



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. 5

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

May 2017

Board of Directors Approves New Membership Classification

The Cook County Farm Bureau® (CCFB) Board of Directors, during the April meeting, took action to approve a bylaw change that provides for a new classification of member, the Professional Member (PM). The PM classification is for individuals who are employed in farm and agricultural related occupations but do not directly earn their income from farming.

The PM will have voting rights as a member, is eligible to serve on the local Board of Directors and as an officer of the CCFB, and can represent CCFB as a

delegate at the state annual meeting. The PM should have a passion for agriculture and farming and be seeking a strong industry in the Cook County area.

With the adoption of this new membership classification, the CCFB features three main membership classifications:

- MM (Farmer Member) - for individuals that are farming and earned \$2500 or more annually
- PM (Professional Member) - for individuals that are employed in the field of agriculture
- A (Associate Member) - for individuals seeking

to support the efforts of the Farm Bureau and to access the benefits and services offered through the organization.

The Cook County Farm Bureau would like to encourage any Associate Member who is employed in an agriculturally related field and has a strong interest in the future of agriculture to consider applying for the Professional Membership classification. Please contact the Member Service Center at the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org for more information.

Thank You Volunteers!

National volunteer week was observed April 23 through April 29 across the country. Volunteers providing time and energy make charity and not-for-profit organizations function throughout the United States.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is no exception. The Organization depends on our volunteer leaders to provide direction, input, labor, and skills for various types of programming in the area of Agriculture Literacy, Commodities/Marketing, Member Relations, Public Policy, and Public Relations.

We truly value our many volunteers for the hours and talent that you provide each year to make CCFB one of the premier Farm Bureaus in the Country.

We continue to seek more volunteers to help spread the workload, maintain fresh ideas, and provide more service and value to members of this organization.

Please contact the CCFB office 708-354-3276 or sign up at cookcfb.org/ccfb/volunteer-opportunities if you are interested in helping to create a stronger agriculture in this urban area through your support.

THANK YOU!



Upcoming Events

- Defensive Driving Course..... Page 10
- Wagner Farm Dairy Breakfast & Stock Show ... Page 11
- Cook County Farm Crawl Page 12
- Planter Workshop @ Ted's Greenhouse..... Page 12

Join us for an informative
Round Table: Topics in Detail
offered at the
Cook County Farm Bureau®

The Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association in partnership with the Cook County Farm Bureau, is hosting a round table topic discussion, the latest module offered in our 2017 Beekeeping Series.

Discussion Topics in Detail:

- ♦ Varroa Control
- ♦ Splitting Hives
- ♦ Queen Rearing
- ♦ Question & Answer

When: Wednesday, June 7, 2017
Time: 6:30-9:30 PM
Where: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
Fee: \$20.00 for CCFB & CDBA members
\$25 non- members
Presenter: Pete Soltesz, CDBA President & IBA Board

Register Today!

Registration & Payment Options:

- Call the Member Center at 708-354-3276; register and pay by credit card
- CCFB Members may register online at the Member Center at cookcfb.org
- Contact Debbie at the CCFB with questions, 708-354-3276

*Class size is limited as is minimum enrollment. We reserve the right to cancel and/or reschedule.

Question of the Month

What does "PM" stand for in regards to the new membership classification of the Cook County Farm Bureau®?

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 gas card.

April's winner is **Mary Vancak**.

Last Month's Question: Of all of the earth land animals, which one has the biggest eyes?
Answer: Horse

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 Do farmers have a choice with what seeds they plant?

Answered by Cook County Farmer Tim Stuenkel

Each year we consider whether or not using GMO crops would benefit our farm. The two most common reasons we use GMO crops are bugs and weeds. We use Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt traits in our corn to control pests that eat corn roots. With this trait, we don't have to apply pesticides which save fuel, water, and chemicals. Also, Bt targets specific pests so we don't have to worry about harming beneficial insects in our fields. This same pesticide is used on non-GMO corn, but is applied on top of the plant itself and is less targeted and less precise. Another reason we might



Tim Stuenkel, Grain Farmer from Matteson, Illinois

use GMO crops is weed control. This trait enables us to minimize herbicide application and again save

fuel, water, and chemicals. However, each year farmers may decide not to use GMO crops because of seed price, expected profit margin, or market demand for our crops. We also consider which seed traits are best for the soil, climate, and farming practices. There's literally hundreds of different seed traits sold by numerous seed companies. It's up to each farmer to choose what's best for their farms.

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.



The 2017 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection Is Here!

Recipes focus on cooking with the freshest, locally grown ingredients and are submitted by Cook County Farm Bureau® members!

To receive a free copy, email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708.354.3276

To download a copy online, visit: www.cookcfb.org/buy-local/recipe-collection

Peace of Mind
Protects Your Loved Ones At Home, With Just The Push Of A Button

- 100% waterproof; essential as most falls of elderly occur in bathroom.
- Longest range from base unit on the market, 600 feet minimum.
- Only product that works with ALL phone lines: Standard, DSL, Internet/Cable, and VOIP.
- Manufactured, Assembled, and Monitored in America!
- No Contract Required and Price Guaranteed to NEVER Increase!
- Products Available for Those Without Landlines!
- Press the Button, Help is Called, Help is on the Way!
- Company is Family Owned in Illinois.

Members receive one free month of monitoring and no initial fee

Toll Free: 855-872-8404 or 217-994-9015

NEW Member Benefit!

Made in the USA

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Farm, Family, Food™



The Chicago High School for Ag Sciences broke ground on April 5 for their new indoor therapeutic riding arena. Principal William Hook (far right) said that the school saved for more than three years to help pay for the 13,000-square-foot horse-riding barn that was approved by city planners on February 16. Hook said the barn will be open for local residents as well as athletes participating in Special Olympics Chicago. Mayor Rahm Emanuel applauded the efforts of the school and noted that many will benefit from the facility including the Chicago Police Department and Horses for Heroes, which works with returning military veterans.

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:

- Sarah Duncan and Jill Drover for their organization and commitment to running our Ag Day programming for Cook County.
- The Master Gardeners that volunteer to staff the Master Gardener Resource Center in the Cook County Farm Bureau® (CCFB) office during the spring, summer and fall to answer the questions from members and nonmembers regarding various gardening and growing issues.
- Zeldenrust Farms, Horchers Farm and Flower Shop and Van Kalker Family Farm and Greenhouse for hosting our spring planter workshops for members.
- The emails that many of our FarmBureau Action Communication Team (FBACT) members sent the Congress regarding Federal Tax policy.
- The many Country Financial Reps that serve CCFB members every day, providing people from throughout the county to enjoy the benefits and information from the organization.
- Rick Homerding for touching up and clear coat painting the Farm Bureau antique plow to serve as our building landmark.

