



CO-OPERATOR

To serve all our members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our agricultural heritage.

Mark Your Calendar

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SAVE THE DATE

September 11 2021 Farm Crawl

October 2 21st Annual Giant Pumpkin Contest

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

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

Question of the Month

What is the name of our special insert in this month's Co-Operator?

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

April's Winner is Ronald Malavis

As we celebrate member appreciation week in April, what is the Cook County Farm Bureau's most valuable asset?

Answer: "The Member"

The Co-Operator delivery update...

The Co-Operator, the monthly publication for Cook County Farm Bureau members, continues to be published on a monthly basis with the intent of it being delivered to members' mailboxes the first week of each month. Delivery delays have occurred due to increases in holiday packages and other large mail obligations of the Postal Service. We are hopeful that delivery delays will be minimal. We want to thank our members for sharing delivery concerns with us and for your patience. The E-Co-Operator, the electronic version of the Co-Operator publication, is sent to member's email addresses close to the first day of each month. Please let us know if you prefer to sign up for this method of delivery by calling our office at (708) 354-3276 or email juanita@cookcfb.org.

But Wait, There's More!

Go to www.cookcfb.org for these extras...

- Family Farm and Food Bytes
- John Deere Rewards Program for Members
- Farmers Market Managers Certified
- SBA Increases maximum on Disaster Loans
- Illinois EPA sets Household Hazardous Waste Collections
- CFAP 2 Sign-Up

CCFB Foundation Drawdown for Ag Education



The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Drawdown for Ag education was held the evening of March 23 and presented live using Zoom videoconferencing. Individuals in the photo above include Celebrity "Puller", Kevin Daugherty (centering red shirt), Director of Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement and Illinois Ag in the Classroom for the Illinois Farm Bureau, flanked by a team of drawing assistants (L-R) Tim Stuenkel, Diane Merriam, Janet McCabe, and Bob Rohrer. Members interested in viewing a recording of the presentation can go to the Foundation drawdown landing page on the Cook County Farm Bureau website. More photos and the results are available on page 3.

Start Seeing Monarchs Cook County Farm Bureau® to Install Pollinator Garden on Building Grounds

A third of the food and drink individuals consume depends on pollination. As a keystone group, the survival of many other plant and animal species depend on pollinators for their survival. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats.

However, pollinator numbers have declined steadily due to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation as well as insecticide, pesticide, disease, parasite, and invasive plant pressure.

To offset the loss of habitat, Farm Bureau is creating a 'Monarch Waystation,' a stopping point for monarchs as each fall hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to the mountains in central Mexico for the winter. They return in spring, specifically in May.

Farm Bureau's 'Monarch Waystation' is also a pollinator garden and will

provide habitat for a variety of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. The garden will be located along Stafford Road next to the Farm Bureau building and will provide a site for both pollinators and the community members wishing to enjoy the plants and pollinators.



Farm Bureau leaders, volunteers, and staff will install the garden this summer. A portion of the plant materials will be provided by the GROWMARK Pollinator Program. After construction and installation of the garden, the garden will be registered with Monarch Watch as an official Monarch Waystation.

Master Gardener Resource Center Re-opened in April

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and the University of Illinois Extension continue to partner on a project that benefits local Farm Bureau members and the general public. Since Monday, April 12th, the Master Gardeners have been available to answer questions from members and the general public related to gardening and horticulture. This program will run through mid-November of 2021.

Master Gardeners are available through the Cook County Farm Bureau

by emailing mastergardener@cookcfb.org or calling the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

General topic areas that can be addressed include soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification and treatment, and more. Commercial related questions will be forwarded to the University of Illinois Extension professional staff.

Who We Are...

Cook County Farm Bureau is made up of many members including farmers, landowners, foodies, greenhouse operators, specialty growers, food consumers and customers of the Farm Bureau's affiliated companies (Country Financial, Conserv FS, IAA Credit Union, etc.). We bring together many members with diverse backgrounds and food interests to support the success of local farmers and to keep agriculture present and strong in Cook County.

This Co-Operator publication is designed for members to share more about how Cook County Farm Bureau is working for local farmers and agriculture and to help our members know more about farming, food, fiber and bio-fuels. As an added value, we provide great membership deals, savings, discounts, benefits, programming and activities that reflect our agricultural heritage and members' modern expectations.

