by 2025, according to a new report from the Food Marketing Institute and Nielsen. At that percentage, online shopping would represent \$10 billion in annual sales, The Digitally Engaged Food Shopper report stated. The report estimated a significant portion of brick-and-mortar store categories may drift to an online shopping option, representing 40% of the center store volume.

More consumers are shopping for food with multiple methods and 23% currently buying food online. Of the online shoppers, 60% believe that they will spend more than a quarter of their food dollars online during the next decade.

Culver's supports FFA (FarmWeek). Last year, Culver's Restaurants in 24 states raise more than \$360,000 for local FFA chapters, the National FFA Foundation and other agricultural organizations. The amount included more than 31,000 for the Blue Jacket Program in which Culver's sponsors the cost of purchasing FFA jackets for members who otherwise wouldn't be able to own one. Since its inception in 2013, the chain's Thank You Farmers program has raised more than \$1 million. Several Culver's Restaurants on the South Side of Cook County have been very generous to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation in recent years.

"Where Am I?"



If you can guess where Calvin is (in Cook County) when this photo was taken, you will be entered to win a \$25 gas gift card! To enter, simply call us at 708-354-3276 with your answer OR email your answer (please include name & member number) to: membership@cookcfb.org using the subject "Where Am I?" A name will be drawn at random.

In last month's 'Where Am I?', Calvin was at ABT in Glenview, IL.



“From the Country” Tax Tip: Get an IRA



Marc Rogala
Country Agency
Manager
Chicago South
Agency

Ben Franklin once said, “In this world, nothing is certain but death and taxes.” That might be true, but Ben wasn’t able to open an IRA back

then. If he had this option, he might have felt a little more lighthearted about paying the tax man.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are great for people looking to save money on their tax bill and boost their retirement savings at the same time. In this volatile economy, saving money is more important than ever. Plus, when the stock market is down, it could be a good time to invest.

If the IRA world confuses you, don’t worry. You are definitely not alone. Many of my clients felt intimidated when we first start discussing the subject of retirement or taxes. Here’s a quick explanation of what an IRA is and what it can do for you.

What is an IRA?

An IRA is a retirement account you control. With an IRA, the contributions you make can grow tax deferred until you start receiving distributions when you retire. There is a yearly limit on the contributions you can make, but if you’re age 50 or older, you are allowed to make extra “catch-up” contributions.

Many people mistakenly believe they can’t have an IRA if they participate in an employer-sponsored plan like a 401(k). The truth is, you can do both. And considering that Social Security likely won’t be enough on its own and people are living longer in retirement, I encourage you to take advantage of several options.

All these options can be taxing

The two most popular types of IRAs are Traditional and Roth. Both offer unique benefits to a person saving

for retirement. Consider the Traditional IRA if you’re looking for a break on your tax return this year. That’s because you might be able to deduct contributions you make to this account from your federal taxes if you are eligible.

Whether you can take a deduction depends on a few factors. For example, if you earn too much income, or already participate in a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, you might not be able to deduct Traditional IRA contributions from your income.

The Roth IRA is a good alternative for people who cannot make deductible contributions to a Traditional IRA. With the Roth IRA, the tax break is on the back end. You cannot deduct the contribution, but earnings grow income tax free and withdrawals at retirement are normally tax free. However, there are income limits, so check with a professional to make sure you are eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA.

It’s easier than you might think

You can afford an IRA, no matter where you are starting from. You can open an account with very little up front. If you’ve changed jobs recently and still have money in an old 401(k), you can roll that money into an IRA without having to pay any penalties. This is very popular. About half of all IRA savings started out in employer-sponsored plans.

You can also sign up for an automatic investment plan, which allows you to have regular deductions made from a checking account. These types of plans are great for people who don’t want to make one large contribution every year.

No matter what option is best for you, getting help from a trained professional is essential. Don’t wait. The longer you go without a plan, the less money you’ll have to enjoy in retirement.

Marc.Rogala@countryfinancial.com



Cook County Farm Bureau leaders participate in a “Crucial Conversations” training facilitated by the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation. The training focused on identifying crucial conversations and developing skills to manage those conversations.



Nursing Scholarship

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be five scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty fifth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse

accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Peggy Romba, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Peggy Romba at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at promba@ilfb.org.



We happened to notice this Cook County Farm Bureau logo taped to the entrance of Horcher’s Greenhouse in Wheeling!



Gerry Kopping, Cook County Farm Bureau board member, participated in a workshop focused Difficult Conversations with Consumers on January 31. Renae Heinrich, Morgan and Myer, presented information about consumer focus groups and data collected as a result of the Illinois Farm Families program. Doug Yunker from the Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Group also participated.



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Helping you protect what matters most

 Joe Youngman Agency Manager 847-963-8805	 Mary Jane Alaghebani Evanston 847-733-7956	 Keith Banks Evanston 847-733-0762	 Barbara Bator Rolling Meadows 847-963-8823
 John Bisegerwa Rolling Meadows 847-963-8817	 Matt Broom Rolling Meadows 847-963-8876	 Craig Cline Evanston 847-563-9992	 Russ Delange Rolling Meadows 847-991-3129
 Brett Gerber Wheeling 847-419-1324	 Sarkis Hartoun Evanston 847-733-7954	 Tim Hranka Rolling Meadows 847-963-1540	 Larry Jachec Rolling Meadows 847-934-5112
 Tom Jean Rolling Meadows 847-963-8907	 Mike Klimczak Rolling Meadows 847-963-8824	 Ray Massie Rolling Meadows 847-991-0765	 AnnaMaria Matthey Rolling Meadows 847-359-0679
 Nader Mikhaeil Rolling Meadows 847-963-8874	 Joe Munch Rolling Meadows 847-963-8835	 Matt Powell Rolling Meadows 847-934-5117	 Fred Resner Rolling Meadows 847-991-2815
 Audry Rothmeyer Rolling Meadows 847-963-8821	 Mike Salerno Wheeling 847-419-1321	 Robert Sitkiewicz Park Ridge 847-696-9481	 Magdalena Stovall Park Ridge 847-696-9482
 Aurelio Villa Wheeling 847-947-1540	 Yanni Zavakos Wheeling 847-419-1352		



Auto, home and business insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Fixed annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.