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

Co-Operator

published monthly
Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056
(e-mail) ccfb@cookcfb.org (website) www.cookcfb.org

USPS No 132180 Periodical Postage Paid at LaGrange, IL 60525 & additional mailing office

Editor
Bob Rohrer

Officers & Directors
James Gutzmer, President
Michael Rauch, Vice President
Janet McCabe, Secretary-Treasurer
Dan Biernacki James Bloomstrand Elizabeth Christian
Roger Freeman Patrick Horcher Gerald Kopping
Tim Stuenkel Mark Yunker Ruth Zeldenrust

Farm Bureau Manager
Bob Rohrer

Office Staff
Melanie Paffumi Bona Heinsohn Katie Smith
Linda Tobias Bob Heine Debbie Voltz
Diane Merrion Kelli McSherry Jill Drover

Affiliated Companies
Jeff Orman Insurance Agency Manager, South Holland
Victoria Nygren..... Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago North
Marc Rogala Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago South
Jack Smith Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northwest
Joe Youngman .. Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northeast
Cary Tate Insurance Agency Manager, Orland Park
Dave Mottet General Manager, Conserv FS

Postmaster - Mail Form 3579 to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
"Co-Operator" (USPS No 132180) is published monthly as a membership publication for \$2.50 per year to members as a part of their annual membership dues by Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Periodical postage paid at LaGrange, IL and additional mailing office. Postmaster: send address changes to the Co-Operator, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

Give Me The Boot

When I was in high school, many years ago, hog prices were ridiculously low. For every hog we sold, we lost money on it. The price of hogs had a direct and lasting impact on my family's standard of living during that period. There was no money floating around for new clothes (my Mom actually made my prom suit for me), trinkets, frills and trappings. I can recall my work boots were so beat up, with ripped seams, that my most of my foot was exposed. The Farmer (Dad) handed me a roll of duct tape. Every few weeks, I would re-wrap my boots with a fresh layer duct of tape to keep my foot in and the mud out.

important of the tool as a hammer, saw, or even pliers (did I mention this before?).

So last month, during my wife's spring break, we decided to go north (yes, it was still winter there) to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We were on the hunt for waterfalls... how romantic! We were having a dandy time hiking throughout the region, following icy trails to various scenic vistas.

After seeing the glory of Bond Falls near Paulding, Michigan, I was scaling an icy bluff to exit the canyon. Unfortunately, I was wearing my insulated rubber boots, having no traction and less arch support. When my foot slipped on a patch of ice, I found myself going over the ledge and free falling. (My wife swears she did not push

the Farmer proud (I confess, I did not want to get my hiking boots muddy - I must be all city-fied)

Four days later, after properly "sucking it up," I went to the foot doctor. "That's no boot," I thought as the doctor handed me

this black, bulky, plastic contraption with Velcro straps and pads hanging from it. I was supposed to put that on my foot and wear it? It looked more like a boot for an astronaut...or a torture device.

I've been wearing that

fancy astro-boot ever since as my foot heals. Clomp – step – Clomp – step. I'm finding it quite inconvenient...no water, no mud, no steel toe, no traction, no laboring and certainly no style.

Oh how I long for a real farm boot.



Which boot does not fit?

Bonus: I did not realize at the time that duct tape footwear was quite stylish and becoming!

It was on the farm that I learned about boots. Boots are made of leather with lots of eyelets and steel toes. They are scuffed, stained, used and sometimes abused. They're made of cowhide or, on those special occasions, ostrich or gator. In farm and ranch country, boots are a tool. An important of a tool as a hammer, saw, or even pliers.

Boots that are NOT made of leather are made of rubber. Rubber that is thick and tough as a car tire. Rubber boots are essential in preventing water, snow, mud, muck, concrete, manure, and other semi liquids from penetrating the footwear. In farm and ranch country, boots are a tool. As

me) It felt like 30 feet (was it even 8 feet?). I landed left foot first on a rather hard and certainly pointy rock (are there soft rocks?). A burning pain blossomed throughout my foot.

I limped back to the car muttering about my stupidity under my breath, my pride damaged almost as much as my foot. As the pain did not leave me, I was also appalled that I might have ruined our vacation. What would the Farmer have said to me? He would have shook his head with a sour expression and walked away (which meant "Suck it up, son...you should have been wearing the proper tools. I should be giving you the boot!").

Why wasn't I smart enough to wear my quality, rugged hiking boots that would make



Contact Information:

Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-3276 708-579-6056 Fax E-Mail: ccfb@cookcfb.org www.cookcfb.org

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



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Auto, Home, and Commercial policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred 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 are located in Bloomington, IL.

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

Meet a “Face” of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we highlight a volunteer, staff member, or ag partner of the Cook County Farm Bureau. This month’s “Face of CCFB” is ...

Kathy Reuter



- Serves on the CCFB Member Relations Team
- Is a retired University of Illinois Extension Educator
- Even after retirement, Kathy continues to find opportunities to share her knowledge and skills in consumer education and financial literacy to help many consumers

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Summer and fall seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farmer markets.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY?

When I have a tough day, the easiest comfort food to grab is a banana.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

My favorite farm memory is picking blueberries at my aunt’s and uncle’s hog farm in central Illinois.

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

The type of farmer I would be is either a crop farmer or poultry farmer.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR?

My favorite time of year is spring.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SOURCE OF PROTEIN?

Anything from the “poultry” family.

Family Food Bytes

CHICAGO FARMERS’ MARKETS – Country Financial is entering its 11th year as the Presenting Sponsor for the 2017 Chicago Farmers’ Markets. The farmers’ market in Daley Plaza, the longest running market in Chicago, kicks off the farmers; market season opening May 11 from 7am-3pm. Most of the markets in Chicago accept the LINK card. Go to www.countryfinancial.com or www.cityofchicago.org for the dates, hours and locations of a Chicago Farmers’ Market near you.

KFC TO CURB ANTIBIOTICS (*Reuters*) – KFC will stop sourcing chicken raised with antibiotics commonly used to treat humans. The chain, the last of the three biggest chicken restaurants, said it would cut antibiotics by the end of next year. McDonald’s last year stopped serving chicken raised with antibiotics used in human medicine, and Chick-fil-A, the biggest U.S. chicken chain, vowed in 2014 to switch to poultry raised without any antibiotics at all by the end of 2019.

ALMOND GROWERS FACE CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT (*Legal Newsline*) – A class-action lawsuit was filed against Blue Diamond Growers, alleging the company misrepresented its almond beverage products. Almond beverage lacks essential nutrients and vitamins and shouldn’t be represented as nutritionally equivalent to dairy milk, according to the

plaintiff, Cynthia Cardarelli Painter. The company represented Almond Breeze as nutritionally equivalent to dairy milk, claims Painter. However, the almond beverage lacks essential nutrients and vitamins. The plaintiff seeks trial by jury, damages, interest, and disgorgement of ill-gotten profits, restitution and more. The case was moved to U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

SMITHFIELD EYEING TRANSPLANTS (*Reuters*) – Smithfield Foods has established a separate bioscience unit to expand its role in supplying pig parts for medical uses, with the ultimate goal of selling pig organs for transplantation into humans. The company joined a public-private tissue engineering consortium with companies including Abbott Laboratories, Medtronic, and United Therapeutics Corp, and is the only pork producer in the group.

POTENTIAL NEW OPTION FOR HIGH OLEIC (*FarmWeekNow.com*) - High oleic soybeans took another step toward broader availability in Illinois recently when the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council reached a licensing agreement with Iowa-based Schillinger Genetics, Inc. (SGI). The partnership allows SGI to commercialize the high oleic trait as well as breed new varieties bundling high oleic with other traits. The technology is non-genetically modified.

Häagen-Dazs POLLINATOR HABITAT IMPACTS 840 ACRES (*FarmWeekNow.com*) - Häagen-Dazs recently installed one of the largest, privately funded pollinator habitats on farmland owned by its California supplier of almonds. The habitat impacts 840 acres and consists of 6.5 miles of hedgerow and 11,000 native, drought-tolerant shrubs and flowering plants.