Please enjoy reading and thank you for your support of area agriculture and your membership!

Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year Nominations Now Open



Credit: Nestle Purina PetCare

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2022 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, supported by Purina. This is the fourth year of the contest, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers in producing nutritious food for families and their pets across America.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year’s worth of Purina dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January 2022. Up to four regional runners-up will each win \$1,000 in prize money.

“We’re excited to host this popular contest again and provide the general public with another glimpse into daily life on the farm,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Farm dogs often play a dual role as both working dogs and companions to farm families, which is especially important because farming and ranching can be stressful, even on the best days.”

Scientific research insights provided by our partner Purina reveal that interacting with pets can provide health benefits. For example, after spending just 20 minutes with a dog, people experienced a significant increase in levels of oxytocin, a hormone that plays a role in moderating stress. This was also associated with a decrease in heart rate and an increase in self-reported sense of well-being. Following the interaction with the dog, people were in a more positive emotional state.

Desired attributes for the Farm Dog of the Year include helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and obedience. The 2022 Farm Dog of the Year will also be featured in a

professionally produced video. The profile of 2021 Farm Dog of the Year Bindi can be viewed at <https://www.fb.org/land/fdoty>.

“For the fourth year in a row, Purina is proud to support the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Farm Dog of the Year contest,” said Jack Scott, VP of sustainability at Purina. “Pets have a positive impact on people’s lives as companions and contributors to farmers’ and ranchers’ operations. The outstanding nominations received help demonstrate that people and pets are better together. We look forward to hearing and seeing many more stories in this year’s contest.”

Farm dog owners must be Farm Bureau members to enter their dogs in the competition. Prospective applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit [fb.org/join](https://www.fb.org/join) to learn about becoming a member.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available at <https://www.fb.org/land/fdoty>. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, still photos and a video clip (optional), must be received by July 2, 2021, for consideration.

The Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The second annual social media contest, People’s Choice Pup, was a popular element of the Farm Dog of the Year competition in 2021 – reaching nearly 400,000 people – and will return for 2022. Profiles of the top 10 dogs will be shared beginning in October, with the public invited to vote. Bragging rights and a year’s worth of dog food from Purina will be awarded to the People’s Choice Pup.

Meat Featured in More Homecooked Meals, Part of Healthy Diet in ‘20

American shoppers rang up record purchases of beef, pork, poultry and lamb during the pandemic and considered it part of a healthy diet, according to a new national analysis from the Meat Institute and the food industry association FMI.

The Power of Meat study recently released showed most American homes, 98.4%, bought meat last year. Of those, 43% reported buying more meat than before the pandemic because they’re cooking more at home.

Consumers’ opinions about meat in their diet also changed. Now, three out of every four Americans agree meat belongs in healthy, balanced diets -- a nearly 20% gain since 2020. Another 94% reported buying meat as a high-quality protein.

With dining options restricted early during the pandemic, home-prepared meals peaked at

89% in April and stayed as high as 84% through December. Millennials, who are most likely to eat out, felt the largest impact.

One shopping trend that grew from pandemic restrictions may become permanent even as restrictions ease. The number of meat-buying consumers who bought groceries online increased 40% last year, and 59% reported they anticipate buying the same amount online this year.

“Shoppers are cooking more at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and their confidence in cooking and preparing meat has increased,” Rick Stein, FMI vice president of fresh foods, said in a statement.

The study was conducted by 210 Analytics on behalf of FMI and the Meat Institute’s Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education.



Gratitude Journal

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

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

The hundreds of members that entered the drawings for gift baskets and other items during our April 19 through April 23 Member Appreciation Week. We truly appreciate our members!

The 80 members that served as volunteers for the Cook County Farm Bureau and Foundation in various ways during the past year.

The Wake County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers who partnered with the Cook County Farm Bureau Young leaders for an exchange program and Tom Poole who set up the program from the Cook County side.

The Members and Partners that purchased tickets or sponsored the CCFB Foundation’s Drawdown for Ag Education to help provide farm experiences for youth and ag career scholarships for members seeking a higher education in Cook County.