0316-513HO



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit By Diane Merrion



For Sale

I bet you have had occasion to spend some time on Craigslist or perusing your local Classified Ads to find a deal on a new table, chair, car or collectible. If you're like me you start with the Chicago listings and then fine tune it down to your local suburb or area. If there is one couch, there are hundreds. Same for most things I've searched. We recently moved and experienced the mad rush when you list something for "FREE". Interesting experience and great way to reinforce the concept that one man's junk is another man's treasure.

There are other classifieds to explore such as the ones in this monthly Cooperator, the classifieds in FarmWeek and hundreds of online forums. I recently pulled out the FarmWeek classifieds and realized how stark the difference is between the ag-related "For Sale" listings and those in my local ads. Angus crossbred heifers, hog feeders, bales of hay, wheat straw, used John Deere 950RT with deluxe cab, Case IH 6130 with concave chopper, new 500 Bu. Gravity Flow Wagon, Hereford Bulls, and Border Collies.

The border collies sounded interesting. There were also many listings for combines, planters, grain trucks and acres of land which, after our Ag Literacy presentations, strike a chord with students in our county. After learning what farmers do on the job and what tools they use to do that job students actually make a connection with some of these items. Of more interest to the youth we reach nowadays is learning about drones, GPS systems and technology associated with farming. They are fascinated to know how farmers are using the same technology they use at school or home and are eager to find out how a farmer uses a drone to assess farm conditions, how they drive their combine with auto steer or how they determine what nutrients to put on their field based on mapping data and soil testing. Opening up the world of agriculture is the work of ag literacy, so we hope you'll take advantage of our many programs, both in the classroom and through the many farm bureau workshops open to our members. You may also want to pick up a Bee Keeping Hive or a few chickens today via Craigslist Chicago.

Full Circle: Teaching and Giving

We were inspired by the efforts of Nathan Hale Middle School to take the grants provided by our Foundation and combine them with their efforts to give back to both the community and the student body. Teachers Ms. Battistoni and Mr. Looby applied for and received a Cook County FB Foundation Garden Grant in 2015 which they used to build four raised bed garden boxes. With those boxes they then started a Garden/Cooking Club with a Cook County FB Foundation Food Science Grant. Upon receiving



their grant monies they made the decision to start participating in the Cook County Farm Bureau's School Food Drive benefiting the Ronald McDonald Houses which is a part of our Food Checkout Day. During the last two years the teachers incited students

to donate to the food drive by creating a competition between classrooms. The top donating classroom then received a meal that is cooked by the Garden/Cooking Club using ingredients that can be grown in the garden. This year's featured meal for the winning classroom will be a Mexican feast with salsa's, peppers, tomatoes and more! The school has donated over 1,000 pounds of food the last two years. Congratulations to Nathan Hale Middle School for combining the efforts of teaching, gardening, cooking and giving.

School Food Drive Results – Food Checkout Day

The results of the school food drive portion of the Food Checkout Day was an amazing 8,558 pounds of food and pop tabs from the 11 participating schools. While the poundage was absolutely amazing, it doesn't tell the whole story. We were so moved by the amount of donations that didn't necessarily weigh a lot, but fit the "Wish List" of the Ronald McDonald Houses including paper products, individual cereal boxes and all types of pick-up snack packs. Our heartfelt thank you to the following schools:
John Dore Elementary School, Chicago
St Germaine Elementary School, Oak Lawn
St Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago



Most Holy Redeemer School, Evergreen Park
Southwest Elementary School, Evergreen Park
Komarek Elementary School, Riverside
Nathan Hale Middle School, Crestwood
Proviso West High School, Hillside
McCord School, Burbank
Tobin School, Burbank
St John Fisher School, Chicago

Ag in the Classroom ready for new state Social Science Learning Standards

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) coordinators found themselves "ahead of the curve" on new state social science learning standards coming this fall, Illinois Farm Bureau Education Director Kevin Daugherty said. Daugherty gave ag literacy coordinators from across the state a course on new learning standards for students in kindergarten through high school which go into place starting in the 2017-18 school year.

Cook County AITC Coordinator, Diane Merrion, joined her peers to brainstorm on how to use new and existing IL AITC lessons, books, activities and materials to address the latest learning standards. Coordinators quickly offered agriculture based lesson and

activity ideas for elementary, middle school and even high school students. To assist with their teaching mission, the coordinators received samples of materials, including new Ag Mags on Wheat, Pork and Seasons that are available free to teachers. A Pollinator Ag Mag will be introduced in May.

Cook County teachers will receive copies of these resources at our March 7th free workshop, along with copies of a native flowers and pollinators poster developed and printed with financial support from GROWMARK Inc. and the IAA Foundation, IFB's charitable arm. This workshop is possible through a grant received from Illinois Ag in the Classroom.

"We're excited to share these new resources with teachers through our workshops and upcoming Summer Ag Institutes, as well as through our school presentations," stated Diane Merrion. "We are seeing a large demand for resources teachers can use to supplement their curriculum and these new materials offer a wide range of options for K-12 educators."

From September through December, IAITC awarded stewardship grants totaling \$21,212 to 32 counties, Daugherty said. "Think of how you make it (agriculture) relate to everything you do," Daugherty told the state coordinators. "Think of all the stuff you do and how powerful it is."

SUMMER 2017 TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Summer Ag Institute 1 - June 26-30 Engaging Students through Agriculture

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

Program:
Days 1&5: Features hands-on lessons from ag literacy speakers who will teach you how to incorporate ag activities into your classroom including the production, processing and manufacturing of products. You will walk away with many new ideas and increased awareness of agriculture including food science, gardening, careers & more.

Days 2, 3&4: Board our coach bus to tour agribusinesses and farms in and around Cook County. See how agriculture transfers into science, social studies, math, robotics, literature, food and nutrition. Sample stops may include a food processing plant, Customs & Border Patrol tour, a historic farm, a greenhouse operation and a large scale modern dairy farm.