SOY-BASED DIET BOOSTS TUNA AQUACULTURE (*FarmWeekNow.com*) - Tuna remains one of the most sought-after seafood consumed worldwide, resulting in such overfishing that various wild tuna species are fully or over-exploited. The Southern Atlantic Bluefin is considered Critically Endangered. The Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program funded the feed research by Wisconsin-based Ichthus Unlimited LLC to test various soy-based diets for use in tuna farming and ranching for sustainability. The research tested various soy-based diets for larval Atlantic Bluefin tuna in Spain and for juvenile yellowfin tuna in land-based facilities in Panama. Bluefin are normally fed wild-caught sardines, with a measured feed conversion ratio (FCR) of 28:1. The new formulated diet decreases the FCR to 4:1, and decreases the amount of fishmeal and fish oil in feed by tenfold. Archer Daniels Midland served as one of many raw material contributors to the project.

“Where Am I?”



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

Last Month’s “Where Am I?”

In last month’s “Where Am I?”, Calvin was at the Chicago Flower & Garden Show.

Congratulations to Norman Hart for being last month’s winner!



Farm Bureau Hosts Panel Discussions on Modern Farming Practices



Farm Bureau Speakers Bureau members, Tim Stuenkel, Kim Morton, and Jeff Heinsohn discussed GMO safety, modern food production practices, and organic food production at the Poplar Creek Library in Streamwood. Speakers Bureau members present on a variety of topics and are available at no cost to speak at libraries and group meetings. Contact the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to schedule a speaker.

In conjunction with the Homewood Public Library and Poplar Creek Library, Cook County Farm Bureau® members dialogued with urban consumers about farming practices and the choices farmers make when planting, caring for, and harvesting crops. Farm Bureau members, Kim Morton and Tim Stuenkel discussed genetically modified crops and the reasons that farmers may or may not choose to use GM seeds. Jeff Heinsohn discussed the USDA certified organic program and the requirements that farmers follow. Both presentations were also available through Facebook Live. The panels were designed to facilitate face-to-face conversations between adult consumers and farmers. Additional presentations are available at no charge by contacting the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Want more Food and Farm information?

Go to our blog on www.cookcfb.org to see the following additional “Co-Operator articles listed below...

- American Farm Bureau Federation: Proteins Lead the Way on Lower Food Prices
- American should be paying less for groceries, according to survey, but other figures show a rise.
- Viewpoints/Focus on Agriculture from AFBF: Grocery Shopping Trends will have Big Impacts on Agriculture
- Distracted Driving Law applies to Tractors on Public Roads
- Solar Companies Seeking Land in Illinois
- University of Illinois among World’s Top Ag Universities

Trivia

- horseradish is a root harvested in the spring and fall
- horseradish is still mostly planted and harvested by hand
- sales of bottled horseradish began in 1860, making it one of the first convenience foods

“From the Country” Control Your Financial Future During and After Job Changes



Jack Smith,
Country Agency
Manager
Chicago
Northwest Agency

Job changes – whether by choice or downsizing – add stress to everyone’s life. Altered family income, and especially lack of income, can throw current and future financial plans into turmoil.

Despite the strain job changes cause, you can maintain control of your family’s financial security. If you contributed money to your employer’s 401(k) plan, consider rolling your hard-earned savings into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Avoid closing your 401(k) and taking the cash unless you absolutely need the money. In most cases, you’ll pay income tax on the distributions as well as a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty if you haven’t reached the age of 59 ½. Most importantly, you’ll prematurely drain your retirement savings.

If you directly transfer 401(k) funds into an IRA, you’ll pay no early withdrawal penalties. You won’t pay federal income tax until you withdraw the money during retirement.

Other advantages to directly transferring your 401(k) funds into an IRA include:

- Maintaining control of your investment choices.
- Combining all your IRAs into one account.
- Making Traditional IRA contributions to the account in future years. If you leave your 401(k) money with a former employer, you will not be able to make additional contributions.

Once you’ve decided to directly transfer your 401(k) funds into an IRA, you can choose from a variety of investment options. COUNTRY Trust Bank offers investment accounts managed by a team of professionals to help simplify investment decisions and achieve financial security no matter where you’re starting from.

A COUNTRY Financial representative can help you make informed decisions about IRA rollover options and create a tangible plan to fulfill your desire to build for the future.

Investment management, retirement, trust and planning services provided by COUNTRY Trust Bank®
1705 N Towanda Ave, PO Box 2020
Bloomington, IL 61702-2020
tel (800) 422-8261
*Not FDIC Insured * No Bank Guarantee * May Lose Value*
Registered Broker/Dealer offering securities products and services:
COUNTRY® Capital Management Company
1705 N Towanda Ave, PO Box 2222
Bloomington, IL 61702-2222
tel (866) 551-0060 Member FINRA and SIPC

From the Farm Desk...

IFB SURVEY: ESTATE TAX REPEAL HIGH PRIORITY FOR FARMERS (*FarmWeekNow.com*)– Illinois farmers ranked estate tax repeal and interest deduction as their highest tax reform priorities, according to a survey conducted by Illinois Farm Bureau. The results will help IFB advocate for issues that matter most to members. “This is our opportunity, the first time in 30 years, to do tax reform,” said Adam Nielsen, IFB’s director of national legislation and policy development.

DAIRY FARMERS WORRIED ABOUT NAFTA (*New York Times*)– U.S. dairy farmers already struggling with low milk prices are worried President Donald Trump’s talk of opening up the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) could harm trade with Mexico, the industry’s biggest export market. The National Milk Producers Federation says about 15 percent of dairy production in the U.S. is exported with one-third of the exports going to Mexico.

AG TRADE DURING FIRST HALF OF FISCAL YEAR IS UP (*IL Corn Weekly*) -

Although seasonal ag export trade is down for the last couple of months in total, ag trade for the first five months of the fiscal year, (October through February) is up. The numbers show that bulk commodities have the total trade export numbers up 16% by value over the same period last year. Export markets remain key to corn farmer profitability, especially in a state like Illinois that relies heavily on overseas markets. For the 2016 crop year, 39% of corn left the state as bulk commodity corn, and even more corn value left as ethanol, DDGS, or as corn-fed meat products.

U.S., CANADIAN DAIRY FARMERS TRADING BARBS (*Washington Post*) – Dairy farms across Wisconsin may end up shuttering their farms and selling herds after processors this month canceled their milk contracts. The move comes after Canadian dairy farmers cut prices on their ultrafiltered milk in an effort to boost their own market and stem imports coming from U.S. dairy farms. Processors say the move, which forced the cancellations, has already caused losses of \$150 million since the price drop began.

Recipe of the Month: Broccoli Cauliflower Salad

Ingredients:
5 c chopped broccoli florets
5 c chopped cauliflower florets
2 c cheddar cheese
½ c sweetened dried cranberries
2/3 c minced onion
½ c sugar
1 c mayonnaise
2 T red wine vinegar or raspberry vinegar
¼ c toasted sunflower seeds
½ c raisins
6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Directions:
Chop broccoli and cauliflower florets into bite-sized pieces. Combine vegetables in large bowl with shredded cheese, raisins, and onion. In small bowl, combine sugar, mayo, and red wine vinegar; Whisk until smooth. Pour dressing over top of salad and toss until vegetables are coated. Sprinkle bacon, sunflower seeds, and dried cranberries on top.

Recipe reprinted with permission from Eleanor Stege, Matteson.