A tremendous thank you to Jennifer Millns and the entire team at Haribo of America, Rosemont for their donation of gummies for Farm Bureau staff, volunteers, and leaders. Your donation was deliciously appreciated and enjoyed!



IFF Food Bags



Cook County Farm Bureau® 2021 Agriculture in the Classroom intern Emily Lopata delivers meal kits for the Illinois Farm Families® ‘Cook Along’ class with Chicago dietitians. This event featured casual conversation, farm and food engagement, and recipes featuring beef, pork, and cheese grown and raised at local farms. Emily will be with Farm Bureau through the end of summer.

Co-Operator

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Cook County Farm Bureau

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Past issues of the Co-Operator are available online at cookcfb.org/stay updated



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“The Iconic Tractor”

In the early 1900s, the development and the adoption of the tractor began to influence United States farmers and their production practices. Now, over a century later, we know the tractor effectively revolutionized farming, becoming an essential tool to help manage a volume of farm labor needs. And, in the process, the tractor also became an iconic part of the identity of the farm and the individual farmers that use them.

Red or Green?

This question likely means nothing to a non-farmer. However, to today’s farmer, it usually brings an immediate passion-filled reaction full of strong opinion.

The question is really a shortened version of, “What is the favorite color of your farm tractor?” The answer is either the “Red” Case IH (or Massey Ferguson) or the “Green” John Deere. These brands are the most prevalent across the country. Of course, there are other brands of tractors that feature a variety of colors including blue, yellow, orange, white, and other shades of green and red.

At the recent Young Leader exchange held between Cook County Farm Bureau and Wake County Farm Bureau Young farmers, we used this question as an icebreaker. One of the young leaders from North Carolina indicated that his favorite tractor was actually more “rust” colored. I can relate to rust-colored tractors. I didn’t know it at the time, but the Rohrer family farmed with “antiques” for many years.

When I was growing up, the Rohrer family farm had an eclectic collection of tractors of various brands, sizes, and colors. Probably the most dominant brand was the red Massey Ferguson but there were many other tractor colors that made appearances.

My first tractor driving experience at age eight was on a red International 350 loader tractor (That was the tractor in which I could not fully depress the clutch. Consequently, I couldn’t stop the tractor and ran through a fence that first time driving it). Many tractors came and went through the years depending on farm needs and upgrades made by The Farmer.

Other tractors I recall include:

- The yellow Minneapolis Moline 5 Star tractor; it was the only liquid petroleum fueled tractor we had on the farm
- The dark green Oliver 1850, the first diesel tractor I remember driving
- The orange Allis Chalmers 750, the shiniest and newest tractor to appear during my childhood
- The red Farmall 450 and the dark green Oliver 77 – narrow front “row crop” tractors that were not my favorites
- A yellow Case 567 CK with a front loader and backhoe that I used frequently on the hog farm
- The small blue Japanese Satoh Beaver tractor we used for running Power Take Off for the grain augers and field waterway mowing
- The red (rust colored) Massey Ferguson Super 90, one of my favorite tractors which was also one of the first tractors my grandfather owned
- The red Massey Ferguson 1130 and red Massey Ferguson 1150; I blame the MF 1150 on my loss of hearing (not the loud rock music that I used to listen to)
- From the John Deere camp, the green John Deere 4020; I fondly remember using this tractor throughout high school as the chore tractor. There was also the narrow front green John Deere 4010, but it did not have the power shift transmission that I favored.
- The silver White 4-150 – My grandfather’s first four-wheel-drive tractor which I would use during fall to pull a chisel plow during the midnight shift when the farm ground was cold enough to freeze

Over the years, many tractor colors have disappeared as tractor manufacturers merged with other tractor manufacturers and brands merged with other brands. I feel extremely fortunate to have driven and used so many different of tractor colors during my life.

I can’t just pick one color... my favorite tractor color is plaid.

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org

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0920-514HO

Please submit your recipes for the 2021 CookFresh Recipe Brochure by mailing to the Farm Bureau or email to: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.



CCFB Foundation Drawdown for Ag Education held March 23

Great excitement and suspense surrounded the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Drawdown for Ag Education that was held the evening of March 23, 2021. The event was shown live using Zoom video conference technology. A drawdown is a reverse raffle in which the last ball remaining is the grand prize winner. 214 numbered balls were included in the drum tumbler and each ball was randomly removed and recorded during the evening by celebrity “puller,” Mr. Kevin Daugherty, Director of Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement and Illinois Ag in the Classroom for the Illinois Farm Bureau, and a team of support volunteers and staff.