Cost: \$125.00*~includes coach bus, lunch, tours and materials~
* Discount for Farm Bureau Members

Credits: 35 Professional Development Credit Hours (free) or 3 Grad Credits \$300.00 payable to Aurora University



To Register Call or Email Diane 708-354-3276 AITC@cookcfb.org

Summer Ag Institute 2 - July 11-14 Food, Fiber, Fuel-Bringing STEM to your Classroom

Program:
Board our coach bus and head to Central Illinois where you will learn the origins of our food, fiber and fuel by visiting rural farms and businesses. Gain an understanding of the vital role Illinois plays in the world agricultural market while learning innovative STEM lessons to bring back to your classroom. The program includes 3 days/2 nights in Central Illinois and the 4th day to be held at the Cook County Farm Bureau in Countryside.

Cost: \$125.00*~includes transportation, meals, lodging, tours & materials

Credits: 24 Professional Development Credit Hours (free) or 2 Grad Credits \$200.00 payable to Aurora University

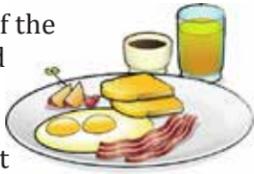


Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
Phone: 708-354-3276
E-mail:aitc@cookcfb.org

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

Start Your Day With Agriculture...

Breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day. A good breakfast provides us with energy and nutrients that we need to start the day off right. Eating a nutritious breakfast develops good eating habits that will last a lifetime. It is also an excellent occasion to eat together with the family!



Orange Juice



Orange juice is very tasty, but we don't grow oranges in Illinois. Have you ever wondered how oranges are made into orange juice and made available to us in stores?

Most of the oranges in the United States are grown in Florida. About 96% of Florida's oranges are squeezed for juice. In one day, a processing plant can squeeze millions of pounds of oranges!

While some juice is enjoyed right from the bottle, carton or can, most is concentrated until it's very thick, then frozen. This is done by evaporating under vacuum and heat. After the water is removed, concentrated juice remains and is frozen. Then, the consumer adds water back in to get orange juice. 100% pure orange juice has no added sugars.

Bacon



Bacon comes from a pig. Hopefully you already knew that. But you may not have known that bacon has been around since 1500 BC! It's no wonder why this food is so delicious...it's had a long time to be perfected!

Bacon is generally prepared from the belly of a pig. Once the pork is cut from the pig, it's "cured" using salt and dry-packing. Bacon may be eaten smoked, boiled, fried, baked or grilled, or used as a minor ingredient to flavor dishes. What do you eat bacon with?

Eggs



When a female chick is six months old, it begins producing eggs. Some of which we eat. Once a chicken begins to lay eggs, it is called a hen or a layer.

It takes a hen about a day to produce an egg, and every egg begins as a yolk. Good egg-layers produce 270 to 300 eggs per year!

Eggs are packed with nutrients including protein, iron, phosphorus, zinc and essential vitamins A, D, E, and B. they are relatively low in saturated fat, and are low in calories with only 78 per medium egg.

Eggs are used to thicken sauces, custards, and fillings. The proteins in the egg coagulate, or thicken, as the egg is heated. Beaten egg whites, yolks, or whole eggs are used in cakes and other baking. But, more than 1/3 of all eggs produced are consumed at breakfast! What's your favorite style? Scrambled, fried, hard-boiled, omelet or poached?

Source: Illinois Ag in the Classroom

Syrup...From Tree to Table

People have been making maple syrup for hundreds of years. Native Americans first discovered how to make it and taught the art to the early colonists.



So where exactly does it come from?

Maple syrup is made from the sap of maple trees. Sap is a watery, sweet liquid found inside a tree. Sap moves throughout the tree, and carries water and food to the tree's different parts through tiny tubes inside the tree. Most crops are harvested in the fall, but maple sugar is harvested in late winter or early spring.

At harvest or "sugaring" time, a taphole is drilled into a maple tree. The taphole is not deep, so it doesn't hurt the tree. A spile, or spout, is pushed into the hole and a bucket or bag is hung from the spout. The sap from the tree drips through the spout and into the bucket.

After the sap is collected, it is boiled. This removes water from the sap. While it boils, the sap must be skimmed and watched carefully so that it doesn't burn. As the water evaporates, the sap turns into a dark brown, thick syrup.

Some farmers grow maple trees so they can collect the sap. An area in the woods where ample trees grow is called a sugarbush. Some farms even have their own maple sugar festivals. These small farms are called sugarhouses, or sugarshacks and visitors can watch maple syrup being made.

Source: Illinois Ag in the Classroom

Maple Syrup Events



Want to attend an upcoming syrup festival? Here are some upcoming events:

Thursday, March 16th • 11am to 2pm, Cost: FREE
A Taste of Maple Syrup Fest, Cummings Square in River Forest

Learn how real maple syrup is made and participate in a variety of family-friendly activities. For information call 708-386-4042.

Sunday, March 19th • 11am to 3pm, Cost: FREE
45th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a special day of activities including crafts, games, tree tapping and maple syrup history. For information call 847-824-8360.



Choose your prize: Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *AMC Movie Tickets (3 Yellow tickets) *AMC Yellow not valid in: California, New York, and 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 2017 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.



Nancy Berger

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!