Your Chicago South Agency

6438 Joliet Road | Countryside, IL 60525 | 708-352-5555

 Marc Rogala 708-352-5555 Agency Manager	 Robert Swiss 773-498-7339 6415 W. 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60638	 Theo Leonard 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 Gwen Shaw 773-487-0918 738 E. 87th Street Chicago, IL 60619	 Silver Castillo 773-284-9000 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Leo Maldonado 773-254-5810 3458 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60608
 Martha Dominguez 773-254-5810 3458 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60608	 Kirk Gregory 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 Davis DeSantiago 773-254-5810 3458 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60608	 David Jara 773-284-9000 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Mike Sheahan 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 Steve Phillips 312-583-1416 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605
 Kandi Keyes-Winford 773-487-0918 738 E. 87th Street Chicago, IL 60619	 Alonzo Nevarez 773-284-9000 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Ed Beavers 312-588-1404 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605	 Dennis Brown 773-284-9000 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Tony Munno 708-352-5555 6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525	 Nick Zegar 708-352-5555 6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525
 Naeemah Muhammad 773-420-0064 738 E. 87th Street Chicago, IL 60619	 Chase Penn 312-846-7574 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605	 Lex Means 773-424-1004 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 Edgar DeLeon 773-498-1184 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Jacinta Walker 773-420-0154 738 E. 87th Street Chicago, IL 60619	 Daniel Jemison 708-937-0023 6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525
 Sergio Velasco 773-687-7696 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 Syed Jamal 846-4721 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605	<h2>AUTO HOME LIFE BUSINESS RETIREMENT</h2>			

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®, Bloomington, IL.
Registered Broker/Dealer offering securities products and services: COUNTRY® Capital Management Company, 1705 N. Towanda Avenue, P.O. Box 2222, Bloomington, IL 61702-2222, tel (866) 551-0060. Member FINRA and SIPC.

Investment management, retirement, trust, and planning services provided by COUNTRY Trust Bank®.

0317-562HO



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit By Diane Merrion



Cardoon

Have you ever heard of cardoon? Perhaps carduna rings a bell? In this



growing era of eating fresh from the farm and locally grown, cardoon caused quite the stir at the Country Financial Garden during the Flower and Garden Show in March. Ag Literacy Committee Member Greg Stack was the key designer in creating a garden complete with herbs, vegetables and flowers that could be grown in anyone's backyard. Of most interest to many visitors, however, was his planter full of cardoon. It was a vegetable I hadn't thought about for perhaps 40 years in that I didn't think anyone had ever eaten them or even heard of them.

As a young child of Italian heritage we anticipated carduna season at home every May, although we didn't grow them in our garden. I'll always recall when we'd be driving somewhere as a family and my Dad would stop along some railroad tracks or fields and we'd start pulling "weeds" that looked like rhubarb to take home for my mom to prepare. She'd take the leaf off, clean the stalks, boil them, dip them in an egg wash batter, coat with seasoned flour and fry lightly in oil. The golden

brown stalks would be eaten in a flash and we'd anxiously await this treat the next time we happened to stumble upon some carduna.

No one I knew had ever heard of or eaten this weed, so it was pretty much our "Tortorice" secret. Fast forward to 2017 and this relatively unknown plant is the talk of the garden in Chicago. It's so incredible to see the foods that we thought of as weeds, being hot commodities now. Apparently Mario Batali loves it as an ingredient and says it has a "very sexy flavor". Not sure I'd describe it that way, but who am I to judge his description?!

Cardoon fun facts: They grow wild in North America especially in farm fields and wild fields. They are ripe for picking in May. The Cardoon or Artichoke Thistle is a member of the Aster family. The Cardoon is high in folate, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and, fiber.

Connecting Kids to Ag



Ag Day North – Students learned the origins of their food while focusing on the ingredients in pizza. Using wheat produced by Cook County Farm Bureau board member, Janet McCabe, children ground actual wheat stalks to break the kernels down into flour which is then used for pizza crusts.



Ag Day South – Farmers Mike Rauch (right) and Mark Yunker (left) taught students about corn and soybean production in Illinois and then played a game where students had to identify if a product contained corn, soybeans or both.

"I told my family that it was a very amazing field trip and I would love to go back", stated one student who attended an Ag Day program that was offered at the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences in Chicago on April 6th and at Heritage Volkening Farm in Schaumburg on April 11th. Both Ag Days featured stations for students to rotate through in order to learn about agriculture. Topics included corn, soybeans, bees, embryology, pigs, horses, dairy cows, plants, soil and blacksmithing. Students spent 15 minutes on each topic and even enjoyed a wagon ride at Heritage Farm pulled by their draft horses. The third grade students especially enjoyed learning directly from high school students who provided the education at the dairy

cow station and the horse/goat station at the Chicago Program. All teachers received pre-work four weeks prior to the program in order to familiarize their students with the topics they would be learning about. Each school left the program with a box of materials including follow-up information, student and teacher surveys and commodity information. Our Ag Day programming is made possible through funding provided by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation.

We thank all of the volunteers who devoted their time to these young learners by serving as Group Leaders or Presenters to provide agriculture education at both venues. These volunteers include: Haley Siergiej -Nutrients for Life; Nancy Kreith and

Holly Peterson - University of Illinois – Extension (and their volunteers); Thad Smith- Westside Bee Boyz; Greg Stack – Ted's Greenhouse; Mike Borgic – Illinois Pork Producers; Kathy Bloomstrand (Commodities/Marketing Committee Member); Kathy Lesser, Amy Toth, Linda Dunn and Wendy Carter– Ag in the Classroom; Mark Yunker, Mike Rauch and Jim Bloomstrand (Cook County Farm Bureau® Board Members); Patty Kennedy and her staff/ volunteers at Heritage Farm and JaMonica Marion and the Ag Education/Animal Science Pathway students at the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences. Our sincere appreciation to American Ag Insurance for providing four Group Leaders at our Schaumburg event.

Fall 2017 Educator Opportunity

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag in the Classroom Program is looking to add a contract presenter to our program to conduct classroom presentations in Chicago and North Suburban schools. Our presenters typically have classroom experience, excellent presentation and communication skills and the desire to work with students and educators. Knowledge of agriculture and farming has proven to be important.

This is a part-time, independent contractor position.

Presentations vary each week, between the months of September - May. Individuals interested in contracting services should email ccfb@cookcfb.org (Attention Diane Merrion). No phone calls please.

School Market

The Southside Occupational Academy of Chicago will be having its first Farmers Market on May 19, 2017. All are invited to join them and share in this exciting event in Englewood where students are busy maintaining their greenhouse and gardens, as well poultry coop, 38 tree orchard, and beehives! They will be showing off all of their great vocational lab programs and have some tasty local produce and honey! The day will also include:

- School Garden and Greenhouse Tours
- Honey booth and Honeybee Education
- Poultry Coop Tours
- Refreshments courtesy of Café Blue
- Fresh LOCAL produce

The event runs from 11am- 3pm at the school 7342 S. Hoyne Chicago, IL 60636 | 773.535.9100.

SUMMER AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE 2017

SAI 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 the coach bus to tour agribusinesses and farms in Cook County. See how agriculture transfers into science, social studies, math, robotics, literature, food and nutrition. Sample stops 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~

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

SAI 2 July 11-14

Food, Fiber, Fuel-Bringing STEM to your Classroom

Program:

Board the 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®

Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

Phone: 708-354-3276
E-mail: aitc@cookcfb.org

* Discount for Farm Bureau Members

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

It's time to start planning your garden! According to Burpee.com, we are now past the average date for the last frost (April 15th) and have plenty of growing season before the first frost (October 15th).