The prize “winners” selected during the event were:

CASH PRIZE WINNERS

<i>Gary Rauch</i>	\$2,500
<i>Dwayne Michaels</i>	\$1,750
<i>James Bilotta</i>	\$1,000
<i>Karen Biernacki</i>	\$500
<i>Gerry Kopping</i>	\$300
<i>Adelle Gutzmer</i>	\$400
<i>Tim Stuenkel</i>	\$200
<i>Erin Murray</i>	\$150
<i>Mandi McDaniel</i>	\$150
<i>Roger Freeman</i>	\$150
<i>Joe McCabe</i>	\$100

<i>Kevin Halterman</i>	\$100
<i>Gail Petersdorff</i>	\$100
<i>Sharon Stemke</i>	\$300
<i>Michael Bellah</i>	\$100
GIFT CARD WINNERS	
<i>Chris Posta</i>	<i>Eli’s Cheesecake</i>
<i>Kim Morton</i>	<i>Lou Malnati’s</i>
<i>Bob Quetsch</i>	<i>Home Run Inn</i>
<i>Jeff Orman</i>	<i>Delta Sonic</i>

A number of members receiving prizes donated their winnings back to the Foundation!

The Foundation Fundraising Committee would like to thank all that participated, sponsored, and were a part of the Cook

County Farm Bureau Foundation’s Drawdown for Ag Education reverse raffle. Foundation President, Janet McCabe, expressed, “We have great appreciation to all involved for the great teamwork to bring the event to a successful conclusion that exceeded our fundraising goal of \$10,000, expanded our message of the importance of food and farming knowledge in our area, and broadened our base of support of individuals in the Ag Literacy space.”

Members interested in viewing the recording of the event can access it at: <https://cookcfb.org/foundation/ccfb-foundation-drawdown-for-ag-education-fundraiser>.



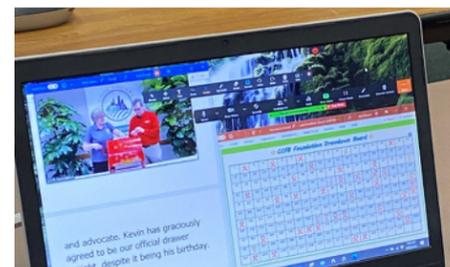
Volunteer Jeff Orman served behind the scenes as the cue card director.



Kevin Daugherty and Janet McCabe practice the ball pulling process prior to the event.



Tim Stuenkel shared with Kevin Daugherty a great response to question, “As chairman of the Ag Literacy Team, what is the biggest ag education need in Cook County?” during a brief intermission.



Cook County Farm Bureau staff provided behind the scenes technology support for the Drawdown event providing the opportunity for members and ticket purchasers to watch the event live.

Bring on the Beef May is National Beef Month



The occasion marked the first time my husband's family had dined out together in at least 16 months, and we celebrated the moment of normalcy with beef. The ten of us sat in a semi-private space at a favorite steakhouse, more than six feet from anyone but our waiter. My filet was fantastic, cuttable by butter knife and made even better surrounded by family.

National Beef Month appropriately claims the month of May, when hamburgers and steaks frequent the backyard grill. This American pastime also shares roots in farm family tradition. The National Beef Checkoff reports 91% of U.S. cattle farms and ranches are owned by families. In Illinois, farmers care for just over 1 million beef cows and calves on almost one-fourth of the state's farms, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In some rural townships, cows outnumber people.

On our farm, the genetics of the small herd of beef cattle trace back to Grandpa's decades as a cattleman. Hedge posts harvested from

the farm frame the pasture fence, and we paid the local FFA chapter to build the feed bunks in the cattle lots. Some of our farm's favorite photos have come from sunset's glow on the pasture or the cattle shading themselves under the big burr oak. Cattle live in tandem with the environment, from co-existence with wildlife to the carbon sequestration of managed grazing on land unsuitable for growing food crops.