Breakfast Word Search

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

Bacon
 Breakfast
 Cured
 Eggs
 Fried
 Juice
 Nutritious
 Oranges

Pancakes
 Poached
 Sap
 Smoked
 Sugar
 Syrup
 Tree
 Vitamins

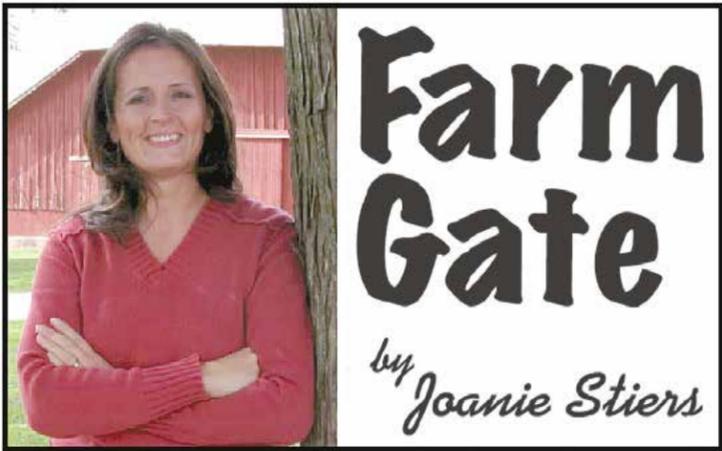
Name: _____

Phone #: _____

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

If you were to win, check your preference:
 ___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ Movie Tix
 (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Farm still cultivates memories

Our farm neighbor called simply to verify my phone number, part of a list that perished along with his former cell phone. Yet, we proceeded to visit for 22 minutes, first about a project of our local FFA Alumni affiliate to highlight notable alumni achievements. I learned that our neighbor had won national 4-H and FFA awards for his farm electrification project in the early 1960s. He brought electricity to the barns on his family's farm, of particular significance to power heat lamps for newborn pigs. And I listened in amazement.

Of late, farm lore seems a theme. A lady that once lived on a farm that our family now owns stopped to visit her old inhabitance. She called to reminisce about the tour and her fond memories of the farm. She chatted about the hogs and cattle once there, the old wood buildings her dad had built, and even the daily chores she now cherishes.

My grandpas remember farming when horsepower came from horses and when shelling corn was a neighborhood affair. But I like to think we're making new memories here on the farm and assume the farm seems as modern now as it likely felt modern then. Certainly, times have changed. The business climate of farming has intensified, the equipment more high-tech and farms bigger. And presidential talk of renegotiating trade deals

has me taking a studied look at the countries that buy our farm's corn and soybeans.

What fond memories will our kids share with the next generation? The hours spent with dad in the tractor or combine. Their help in painting every square inch of our new farm office. Riding pedal tractors in the shop. Seeing newborn pigs within hours of birth. Their first experience walking beans. For them, hands-free, satellite-guided steering is as commonplace as a rotary phone to my childhood, and they look at such dials with foreign eyes. We hope our kid's childhood experiences keep them connected to the farm, regardless of their future path.

Somehow, my conversation with the neighbor detoured to another family farmstead's old farm buildings, built with the red oak and white oak trees that he and relatives had logged from the property. He also talked about hauling a barge wagon of ear corn up the steep hill on Snake Den Road, a road fitting of its name. He tells me the hill was much steeper then than now, just as farming was much different. I shook my head in disbelief, truly engrossed by the story and wondering what stories we'll share generations from now.

About the author: Joanie Stiers works on a farm in West-Central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans, and hay and raises beef cattle.

From the Farm Editor's Desk...

Women in Agriculture Conference (FARMWEEK) - Women involved in agriculture can attend the Women in Agriculture Conference scheduled for March 17 at Jumer's Casino and Hotel in Moline. Registration is \$50 with walk-ins the day of the conference at \$75. Register online: womeninagricultureconference.com

TRUMP'S TRADE MOVES WORRY FARMERS (News-Gazette) - President Donald Trump's retreat from TPP, and plans to change or break NAFTA, have farmers worried they'll miss out on new markets and fall victim to added tariffs on American exports to Mexico. "Agriculture is one area that's truly benefited from NAFTA," said IFB senior director of commodities Tamara Nelsen.

"NAFTA was huge for our state." IFB estimates that TPP would have added \$127 million a year in net ag exports from the state.

CHICAGO, SUBURBS SET FOR CAT FIGHT (Chicago Tribune) - It's suburbs vs. city: Who will win the wooing contest for Caterpillar's headquarters? Last week Caterpillar said it was moving its headquarters from Peoria to the "Chicago area." Some believe the HQ could end up near the West Loop, while others see it near O'Hare International Airport.

FLORIDA GROWERS LOOK BEYOND ORANGES (Wall Street Journal) - Hit hard by a disease that depletes citrus trees and a dramatic decline in orange-juice consumption, citrus farmers are eager

to try new crops. Florida's citrus industry is seeking alternatives from olives to hops, pomegranates to peaches. Much of the state's signature produce - oranges, grapefruits and tangerines has been hit by an incurable disease called citrus greening that has ravaged groves.

MEXICO'S TRADE TALK CONCERNS FARMERS (Reuters) - President Donald Trump's threats to upend trade between Mexico and the U.S. have farmers concerned, especially following Mexico's plans to visit Argentina and Brazil to buy corn. Mexico buys nearly all of its corn from the U.S., with sales accounting for about 28 percent of total U.S. corn exports, according to the USDA.



A Look at Illinois Agriculture

- Population:** 12,910,409
- Founded:** December 3, 1818 (21st)
- Number of Counties:** 102
- Largest City:** Chicago - 2,896,016
- Nickname:** Land of Lincoln
- Number of Farms:** 75,087
- Average Farm Size:** 358 acres
- Total Farmland:** 26.7 million acres



www.agclassroom.org/il

Climate & Soil

- The climate of Illinois is good for crop growth.
- Hot summers help plants grow and cold winters help soil replenish itself.
- The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 12.6".
- Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.

Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the top Illinois crops. Corn and Soybeans combined account for over \$13 billion dollars in farm sales.
- Illinois produces enough corn each year to fill a train of box cars stretching more than 7,600 miles from here to Hong Kong.
- Illinois ranks #2 in the U.S. for both corn and soybeans.
- Illinois leads in the production of pumpkins and horseradish, both of which are specialty crops.
- There are 1,300,000 cattle, 4,650,000 pigs, 69,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in Illinois.
- Illinois dairy cattle produce over 1.8 million pounds of milk each year.
- Illinois poultry producers produce over 1.4 million eggs each year.

General

- Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people.
- In Illinois, 30.8 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes. 3.3 million acres are urban and built up land. 1.9 million acres are rural transportation and governmental lands.
- Illinois ranks 7th nationally for agricultural sales in the United States.