"Spring brings ideal conditions for cool-season vegetables. Cool-season vegetables are able to withstand some frosts so they can extend the growing season in cooler climates," stated Maurice Ogutu, Horticulturist. "There are cool-season vegetables that are perennial and can live for more than two years in Illinois. There are also annual cool-season vegetables." Perennial vegetables should be planted at the edge of the garden as they will be there for some time. The most common grown perennial vegetables in Illinois are asparagus and rhubarb.



Some vegetables that are perfect for cool spring nights and sunny days include: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, parsley, radishes, and spinach. Other vegetables include kohlrabi, leeks, mustard greens, swiss chard and turnips.

Illinois state symbols will soon appear this month...

State Flower



Did you know that Illinois is one of four states to choose the violet as its State Flower? It was selected by school children in 1908. You might think that all violets have purple flowers.

There are several kinds of violets, though, and you can find violets with yellow, white, blue-violet, lilac-purple and even green flowers! The flowering time of the violet depends on the species, but most bloom in the spring.

State Insect



The monarch butterfly was chosen in 1975 to be Illinois' State Insect. Third grade classes in Decatur originally suggested the species. The insect can be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in weedy areas, roadsides, fields, pastures and marshes. It feeds on the nectar of flowers. The male monarch has bright orange and black wings. There are white spots in the wing border. The female is dull orange and black.

The monarch caterpillar eats only milkweed plants and it is the only species of butterfly that flies to warmer climates (migrates) for winter. Migrating Illinois monarchs fly to Mexico and sometimes to coastal areas in the southern United States.

The monarchs that return in the spring are not the same ones that left in the fall. The returning migrants are offspring from the migrating monarchs.

State Tree

In 1973, a special poll of 900,000 school children changed the State Tree from the Native Oak to the White Oak. Approximately twenty native species of oak occur in Illinois. White oaks prefer rich, well-drained soil. In Illinois they are found in a variety of habitats, but they grow best on uplands, slopes, and terraces.

White oak can be very large. Individual trees commonly reach a height of 100 feet (30 m). When growing in the open, they often have widely spreading branches, making them excellent shade trees. Their leaves turn red or purple in the Fall.

The wood of the white oak is strong, durable, and beautiful. For these reasons the wood is harvested for use in cabinetry, interior finishing, and general construction. The bark is pale gray and narrowly furrowed. It has scaly ridges and smooth patches that are a result of a fungus that invades the outer, non-living portion of the bark.



Source: Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

Can you match the name of the vegetable to its picture?



Mustard Greens

Turnip

Kohlrabi

Leeks

Swiss Chards



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: membershiplinda@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. Good luck!



Jacqueline Brown

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!

May Word Search

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

Asparagus
Cabbage
Garden
Illinois
Kale
Kohlrabi
Leeks
Migrate

Monarch
Oak
Perennial
Planting
Rhubarb
Turnip
Vegetables
Violet

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.

CCFB Foundation Scholar Winners Announced

Thomas Poole of Chicago was awarded the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship for \$3,000. This scholarship is designed to honor Mr. Howard Paarlberg, the first President of the Foundation and President of the Farm Bureau for 16 years. The recipient carries the prestige of being the top rated applicant and a greater financial reward for the individual.

Jessica Biernacki of Tinley Park received \$2,000; Alyssa Volland of Tinley Park was awarded \$2,000; Colleen Elzinga of Evergreen Park received \$2,000; Katie Manika of North Riverside received \$1,250; Xavier Morgan of Joliet received \$1,250; Aidan Walton of Westchester received \$1,250 and Devan Groves of Cary received \$1,250.

Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship



Thomas Poole

Poole attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Crop Sciences. He has been a member of the FFA Program and an active member of the CHSAS Horticulture Greenhouse Team. He seeks to help integrate the world of agriculture and the environment in urban areas as a career. Poole is the son of Thomas and Susan Poole of Chicago.



Devan Groves

Groves attends Oklahoma State University with a major in Pre-Veterinary with an Animal Science focus. She wishes to specialize in sports medicine not only because of her background with sport horses, but also because it entails job variation as well as new technological advances and room to consistently learn more. Groves is the daughter of Robert and Anna Lester of Cary.



Alyssa Volland

Volland is pursuing a veterinary degree at the University of

Illinois Champaign-Urbana after achieving a major in Pre-Veterinary/Animal Science and minor in Chemistry. Ever since Volland was assigned a career project in high school, she knew that she wanted to be a veterinarian. The project made her aware of how demanding and competitive the career is and that attracted her even more to be a vet. Volland is the daughter of Randal and Lisa Volland of Tinley Park.



Jessica Biernacki

Biernacki attends the University of Illinois

Champaign-Urbana where she is studying for her Master of Sciences degree for Agricultural Leadership Education. She has grown up in her family's greenhouse business and has taken on many responsibilities there. Biernacki volunteers her time for the Annual Ronald McDonald Food Checkout Day and also serves as the chair for the CCFB Young Leader group. Her goal is to work in the area of Agricultural Education, Training and Literacy. Biernacki is the daughter of Dan and Karen Biernacki of Tinley Park.



Katherine Manika

Manika attended St. Joseph College with a major

to study Pre-Veterinary/Biology. She recently completed an internship at Springbrook Animal Care Center in Naperville where she benefited from hands-on experiences that included assisting in taking x-rays, pre/post-op care, learning how to insert catheters and much more. The program has also reassured her love for animals and wanting to become a vet

to help not only animals but people as well. Manika is the daughter of Colleen Manika of North Riverside.



Xavier Morgan

Morgan attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a

major in Ag Communications and Advertising. Previously, he studied at Joliet Junior College. He has goals to be a productive citizen and contribute and give back as much that has been given to him. Morgan is the son of Vera Flournoy of Chicago.



Colleen Elzinga

Elzinga attends Ripon College seeking a major in Veterinary Medicine. When

she is accepted to vet school, Elzinga plans to focus on larger animals since they appeal to her the most and the majority of animals that you commonly see on the farm. She is the daughter of Dean Elzinga of Evergreen Park.



Aidan Walton

Walton attends Illinois State University Champaign-Urbana with a

major in Agribusiness and a Spanish minor. Walton's goal is to work for an Agribusiness that helps people across the nation and possibly the world. He is the son of Leah Walton of Westchester.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation was established by the Cook County Farm Bureau to carry out charitable, literary and educational work in Agriculture. The Foundation Board established the Agricultural Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance to students pursuing education for agricultural careers and to encourage the best and brightest young minds to return to Agriculture as their chosen career.



Food lacks four-star support

I identify myself as country to the core, a woman who scoops chicken manure and drives a tractor on occasion. That aside, I function like many other moms, who shop online when the kids sleep, regardless of a farmhouse or big city setting. From the west end of my country couch, I'll buy anything from four-star toilet paper and furnace filters to consumer-approved kids' sneakers and specialty dog food for our aging yellow lab.