For generations, our farm-raised beef has taken prominent space in the chest-style freezers at family and employee homes. The practice of freezing a year's worth of beef moved mainstream during the pandemic. Many local meat processors, including ours, are so booked with work that our farm for the first time scheduled custom beef processing more than 18 months in advance for unborn animals.

Absent a social calendar for much of a year, our household commonly prepared beef for dinner. Beef tacos, smoked pulled beef, burgers, beef stew and roast beef dinners brought us around the table. I look forward to the summer meals, when we can throw a steak on the grill and cook some garden veggies for a simple, nutritious meal with protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins from the main course alone.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Cook County 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 March 2021. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy., #200 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



Natasha Hodzic

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Natasha Hodzic has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. Her office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-427-2851. Natasha has been a Financial Representative since November 2019.



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Matt has been a Financial Representative since February 2005.



Ray Massie Jr.

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Ray Massie Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. His office is located at 25 NW. Point Blvd. Ste. 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-794-1217. Ray has been a Financial Representative since May 2019.



Tim Merhtens

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager
Tim Merhtens has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. His office is located at 21 Howard Ave, Roselle IL. His phone number is 630-582-3300. Tim has been a Financial Representative since October 2001.



***Renata Bondarowicz**

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager
Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



***Steve Phillips**

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Steve Phillips has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., #150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Steve has been a Financial Representative since July 2020.



Kirk Gregory Jr.

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2021. His office is located at 1401 S. State., #105 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-619-0649. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since February 2018.



Tim Hartnell

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Tim Hartnell has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2021. His office is located at 1938 E. Lincoln Hwy., Unit 217 in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is 815-462-0023. Tim has been a Financial Representative since January 1993.



***Dan Gallivan**

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Dan Gallivan has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 2021. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St., in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone is 708-381-4015. Dan has been a Financial Representative since January 2018.



Elliot Day

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Elliot Day has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2021. His office is located at 2559 Flossmoor Rd., in Flossmoor, IL. His phone number is 708-679-1870. Elliot has been a Financial Representative since May 2009.



John Tymms

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
John Tymms has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 2021. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone is 708-480-5091. John has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

**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.*

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Classifieds

All ads that we receive for *The Co-Operator* are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad.

Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to fbcooperator@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following month's *Co-Operator*. Members may run up to four non-commercial classified ads annually for free. Any ads submitted after the fourth, will be charged.

If mailing your ad, please mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attention: Classified Ads, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056.

For Sale

Price reduced, many possibilities, 2350 sq. ft. brick commercial (Zone B) building, with full basement, excellent location, 1 mile from expressway, 3 blocks from Arlington Park train station and Arlington Park racetrack. Call Rita 847-259-9339.

Cyber ARC Trainer 620A. This is a commercial quality cardio exercise trainer. Includes TV monitor. Awesome workouts. No electric needed so you can place this machine anywhere in your house or gym. Has multiple programs, heart rate monitoring, Inclines and much more. Call Dave for details, test rides and photos 312-951-6412. \$2400 obo.

New Pella windows and used doors for sale. 1 double hung window 74x35 \$200. 1 half moon round top window double hung 33x69 \$150. 1 triangle window good for gable roof 71x28 inches \$100. French solid oak wood door 32' excellent condition \$100. Fur door 32' with a 24x24 window \$70. Call Louis 847-361-9292 or email loufoutris@gmail.com in the Chicago Area.

Designer MODECA sleeveless lace, off white wedding gown. Perfect condition with beautiful train. Size 2-4. \$250. Call 708-369-0925.

Collector buying coins and currency looking for Civil War notes and colonial currency. Please call 847-839-9500.

For Sale. 1947 Farmal A. Great mechanical condition. Barn kept. Comes with a one bottom plow, three row cultivator setup, a PTO pulley. Mount Prospect. Contact Jim at 224-415-6194.

1974 INTL. HARVESTOR 184 CUB, LOWBOY "RED", HAS 60" I.H., MID-MOUNT MOWER DECK, HARD TO TELL FROM NEW, NEEDS NOTHING, LOW HOURS \$4950. 847-358-0972 DON.

Wanted

One thing to buy your electric trains and slot cars, turn those unwanted trains and slot cars into cash. Call Ron 630-272-4433.

Wanted 1972 older cars, Trucks/ parts unfinished projects. Call 708-439-9770.