Cleaner Engines, Better Performance

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- **AkroGold® Gasoline**
- **Suprex® Gold Lubricants**

Try our Synthetic 5W-40 for better fuel economy

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Hot Issues in Agriculture

Illinois Farm Bureau/Cook County Farm Bureau call upon members to push for a balanced state budget

Illinois continues to be faced with inaction and lack of a balanced state budget. Illinois Farm Bureau and Cook County Farm Bureau continues to call for the passage of a balanced state budget and other reforms that will return Illinois to fiscal solvency and improve the business climate.

The State has not had a full-year budget for two years. Prior to that time, state budgets were not fully balanced. The lack of action has caused Illinois to incur \$11,913,964,699 in unpaid bills. For every day that no action is taken, the state increases its debt by \$11.5 million.

The Illinois Senate has attempted to work on a comprehensive approach to address the budget and several key items that need change. Their approach is to be commended.

James Freeman Clarke best summed up what needs to happen when he stated: "A politician

thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation."

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) President Richard Guebert, Jr., released the following statement... Our members are frustrated with the lack of action over the last two years. Every day without a solution costs Illinois another \$11.5 million in increased debt. This crisis must end now.

"Our farmers are committed to Illinois. Farmers are not afforded the flexibility to pick up their farmland and move it. That is why our members also are calling for improvement in Illinois' business climate.

Cook County Farm Bureau Members are encouraged to contact your State Senator and State Representative to urge for work to put in place a balanced state budget... end the stalemate and end the crisis.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

State and Local Legislative Briefing

Join renowned speakers and the Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about state and local issues. Topics include current legislative issues and Farm Bureau’s 2017 legislative priorities. Ample discussion time is scheduled.
 March 27, 2017

Ronald McDonald House near Lurie
 (Community Room, 5th Floor) 211 E. Grand Street, Chicago
 11:30 a.m. (Lunch) Discussion begins at 12:00 p.m.

This discussion is open to legislators and their legislative staff only. For additional information or to register for the event please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.

Illinois Considering a Property Tax “Freeze”

The Illinois General Assembly continues to discuss a possible property tax “freeze” as part of this year’s budget negotiations. The proposal- in its current form- limits the overall property tax levy of taxing districts. A “levy” is the amount of property tax dollars a taxing district requests to operate the district for the next fiscal year.

The proposed property tax freeze will not freeze the assessed value of an individual’s property. Additionally, taxpayers’ property tax bills are not frozen. Individuals’ property tax bills can still change if:

- Voters approve an increase
- Voters approve new bonds (debt)
- Property is reassessed at a higher value
- Exemptions are removed from the property and
- The property has a greater tax burden because the assessed value of other property decreases.

There are numerous reasons why individuals support a property tax freeze, including:

- The proposal provides for greater involvement by taxpayers because taxing units have to return to taxpayers for a tax levy increase.
- The freeze may provide some relief from rapidly rising tax bills.
- The proposal may also encourage taxing districts to be more responsive to taxpayers.

Additionally, there are numerous reasons individuals may be concerned about a property tax freeze including:

- The proposal does not go into effect immediately. Instead, many taxing districts have a year to approve a levy and may set their “baseline” levy at a higher amount.
- The freeze may also force taxing districts to keep the levy higher in order to keep their base rate at a higher level.
- The proposal may cause taxing districts to limit services due to funding.

Taxing districts are broadly schools, counties, townships, municipalities, and special districts.

At this time, Farm Bureau does not have a position on the issue but will continue to monitor the discussion.

Farm Bureau Encourages New Ag Secretary to Expand and Improve Temporary Worker Program

Cook CFB sent the following letter to Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue after his appointment to the post of Secretary of Agriculture:

Dear Honorable Governor Perdue,
 Congratulations on your appointment to Secretary of Agriculture, we are looking forward to working with you and your team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of this communication is to discuss the H-2A immigration program and to request your efforts to expand and improve the program. H-2A provides farmers, especially vegetable growers a skilled workforce in which the farmer bears the cost associated with the employees’ transportation into the U.S., housing while in the U.S., medical insurance, and return transportation.

Farm Bureau policy supports H-2A and is part of a growing effort to expand and

improve H-2A. Farm Bureau will be seeking a change of immigration status for long-term immigrants working on farms, including Illinois farms. Farm Bureau also supports moving the administration of the H-2A program from the Department of Labor to a farmer-friendly U.S.D.A.

As the county’s largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.

Again, congratulations on your appointment to Secretary of Agriculture, we look forward to working with you!

Governor Addresses General Assembly

In February, Governor Bruce Rauner presented his third annual budget address.

The Governor’s budget proposal includes what is labeled a “maintenance budget” for FY 2018. This maintenance budget assumes that there are no changes to state law or spending controls enacted. Essentially, if no changes to current spending levels are made, this column represents FY 2018 potential appropriation levels.

Below are the appropriations for the last three fiscal years and the maintenance and proposed budget appropriations for FY 2018.

(In \$ Thousands)	FY 2015 Actual Results	FY 2016 Preliminary Results	FY 2017 Estimated Budget	FY 2018 Maintenance Budget	FY 2018 Proposed Budget
Appropriations	\$25,099	\$20,564	\$26,507	\$26,982	\$25,931
Pension Contributions	\$6,047	\$6,632	\$6,931	\$7,889	\$6,639
Statutory Transfers	\$4,583	\$4,451	\$4,686	\$4,867	\$4,745
Total Expenditures	\$35,729	\$31,647	\$38,123	\$39,738	\$37,316

The following are major agricultural related budget line items and their proposed levels for the FY 2018 budget:

Line Item	FY 2016 Actual Expenditure	FY 2017 Enacted Appropriation	FY 2017 Estimated Expenditure	FY 2018 Proposed Budget
Cook County Extension	\$0.0	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200
State Cooperative Extension Service Trust Fund	\$0.0	\$10,994,700	\$10,994,700	\$10,994,700
Ag Extension - 4-H	\$786,400	\$786,400	\$786,400	\$786,400
SWCD Cost Share	\$0.0	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000
SWCD District Operations	\$0.0	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000
Co. Fair and Exposition Authorities	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Co. Fair Rehabilitation	\$1,301,000	\$1,301,000	\$1,301,000	\$1,301,000

Illinois Farm Bureau® President Richard Guebert, Jr., released the following statement regarding Gov. Bruce Rauner’s budget address.