The short of it: Online reviews influence my purchases. When our 15-year-old washing machine literally fell apart, web-based customer ratings narrowed my choices for a new one. When our son put a virtual reality headset on his birthday wish list, I turned to the consumers who own such devices. And how could I ignore an average 4.8-star review out of 5 stars from 7,399 pairs of feet? You could call my foot file an "impulse buy" on Amazon.com for someone with calloused feet. The more plentiful the user reviews, the more clout that product's stars earn with me. But food stands among few of our household purchases with little to no outside influence from fellow users. Grocery products lack a reliable online rating system with accompanying gold stars. Instead, society shops from shelves and coolers of packaged foods with well-designed advertisements and crafty, sometimes deceitful, wording to entice purchases. We lack the hundreds of user reviews to verify purchases,

the reviews that help us see beyond the packaging and through the marketing tactics.

Thankfully, I rely on personal food production experiences. Often, I can see the label lingo that matters (and doesn't matter). And like frequent grocery shoppers, I recall my previous cooking and dining experiences with a particular food item or brand. My grocery decisions would pose more of a challenge without my farm and food production experiences. In fact, the meanings behind organic, natural, GMO, gluten and animal antibiotics likely would confuse me. Are some consumers out there guessing in the food aisles as I do in the pet food aisle? Really, does my cat want seafood- or chicken-flavored food? More importantly, does it really matter?

Eliminate some guess work on human food and take a look at the fresh pages of www.WatchUsGrow.org. This resource from Illinois Farm Families offers a quick and easy way for busy Illinois consumers to learn about – and even ask – their most pressing food questions. You may even find a farmer you know, but first check out the site's section on "Label Lingo." As you will see, sometimes labels mislead us. And we have no reliable user rating system to debunk them.

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

Cleaner Engines, Better Performance

- DieseleX® Gold
- AkroGold® Gasoline
- Suprex® Gold Lubricants

Try our Synthetic 5W-40 for better fuel economy

Call Now! 800.924.9942

CONSERV FS Serving Your Community Since 1928



Board member Mike Rauch discusses today's farming practices in the Country Financial/Farm Bureau garden during this year's Flower and Garden Show.



For the first time in modern memory, there was corn growing at Navy Pier. This year's Country Financial/Farm Bureau garden vignette displayed the commonalities and differences between traditional farming and urban farming. In addition to the corn, the garden displayed vegetable plants and herbs.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Farm Bureau Advocates for Regulatory Reform

According to the 2017 Viewpoint Survey results, Cook County Farm Bureau® members are overwhelmingly concerned with regulatory reform.

Farm Bureau policy contains many recommendations to improve the federal regulatory system, including:

- Using sound science;
- Having the U.S. Department of Agriculture coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency on regulations affecting agriculture;
- Estimating the costs and benefits of regulations;
- Ensuring transparency in the rulemaking process;
- Enhancing Congressional oversight;
- Extending the comment period to a minimum of 60-days on proposed rules;
- Limiting Federal agencies' ability to use social media and similar resources in relation to pending rules; and
- Litigation reform.

Federal regulations have a direct impact on farmers. Today, farmers are faced with a flurry of requirements through the Clean Water Act (such as the "waters of the U.S." rule, the "prior converted cropland" criteria, wetlands jurisdictional determinations or total maximum daily load limits); the Endangered Species Act (through designation of species, establishment of critical habitat, questionable use of science); the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act; the Food Safety Modernization Act; immigration and labor requirements; and interpretation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, to name a few.

Cook County Farm Bureau Farm Bureau strongly believes that all Americans, including farmers, need a regulatory system that is fair, transparent, adheres to the will of Congress, takes economic impacts into account and respects our freedoms.

Farm Bureau will continue to advocate for regulatory reform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bona Heinsohn

Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations
6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525 bona@cookcfb.org phone:
(708) 354-3276 fax: (708) 579-6056

Please visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL to be updated on agricultural issues and Cook County Government.



Illinois Senator Napoleon Harris III hosted Farm Bureau members from Cook and Moultrie County Farm Bureaus. Senator Harris is the newly appointed Illinois Senate Agriculture Chairman. Harris's district includes Dolton, Riverdale, Midlothian, Harvey, Homewood and parts of South Holland, Chicago Heights, and Steger.



This year's Agricultural Roundtable featured a discussion on Farm Bureau's legislative priorities and pending issues, as well as nutrient management programs being worked on by farmers, County Farm Bureaus, and the Illinois Farm Bureau®.

Farm Bureau Opposes Changes to Livestock Regulations

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to members of the Illinois Senate Environment Committee regarding Senate Bill 1272 and 1273. Farm Bureau is opposed to both bills and is actively working against them.

Since its implementation, the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) has provided a balanced approach in protecting the environment and allowing farmers the ability to raise livestock on their farms. Farm Bureau continues to support the LMFA because it protects both the environment and farmers' ability to raise livestock.

We are very disappointed with the legislation that has been introduced. The bills increase the level of regulation for all livestock farms in Illinois by simply adding requirements that are redundant and unnecessary.

The bills significantly increase the regulation of small and medium sized livestock farms. The cost of complying with these new regulations will mean fewer of these farms.

These are not common sense reforms of livestock regulations.

They add additional regulatory burdens for all livestock farmers that will be difficult to comply with and provide no additional benefits for environmental protection.

One of the bills requires that all livestock farms with 300 or more animal units register with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, this requirement was already considered by the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB). The IPCB determined that a registration requirement was unnecessary because IEPA has the information it needs to properly regulate livestock farms. To quote the order from the IPCB, "The Board does not, therefore, believe it is now necessary to implement a requirement that duplicates the IEPA's procedures."

A second bill requires all farms to file waste management plans along with their Notice of Intent to Construct. It also requires farms smaller than 5,000 animal units to have or file a waste management plan with the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture.

1 In the matter of: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs): Proposed Amendments to 35 ILL. ADM. Code Parts 501, 502, and 504. Opinion and Order of the Board.

The waste management plan requirement exceeds what is required under the Federal Clean Water Act.

Illinois farmers take the protection of the environment and proper management of livestock farms very seriously. That is why Farm Bureau, along with the Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Beef Association, and Illinois Milk Producers Association, actively participated in the development of new environmental rules for the operation of CAFOs that were implemented in August 2014. That is also why we have been working very hard to educate farmers about complying with those regulations and using best management practices on their farms.

Illinois' livestock farms have a strong track record of environmental protection. According to the most recent information available from IEPA, fewer than one percent of livestock farms in Illinois have any environmental issues.

*Cook County Farm Bureau®, the county's largest general farm organization is **OPPOSED** to both Senate Bill 1272 and 1273.*



By Bona Heinsohn

beyond the time capacity of just family members. Quite frankly it was one of the best and worst things we did. The increase in cows forced us to hire non-family employees, which forced us to manage employees' schedules, invest in human resource services, and mediate workplace conflicts. It also allowed us the opportunity to take vacations and to have evenings off. In spite of non-family employees, and with few exceptions, there's always at least one Heinsohn at the farm or available at all times of the day.

In the early phases of our expansion, our non-family labor was Caucasian and from the nearby towns. Several were high school students or recent

Several years ago, my family and I expanded the number of cows we milked. By doing so, we expanded

high school graduates. Despite good wages and being located near four towns, it became nearly impossible to find labor. Dairy cattle need to be milked twice a day regardless of the day of week, weather, holiday, or family commitments. Farm work is very labor-intensive. Like many of our neighboring farms, we transitioned to hiring primarily Hispanic labor.

Many of our employees have now been with us for over ten years. In many cases, we've employed more than just one member of their family. However, many of our employees are now plagued with concerns about their futures and the futures of their friends and colleagues. They've heard stories of families being separated and like their friends, they've changed their lives. They've changed how they get to work. What time they arrive. Where they shop. When they worship. And where they connect with friends. Of course, this level of fear

is impacting their lives but also their work.