For commercial promo & discounts go to our member to member link: <https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-to-member>

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

For Cook County Farm Bureau members All Cook County Farm Bureau members may run four non-commercial classified ads annually for free in the *Co-Operator*. Only items of personal property will be accepted. Ads must be in the office by the 17th of each month.

Category:

For Sale For Rent Wanted

To place an ad, call the CCFB office at 708-354-3276 or mail details to Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056 or email to juanita@cookcfb.org.

Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum



DISCOVER LOCAL

Co-Operator May 2021 Pull-Out Section

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® in supporting agricultural and small businesses.

Greenhouse, Garden Centers, Farm Stands & Landscape

Big John's Farm Market

1754 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights
(708) 758-2711



Brandau's Farmstand

10544 W. 191 St., Mokena
(708) 479-7575



Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse

2785 E. Lincoln Hwy., Lynwood
(708) 758-1565



Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot

2061 E 14th St., Lynwood
(708) 758-8500



Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center

40 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington
(847) 428-672



Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch

42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire
(847) 464-5952



Growing Solutions Farm

2200 W. Campbell Park Drive, Chicago



Horchers Farm & Country Flower Shop

910 McHenry Rd., Wheeling
(847) 541-3276



M & D Farms

14946 Bell Rd., Homer Glen
(708) 935-1715



McCarthy Farms

9700 W 167th St., Orland Park
(708) 349-2158



Featured Local Businesses

- Flowers
- Vegetables
- Landscape
- Farm Stands
- Honey & Bees
- Livestock & Feed
- Hay & Straw
- And Much More!!

Crete Garden Center & Nursery

1625 East Richton Rd., Crete
(708) 672-0900



Gorman Farm Fresh Produce

6607 West Bruns Rd., Monee
(708) 534-2375



Kolze's Corner Gardens

12717 Rt. 176, Woodstock
(815) 338-1475



- Equine



- Herbs



- Flowers



- Honey



- Feed



- Landscape



- Farm Stand



- Livestock



- Hay/Straw



- Vegetables



Livestock, Equine, Hay & Straw

Deer Creek Farms

360 E Glenwood-Dyer Rd., Glenwood

(708) 441-7751



Double J Riding Club

10545 W. 74th St., Countryside

(708) 528-4674



Forest View Farms

16717 S Lockwood, Tinley Park

(708) 560-0306



Janet McCabe

8420 W. 135 St., Orland Park

(708) 259-7319



Kopping Farms

12300 115th St., Lemont

(630) 257-7271



Ludwig's Feed Store

13205 131st St., Lemont

(630) 257-3097



Mark Yunker

24400 S Scheer Rd., Frankfort

(708) 309-2622



Mike Rauch

18330 67th Ct., Tinley Park

(708) 269-6961



Stanley Luke Farms

10101 5th Ave Cutoff, LaGrange

(708) 352-1073



The Feed Store

5400 S Harlem Ave., Summit, IL

(708) 458-1327



Hours may change,
call before you go!

Greenhouse, Garden Centers, Farm Stands, & Landscape Cont.



Melka Landscaping and Garden Center

11606 179th St., Mokena

(708) 349-6989



Santa Fe Landscaping & Nursery Inc

3450 W Crete Monee Rd., Monee

(708) 534-3600



Smits Farms

3437 E. Sauk Trail, Chicago Hts

(708) 758-1244



Van Kalker Farms & Greenhouses

1808 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Hts

(708) 758-1732



Wagner Farms

1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview

(847) 657-1506



Zeldenrust Farm Market

1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Hts

(708) 758-5058



Ray's Quality Greenhouse

117 E. 231st St., Steger

(312) 608-7042



Schroeder's Home Landscape &

Drainage Supply

10800 Southwest Hwy., Worth

(708) 448-1144



Ted's Greenhouse, Inc.