“We are encouraged by Governor Rauner’s call for a compromise on the state budget. Our members are frustrated with the lack of action over the last two years. Every day without a solution costs Illinois another \$11.5 million in increased debt. This crisis must end now.



By Bona Heinsohn

Growing up, I was what you would call the misguided teen. I wore my hair in my face. Maybe I had one too many ear piercings. And let’s not forget the attitude and the eye rolling!

As a teen looking to the future, I career jumped (in my head) a lot. My family was (and still is) in health care so obviously, I was going to be a doctor. But I’m horrible at math.

I loved books, so clearly, I’d be a writer. But I had a deep-rooted love affair with commas. To the point that no editor would ever think it’s cute or clever.

Maybe I’d be a cop and investigate the crimes committed against in my community. But I’m afraid of the dark (just ask the corgi mix puppy we just house trained).

I was yearbook editor my senior year (despite my affinity for commas)

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

so clearly, I’d go into the newspaper business. But despite my curiosity the newspaper business just wasn’t for me.

I interned in radio, so I’d be a drive time host. But I hate mornings and I’m not a night owl. In the end, I spent a year a community college on scholarship “finding my way” as my mother liked to tell our family and friends.

Quite frankly “my way” found me my senior year of college as I was impatiently waiting to hear back from law schools. As a favor to a friend, I joined her at a career fair and was soon offered at internship at the state capitol and a three-bedroom house with a pond in Rochester. I can’t honestly say that I never looked back, the law school admission letter was quite tempting but I threw on my high heels and walked the halls of the capitol for nearly six years.

My husband on the other hand has always had the luxury of knowing exactly what he was going to do

after college. As a child, he worked alongside his father and grandfather, Pop. His well-worn path through the field from his house to his grandparents’ house still stands as a testament to the many times his feet traveled over it.

As a young boy, he’d ask his dad and Pop when he would be big enough to milk the cows, drive a tractor, and farm. When his family told him that he was too little to drive a combine, he built his own from scrap parts and leftover metal. When his family told him that he was too little to milk the cows, he tamed down “Magic” and she followed him all over the farm and eventually to the county fair.

My husband worked alongside Pop until he retired and turned his attention to tending his garden, apple trees, and a few calves. Unfortunately, Pop retired before my blue-eyed girl or big-little boy had the chance to work alongside him.

In February, surrounded by family,



Three generations of Heinsohn family farmers- (from left) Johnathan, Gilman, Jeff, Steve, and John. (Photo taken by Mariam Wassmann, DeKalb County Farm Bureau®) friends, and apple crisps we said a quiet goodbye to Pop. After listening to the stories and sharing our own, I realized that unless you had worked with Pop you never really knew him. And I’m so sorry that my kids won’t have the opportunity to ask their great grandfather if they were big enough to milk the cows, drive a tractor, farm.

MEMBER RELATIONS



Did you know that as a CCFB member you have access to ticketsatwork.com? Ticketsatwork.com offers exclusive savings on local tours, out-of-state theme parks, Broadway and Vegas shows, events, attractions & more.

Discounts are offered to: Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Studios, Cirque du Soleil, Disneyland, Broadway shows, dinner shows, sightseeing tours, sporting events, Las Vegas shows and MORE!

Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!

To sign up, simply visit: www.ticketsatwork.com, click on "Become a Member" and use code CCFB.

CCFB members can purchase discounted tickets for the Chicago Fire Soccer Club



Premier tickets which are regularly priced at \$42 are available for \$20 and Corner Kick tickets which are regularly priced at \$32 are available for \$13. To purchase discounted tickets visit: www.chicago-fire.com/ccfb

Chicago Fire games are played at Toyota Park located at 7000 S. Harlem Ave. in Bridgeview.

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 January 2017. 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 Career Financial Representative since April 2005.



Sylwia Grochowska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2017. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem Ave in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is (773) 628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



Andy Czyns

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Andy Czyns has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2017. His office is located at 11381 Allison Ct. in Huntley, IL. His phone number is (847) 844-1922. Andy has been a Career Financial Representative since November 2001.



***Alexander Cohen**

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Alexander Cohen has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2017. His office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd. in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is (847) 891-3183. Alexander has been a Financial Representative since October 2014.



***Martha Dominguez**

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Martha Dominguez has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2017. Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted Ave 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 Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2017. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (312) 583-1475. 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 January 2017. His office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park, Ste C & D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is (708) 633-6490. Jim has been a Career Financial Representative since January 2003.



Kevin Gardner

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



TJ Hansen

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
TJ Hansen has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2017. His office is located at 301 White Street, Ste AA in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is (815) 464-8094. TJ has been a Career Financial Representative since December 2002.



Monica Moore

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Monica Moore has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2017. Her office is located at 4845 167th St, Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is (708) 560-7777. Monica has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.

**Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by Financial Representatives from Country Financial with the Cook County Farm Bureau organization.*



CCFB and U of I Extension co-host babysitting class for pre-teen/teens

- When:** Saturday, May 6, 2017
- Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Please bring a lunch, CCFB will provide drinks.
- Where:** Cook County Farm Bureau Building in Countryside
- Cost:** \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members
- Goal:** To successfully train pre-teens and teens to be qualified babysitters.

The curriculum will provide participants with the tools necessary to understand the expectations involved and be equipped for the challenges of babysitting. The following lessons will be presented:

- Lesson 1 – Babysitting Responsibilities
- Lesson 2 – The Business of Babysitting
- Lesson 3 – Understanding Children
- Lesson 4 – Nutrition
- Lesson 5 – Fun with Children
- Lesson 6 – Sitting Safely
- Lesson 7 – Sharing Tool Kits and Portfolios

Participation in this workshop is open to any pre-teen/teen with the interest in creating a babysitting business. **Attendees will receive certification after completion of class.**

Outcomes/Impact:

- Short-term:** Participants will attend the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop to learn how to be qualified babysitters.
- Medium-term:** Participants will begin to identify themselves as qualified babysitters as they prepare to develop their businesses.
- Long-term:** Participants will complete the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop as qualified babysitters and have successful babysitting businesses.