Our farm like countless U.S. farms face a critical shortage of workers. Native born citizens are largely unwilling to engage in the rigorous hours of livestock farming. For many farms, foreign workers who appear to have legal status and guest workers have filled this void.

Agricultural guest workers are admitted under a government sponsored temporary worker program known as H-2A. Under the guest worker program, 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.

However, the H-2A program is cumbersome and can result in significant delays. In its current form, the H-2A program isn't able to respond to the marketplace making U.S. farms less competitive with foreign farmers

and less reliable for the American consumer. A national survey of H-2A employers conducted by the National Council of Agricultural Employers, showed that administrative delays associated with the current program result in workers arriving on average 22 days after the date of need, causing an economic loss of nearly \$320 million for farms that hire H-2A workers.

Our farm, like so many of our neighbors, have joined Farm Bureau's effort to ensure that American agriculture has a legal, stable supply of workers. We're asking for responsible legislative immigration reform that addresses border security, fixes the legal immigration system and provides farmers access to a legal and stable workforce.

Join us in that effort and ask your Congressman to support immigration reform.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

MEMBER RELATIONS

\$\$\$Receive discounts on your auto insurance\$\$\$

Defensive Driving Course



The Cook County Farm Bureau® and Country Financial will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on July 19, 2017 & July 20, 2017 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the CCFB office in Countryside. Both days must be attended to receive the certification. Cost for the class is \$15 for members and \$25 for non members (includes course materials and lunch both days).

The course explores the causes of vehicle collisions (mental, physical and environmental factors) and teaches how defensive driving principles can prevent most of these costly incidents. Upon completion, you may be eligible for a discount on your auto insurance. Rated drivers 55 and over who have not had a motor vehicle accident or violation within the past 12 months are eligible. The savings will extend for 3 years on the policy.

This program was developed by the National Safety Council and will be taught by safety specialist, Doug Sommer, Pekin, Illinois. The course, which is conducted in a classroom setting, is very informative, entertaining and relevant to today's driving environment and standards. An exam is not required to complete the course or receive certification.

Reservations are required and class size is limited. Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276 to make your reservation or for more information.



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 who own businesses the opportunity to promote goods and services offered through their business to the other members of CCFB. 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 Co-Operator. 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.

Member To Member Spot Light

As often as possible, we like to highlight one of our member-to-member benefits to help members better take advantage of the many opportunities and advantages offered by the organization. Should you have any questions regarding this or any other benefit, please contact your Cook County Farm Bureau® Member Service Center at 708-354-3276. To view the entire list of special offers, go to www.cookcfb.org/membermember.html.

1st American Home Builders of Chicago, Inc.

(773)581-4400 • 24 hours

www.1stAmericanBuilders.com

Free in home or on site estimates. Receive a 20% discount on exterior projects, 10% discount on other projects. 1st American Home Builders also does foreclosure rehabs at a 15% discount to members.

Complete interior & exterior remodeling such as kitchen, baths, siding, roofing, windows, etc.

A+ Rating with BBB and NARI and Angies List.

10% extra discount for all exterior projects booked before fall.

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."

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.



***Margaret Lyczko**

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Margaret Lyczko has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2017. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem Ave in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is (773) 427-2964. Margaret has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2011.



Sylwia Grochowska

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



Michael Weinstein

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Michael Weinstein has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2017. His office is located at 5 E. College Dr. in Arlington Heights, IL. His phone number is (847) 749-1740. Michael has been a Career Financial Representative since November 2003.



Renata Bondarowicz

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



***Nick Zegar**

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Nick Zegar has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for March 2017. His office is located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL. His phone number is (708) 352-5560. Nick has been a Career Financial Representative since June 1996.



Daniel Jemison

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Daniel Jemison has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2017. His office is located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL. His phone number is (708) 937-0023. Daniel has been a Financial Representative since September 2016.



Joe Voves

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Joe Voves has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for March 2017. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is (708) 425-1527. Jose has been a Career Financial Representative since May 2011.



Kevin Gardner

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for March 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.



***Tim Van Zuidam**

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Tim Van Zuidam has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2017. His office is located at 8626 Wicker Ave, Ste A in St. John, IN. His phone number is (219) 365-1781. Tim has been a Career Financial Representative since October 1991.



Monica Moore

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Monica Moore has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 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.*

"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

2010 Schwinn, Meridian, 3 wheel bike, front and rear basket. No scratches, royal blue. Call 708-460-8195.

FREE to good home: wheel chair, walker, commode, raised toilet seat. Call 708-614-8148.

King size mattress set, 1 custom mattress & 2 custom box springs. Great shape, plus firm \$250. Call 708-594-6399.

Free circa 1920 NCR electric cash register - weighs approx. 70 lbs. Also, 25 assorted sized wooden cigar boxes \$50 OBO. Call 708-349-3161.

Three-wheeled bike with basket. 2 years old, \$125. Call 708-246-3615.

Classic 5 piece wrought iron patio furniture with custom made cushions. Price negotiable. Please call 312-480-0747.

High end gun collection for sale. Long guns & handguns. Various taxidermy animals for sale. Hunting items such as decoys, roboducks, and other forms of hunting gear for sale. Call and ask for details: 773-581-4400.

Misc. items for sale: Short barrel air hammer kit \$15. Torch 4-pc. set \$30. Dual piston sander \$30. Proto torque ratchet \$15. Tap & die set \$10. Antique plant jr. single tow seeder \$50. Plus more misc. tools. Call 815-320-6178.

164 Country 33 1/13 albums, many in mint condition with shrink wrap on, or like new. \$100 for all. Call 708-361-8230.

Motorized Vehicles and Accessories

2004 Outback Travel Trailer, 27 ft, mint condition, 1 slide-out, large awning, outside 2 burner stove, must see!! Also, 2002 Chevy Silverado, low mileage, 5.7 V8 Allison transmission, heavy duty, clean, no rust. Must see! Call 708-460-8195.

1991 Ford Mustang, V8, 5.0 motor, automatic transmission 4:10 gear, gray in color, hatchback, loaded with all options, stereo system. Call 219-617-0363.

2014 Honda Civic Si, 4 door, black, manual trans, immaculate condition, 32,000 mi, \$17,000 negotiable. Call 708-638-7697.

2002 Jaguar XKR convertible super charged, limited edition, 17,000 original miles. Every available option, pristine condition, new tires. \$32,500 OBO. Call 773-581-4400.

Tractors/ Farm Equipment/ Snow Blowers

45 ft. trans craft combo deck spread axle flatbed trailer for farm use. Call Rick at 708-670-2118.

Planter (crop)/Disk seeder, 7 rows. Built to last, excellent condition. \$1,475 cash or trade considered. Call Pat 847-308-2852.

Real Estate For Sale/Rent

House for rent: college rental for 2017-2018 school year. Will take 4 or 5 students! 5 for \$1,500 a month (\$300 per student) or 4 for \$1,300 (\$325 per student), 5 bedroom house with 2 bathrooms. Great location, near EIU on 7th Street in Charleston, IL. Kitchen & bathroom were recently remodeled. New wood flooring in the front room. For more info or to see the house, please contact Kim (manager) at 217-273-0675. Also, prices will lock in if you sign a two year or longer lease. Will also take family rentals.

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.

Beautiful custom built home: 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home, 3 car garage, full basement, many upgrades. 10 yrs old, granite countertops, cherry cabinets (kitchen), all stainless steel appliances. Located in Hampshire, IL. \$339,900. Call 847-683-5023.

Vacation Sales/ Rentals

Great place to spend the summer (winter too if you're adventurous). This spacious cabin is situated on 5 acres and only minutes from the city of Marquette. Cabin features 2 bedrooms, an open living/kitchen area, a cozy wood stove and a sliding glass door overlooking spring fed pond fish for perch, generator included. 4-wheeling and snowmobiling literally out your back door. \$64,900. Please call 847-909-0181.

Fort Myers Beach condo for rent, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, corner unit, large heated pod, steps to wide, white sand beach. Lots of activities in area. Great summer and fall get away. Call for pricing and availability 219-627-4309.

Wanted

Wanted to buy: Old blue tire bicycles w/ tool or horn box, also front spring fork type: Schwinn, Elgin, Ranger, Monark, Silver King, J.C. Higgins, etc. Also older boys 20" banana seat models. Call 708-361-8230.

Wanted to buy: Sports Jerseys (Chicago Teams only) current or past famous players. No knockoffs. New or used, good shape, reasonably priced. Call 847-710-3168 after 11:00am.

Wanted: Clean, used, late model 14 ft wide or larger mobile home, to be moved. Call Rick at 708-670-2118.

Agriculture Related Ads

Agricultural clients: Weather by request is a weather consulting company (located in the Chicago area) that provides meteorological services for farms and other types of weather sensitive businesses throughout the state of Illinois for over 12 years. Short-term and long-range forecasts are available along with

climatological/weather info such as: •rain/temperature forecasts including departures from normal •weather highlights section •several weather probabilities •wind forecasts •drought forecasts/updates • long range outlooks/monthly/seasonal forecasts (2 to 5 weeks in advance) •info frequently updated. Call Ryan Zimmerman at 847-609-2395 or email at Weatherbyrequest@comcast.net for a 30 day free trial no obligation. Low prices. Meteorologist Ryan Zimmerman is featured each month on the RFD Radio Network (Town & Country Partners Program) where he discusses weather and climate in detail.

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 Co-Operator 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.



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

Mark your calendar for the
2018 "Farming for our Future" Gala
March 10, 2018, 6:00 pm
Ruffled Feathers Country Club, Lemont
Fun, Food, Festive (Did we mention fun?)
A benefit event for the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation...
Planting Seeds of Agricultural Literacy in Cook County

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.

Historic Wagner Farm to Host Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show



Join Cook County Farm Bureau® at this year's Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show at Wagner Farm in Glenview. The delicious, farm-style breakfast begins at 8 a.m. on June 10. After enjoying homemade pancakes and freshly grilled sausage, enjoy live music, dairy demonstrations, and hands-on activities at the Farm Bureau booth.

After the breakfast, view the 2nd annual Stock Show sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau. This drop-in show will feature lambs, pigs, dairy heifers and cows, as well as beef steers and heifers. Professional judges will evaluate the stock and select a top showman in each species. Exhibitors will be Lake, McHenry and Cook County 4-H and FFA members. This is a great opportunity to see and watch the youth of our counties showcase their hard work and dedication. Be sure to visit the Farm Bureau's "Ask a Farmer" booth to learn more about the different animals and animal care. The show will begin at 9 a.m.



Theme Park Tickets



Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL
Online 1-Day General tickets: \$45.63* (ages 3 yrs & up)
**\$8.99 processing fee per on-line order, plus tax*
Tickets bought directly from
Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$47.00**

**Tickets bought over the phone/in person are slightly higher but there is no processing fee or tax.



Raging Waves, Yorkville, IL
1-Day General Admission Tickets: \$18.00 *Ages 2 and under are FREE*
 Tickets only available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office



Silver Dollar City, Stone City, MO
Adult 1-Day: \$52.70, Child 1-Day (Ages 4-11): \$43.35
Ages 3 and under are free.
 Tickets for Silver Dollar City are only available online.



Santa's Village, East Dundee, IL
1-Day: \$16.25 *Ages 2 and under are free.*
 Tickets for Santa's Village are available online and at the CCFB office.

For pricing and to order tickets online for Six Flags Gurnee, Silver Dollar City and Santa's Village visit cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

To order tickets by phone call (708) 354-3276.

Planter Workshop Series continues at Ted's Greenhouse on June 24!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® is once again excited to be taking its members back to Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park as part of the planter workshop series sponsored by the CCFB Commodities & Marketing Team. Ted's Greenhouse is offering a unique workshop on designing succulent and cactus container bowls, a specialty at Ted's! Members and their guests are invited to join us by registering at 708.354.3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Succulent & Cactus Container Workshop at Ted's Greenhouse

Create a summer succulent or cactus planter and learn all of the potting design, care, tips, and tricks from the experts! Workshop includes 12 inch container, choice or combination of succulents and cacti. Join us and create a container worthy of your neighbors' and friends' envy! Attendees will also enjoy receiving a \$10 gift certificate to use for same day or future purchase at Ted's, compliments of the Cook County Farm Bureau!

- When:** Saturday, June 24, 2017
- Time:** 10:00 AM
- Where:** Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park
16930 S. 84th Ave. Tinley Park, IL 60487
- Fee:** \$35.00 * Includes \$10 gift certificate to Ted's Greenhouse, container and all materials. Gift Certificate can be used for same day or future purchase at Ted's Greenhouse.



*Plant material and dishes may vary from picture.

Prior registration required by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.
 Members may also register online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.



Join the Conversation

Individuals who like Farm Bureau's Facebook page and comment on or share the posts will be entered into a giveaway. Join Cook County farmers in conversations about modern farming practices. This summer's program will feature photos and videos of local farmers.

This summer's giveaway will be a \$150 grocery store or farm stand gift card AND a \$100 donation to a food pantry of the winner's choice.

The first winner will be chosen on May 25. Official contest rules will be posted at cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is sponsoring its first ever

Cook County FARM CRAWL!



SAVE THE DATE: The Cook County Farm Bureau is sponsoring its first ever FARM CRAWL on **Saturday, August 19, 2017**. The Farm Crawl is self-guided with no set schedules allowing members and the public flexibility to choose the farms and agri-businesses to visit during the CRAWL times. Full program details, and participating farms and business information will be available in the coming issues as well as on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy – we hope to see you on the farm on Saturday, August 19!

Soil Test Kits on Sale

Master Gardener Resource Center Opens!



Why should I test my soil?
 Soil testing takes the guess work out of soil improvement, growing plants and fertilizer recommendations insuring plant growth to its fullest potential.

How do I get a soil test kit?
 Contact the Cook County Farm

Bureau® at 708-354-3276 to request your soil test kit. You can purchase your kit by using a credit over the phone or mailing in a check. Upon payment, your soil test kit will be sent to you. Pricing is as follows: One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members), Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members). Lead testing is also available: \$37.00 for members (\$42.00 for non-members). The kit includes: soil sample bag (s), instructions on how to take a soil sample, questionnaire about your soil samples and a shipping box with a pre-paid USPS label. You will receive your test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Who can assist with results? Our Master Gardeners Resource Center can! The U of I Extension Master Gardeners are available to assist with soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification/ treatment and more!

Master Gardeners are available in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL during the office hours of 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Mondays and Thursdays through November 13. To contact a Master Gardener, call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email: mastergardener@cookcfb.org.