Deadline to register: April 26, 2017

Call the CCFB to register for this important class at 708.354.3276!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie Smith, Director of Membership, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
membershipkatie@cookcfb.org phone: 708.354.3276 fax:708.579.6056

Cook County Farm Bureau's Member Service Center is now on Facebook. We will keep you up-to-date on all upcoming events, new membership benefits and programs. Look us up by searching "Cook County Farm Bureau Membership/Benefits"

“546,000”
is the number of
Cooperators sent to households
in the last year!

It's no wonder the classified
ad section is so popular
with our members!

Classifieds

All items listed are for the accommodation of the membership and without guarantee of the publisher.

Miscellaneous

10" Craftsman radial saw & table, like new \$600. Call 847-259-2086.

Hot tub, "new", still in wrapper! 6 seater w/ lounger, 32 jets, waterfall, LED light, ozone, delivered w/cover. Only \$3,975. Call 708-299-4640.

Official NFL Super Bowl patches 1-50. In plastic sleeves in binders. Sold as set only. Exc. condition. Call Mike after 12pm at 847-710-3168 for details.

Contractor 5 ft scaffolds. Uprights and crossbars. Some jacks-wheels. \$120 per set, Lemont pickup. Have over 50 such sets. Call Val 630-257-5093.

Heat exchanger video inspection camera \$50 OBO. Vacuum pump, air conditioned refrigeration \$25. 2 racks Kitchen Aid dishwasher MD #KUDM220, good condition. Call 708-460-6176.

Motorized Vehicles and Accessories

1997 Plymouth Passenger Van – good shape, maroon, all electric windows, mileage under 100K, new battery, runs good (Grand Voyager SE) \$1,850. Call 847-259-2086

2001 Dodge Dakota Sport Quad Cab. 105,500 miles. Rust on both quarter panels. Rhinoliner, locked fiberglass cover. Runs great, clean inside. One owner. Call 708-417-2141.

NEW O.E.M. 400 engine block for a Buick \$1,000. Used 400 engine block for a Buick bored .30 over on snap on engine stand \$500. Snap on engine hoist with tilter \$600. 68' Buick G.S. conv. Too much to list \$18,000 OBO. Call 708-323-6488.

2001 Dodge Dakota Sport quad cab. 105,500 miles, rust on both quarter panels, rhino liner, locked fiberglass cover. Runs great, clean inside. One owner. Call 708-417-2141.

4 – 480 x 12" rims & tires, one is brand new, 3 others are in excellent condition. 5 bolt rims. New rim & tire \$35. 3 excellent used tires & rims \$25 each. Call 708-636-8965.

1986 Chevy 20 van, great work truck, runs well, \$175k miles, set up for hauling motorcycles and machinery \$1,500. Call 847-212-4385.

Tractors/ Farm Equipment/ Snow Blowers

Beautiful deluxe pole barn 40 x 50. Mansard roof/trust roof. Fully finished white metal on walls & ceiling on inside. Nine foot entry door, eight double hung windows & office. 11 yrs old. \$10,000. See photo in Classified Ads on www.cookcfb.org. Call 847-358-1718.

Real Estate For Sale/Rent

1722 Tanglewood Drive, Lake Wildwood, Varna, Illinois - Beautiful 75x220 wooded lot in a gated recreational lake community close to Chicago and Peoria. 2 Lakes, 2 beaches, fishing, boating, swimming, marina, lodge with seasonal social activities and rentals, campground, pavilions, snack shop, parks, sports complex and new pool opening in 2017. Storage area available. Golf carts welcome! \$4,000. Call 309-472-6144.

Large Modern 2 bed 2 bath 1 level townhome for rent in Streamwood/Schaumburg area. Recent renovation with new Appliances, Cherry wood floors. Huge living room, Large bedrooms, private patio facing tree lined walking trail, attached garage, W/D in unit. Metra train station minutes away. Available April 1st. Call Dave 312-951-6412.

100 acres in Demming, New Mexico 88,030. 2-10 acre tracts and 2-40 acre tracts priced at \$1,200 per acre. Next to Florida Mountains. Call 708-417-0303.

Wanted

Older hot wheels, die cast cars, etc. Also old toys & old bicycles, old motor bikes, old radios, transistors & table tops. Call 708-361-8230.

Help wanted: Versatile Greenhouse & Retail Sales, personnel, full or part time at 8025 W. Grand Ave in River Grove. Call 708-707-7423.

Wanting to buy your HO scale or N scale electric train engines, cars, buildings, or anything train related. Do you have electric trains in your closet, basement, crawl space, attic or garage that you're not using? I buy train items from just a few pieces to hundreds of pieces at a time. Why sell them bit by bit, I'll offer you a price on all you have! I'm retired and just enjoy trains. I realize that some may need work from sitting for a long time, but I have the time to fix them! TURN THOSE

UNWANTED TRAIN ITEMS INTO CASH, and give me a call! I also buy slot cars. Call 630-272-4433 ask for Ron. Thanks!

NEW If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us and we will include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website along with your ad. All ads that we receive for the Cooperator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. Email your photo along with your ad to membershiplinda@cookcfb.org.

FREE Classified Ads
for Cook County Farm Bureau members

All Cook County Farm Bureau members may run four non-commercial classified ads annually free in the Cooperator. Only items of personal property will be accepted. **Ads must be in the office by the 15th of each month.**

Category: For Sale Misc. For Rent Wanted

Name _____

Farm Bureau # _____ Phone _____

Ad _____

*Please be sure to include a contact phone number where interested buyers can contact you. Ad can be typed or written. PRINT CLEARLY. (If not enough room, put on separate sheet)

Complete the above form and mail to:
Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.
You can also fax your ad to (708) 579-6056 or email to membershiplinda@cookcfb.org
Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum.

Wanted:

The Cook County Farm Bureau is seeking an individual to provide the organization proofreading services of the Cook County Farm Bureau monthly publication, the Cooperator. We would love the help from someone who really loves English, grammar, correct punctuation, and is able to make the corrections on a PDF file. We are offering \$75 per publication to proofread the 12 pages of copy, articles, and ads. Turn-around time, one day max, will be crucial. Call 708-354-3276 if interested.



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!

CCFB 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 Imelda at 630-435-8264 and state that you're a Cook County Farm Bureau member to receive the added savings.

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.

Farm Bureau Collegiate Program



2017 FORD FOCUS

2017 FORD ESCAPE



For a limited time only, Ford Motor Company is proud to offer the Farm Bureau Collegiate Program! Farm Bureau Members who are currently enrolled full-time or part-time at an accredited College/University or Trade School can qualify for this \$1,000 Bonus Cash offer! Recent and soon-to-be graduates are also included! If your graduation date falls between May 1, 2015 and January 2, 2018, you are on your way to save the smart way!

To take advantage of this exclusive special offer before it's gone, email CandiHelp@FordProgramHQ.com for details on how to enroll!



Program 35900: \$1000 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States and are currently a full-time student or part-time at an accredited Four-Year College/University, Junior College, Community College, or Trade School—OR—Farm Bureau member who has graduated or will graduate between May 1, 2015 through January 2, 2018. Offer is valid from 2/1/2017 through 4/30/2017 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2016/2017/2018 model year Ford or Lincoln vehicle. Not available on Mustang Shelby GT350, Mustang Shelby* GT 350R, Ford GT, Focus RS and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. You must be an eligible Farm Bureau member for at least 30 consecutive days and show proof of membership plus college eligibility. Limit one \$1000 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease. Rule of 5 for the special Bonus Cash Offer during program period. See your Ford Dealer for complete details and qualifications.

Are GMOs really safe? Really?

Join area libraries and Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about how your food is grown and the decisions today’s farmers make. Speakers will provide an overview of modern farming practices, organic farming, and the use of GMOs. Speakers will also address audience members’ questions.

March 13, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Homewood Public Library

17917 Dixie Highway in Homewood

March 20, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Poplar Creek Library

4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park

Speakers



Kim Morton, a former farm manager for the Northern Trust Company and farm owner, is one of Chicagoland’s premier speakers on GMO testing and use. In her role with the Northern Trust Company, she became the second woman in the nation to receive the “Accredited Farm Manager” designation and was a member of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Class of 1998.

Morton is an active member of the Cook County Farm Bureau®.

Tim Stuenkel is the Global Marketing Communications Manager at TeeJet Technologies, a leading global manufacturer of crop protection application and precision farming equipment based in Wheaton, Illinois. Stuenkel has served in various roles including technical support, sales, and international market development since joining the company in 2000. Stuenkel was a member of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Class of 2012.



Stuenkel was raised on the same corn and soybean farm in Cook County that he and his sisters now run. Stuenkel is an active member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors.

Jeff Heinsohn serves as Agronomy and Machinery Manager for Walnut Grove Farms in Kirkland, Illinois. Walnut Grove Farms is a 400-cow dairy farm. Heinsohn is directly responsible for the management of over 2,500-acres of both organic and conventional crops. Over 860-acres of the farm are certified organic by the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. Heinsohn was a member of the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Class of 2006.

Heinsohn is a third generation family farmer and is a member of DeKalb County Farm Bureau®.

About Cook County Farm Bureau®

As the county’s largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.

Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts & Transferring Non-Titled Property

Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2017
from 6:30-9 p.m.
Where: Country Financial Building
25 NW Point, Suite 850
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Cost: No charge for Cook County
Farm Bureau Members
\$10 per person for non-members
To Pre-register: Call the Cook County
Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

taxation, corporate transactional work, business planning, asset protection, residential and commercial real estate transactions and antenuptial agreements. Mr. Holland’s business planning practice includes representation regarding the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, including ownership agreements, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and not-for-profit planning.

**Register by: Wednesday, April 12, 2017—
Limited seating!**

Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa’s Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa’s pocket watch, or even Grandma’s pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue; deciding what you want to accomplish; deciding what the word “fair” means in your family; identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences; and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.

Speakers and Program Descriptions:

Estate Planning and Trust Administration

Presented by Linda S. Fine, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Ms. Fine concentrates her practice in estate planning for high net worth clients, estate and trust administration, estate and gift taxation, guardianships, contested estates, and complex probate matters. Ms. Fine also represents business owners with respect to the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

Presented by Robert A. Holland, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Mr. Holland concentrates his practice in estate planning, estate and trust administration,



District 5 Illinois Farm Bureau Board member, Tammy Halterman, organized and hosted an area euchre tournament for Farm Bureau leaders. Participating from Cook County included Mike Rauch (L) and Mark Yunker (R) at nearest table along with Halterman.

Cook County Farm Bureau is Hosting.. Electronic Recycling/Shred Day Saturday, April 1

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

4190 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows



Shredding: You can bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like have shredded.

Electronic Recycling: Don’t let your old electronics end up in a land-fill!

Items that **CAN** be dropped off for recycling include:

- computers
- speakers
- printers/faxes
- batteries
- cables
- phones (all types)
- stereo equipment
- servers
- laptops
- circuit boards
- copiers
- networking equipment

Items that **CANNOT** be dropped off for recycling include:

- microwaves
- T.V.’s
- air conditioners
- food processing equipment
- washers/dryers
- refrigerators
- freezers

**Because of environmental protection rules, we need to charge \$10 per computer monitor to cover the costs of proper recycling and disposal.

Please call the CCFB at 708.354.3276 to make a reservation.



Todd Price, Director of Wagner Farm in Glenview, spoke to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors during their February meeting. He discussed the 15th year partnership between the Farm Bureau and his organization, the growth of Baconfest, and interesting growing the livestock show as a part of the June Dairy Breakfast. The board agreed to sponsor the Livestock Show in 2017.