16930 S. 84th Ave., Tinley Park

(708) 532-3575



VanderGriends Farm Stand

2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd., Lansing

(708) 474-1255



West End Florist & Garden Center

3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston

(847) 251-1943



The Farm on Ogden/Windy City Harvest

35555 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago

(847) 835-6807



www.cookcfb.org

6438 Joliet Road. Countryside, Illinois

(708) 354-3276

ccfb@cookcfb.org



Bees & Honey



Bee All About It
(630) 207-4255

Bee Wild Honey
2831 Edgewood Pkwy., Woodridge
(630) 853-2704

Brad's Bees & Honey
(262) 749-0716

Deane Day
(630) 516-3676

The Hive
1701 S. Clinton Ave., Chicago
(312) 989-0551

Fairways Farms & Apiary at Cog Hill Golf Club
12294 Archer Ave., Lemont
(630) 918-9179

Moraine Valley Honey Farm
(630) 816-0738

Puckerville Farms
13332 Bell Rd., Lemont
(708) 508-0906

S & S Apiaries
24222 S Center Rd., Frankfort
(815) 464-1566

Zee's Bees
1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Hts
(708) 758-5058

Value Added



Agritourism

Deer Creek
360 Glenwood Dyer Rd. Glenwood
(708) 441-7751

Delair's Corn Stalk Farm
13901 Wolf Road, Orland Park
(708) 785-9532

GlennArt Farm
5749 W. Midway Park, Chicago
(847) 612-7315

Fencing
Freeman Fencing
3515 Cleveland Ave., Brookfield
(800) 495-0485

Crop Protectants

Conserv FS
1110 McConnell Rd., Woodstock
(815) 334-5950

Conserv FS
7851 183rd St., Tinley Park
(708) 532-4723

Consultant
Hemp Cultivation Consultant
(815) 790-9565

Poole Consulting
(773) 391-7917

Florists
Kiko's Flower Shop
127 N. NW Hwy., Park Ridge
(847) 696-4226

Distillery/Winery

Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.
11504 Keslinger Rd., DeKalb
(844) 494-4753

Garlic & Mushrooms

Galena Garlic Company
311 S Main St., Galena
(815) 777-9625

Galena Garlic Company
318 W State St., Geneva
(855) 464-2754

Gibby's Gourmet Mushrooms, LLC
10347 Oxford Ave. Chicago Ridge
(708) 912-0991 or (708) 307-3732

Windy City Mushrooms
3125 West Chicago Ave, Chicago



We always run the risk of leaving a Cook County Farm Bureau member business off a list like this and that is certainly not our intention. We continue to update the "Buy Local" area of our website and encourage any member who wants to be added to the database to contact the office at (708) 354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org.

SHOP LOCAL

Our Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Join and register your business today. Whether you are a farmer looking to reach new customers or a consumer looking for fresh produce, local dairy, or a brewery in your area – our Shop Local directory is a MUST-HAVE resource!

Want to access more potential member agriculturally related business or register your business....

Visit us at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local> or contact Debbie at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org for additional details.

Not a part of the directory – Register Your Local Food or Farm Business today at <https://foodmarketmaker.com/registration>.



www.cookcfb.org (708) 354-3276
 6438 Joliet Road. Countryside, Illinois ccfb@cookcfb.org

10 WAYS CCFB IS HELPING MEMBERS

10. Resources for the entire family

Visit www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources for family activities.

9. Amazing volunteers

Farm Bureau volunteers, leaders, and staff are committed to assisting members and creating programs, activities, and benefits our members want.

8. Fun whether you want to leave your home or not.

Visit our Facebook page for trivia, programs, and more online or in person.

7. Gardening resources and connections

Visit <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-products-locator> for information on area greenhouses, garden centers, and farmstands.

6. Insurance and Banking resources

Members are eligible to access great insurance products through Country Financial and utilize the IAA Credit Union to take advantage of industry low rates for mortgage and loans, credit card rates, and more.

5. A “Team” Approach

We believe that the best way to help the community, is to work with our neighbors and that’s why we donate time, talent, and financial resources to different organizations like the Greater Chicago Food Depository and local food pantries.

4. “Buy Local”

Discounts to restaurants like Home Run Inn, Beggars Pizza, and Culver’s for you and your family.

3. Discounts to help you save money

Rebates to Ford and discounts to Grainger, John Deere, and more.

2. The “Abenity” App

Over 300,000 member discounts available at your fingertips through your phone or computer.

1. Value

Every dollar of membership dues goes to support your organization’s efforts to support local farmers and the healthy and nutritious food they grow and raise.



Thank you for your CCFB Membership!!



Cook County Farm Bureau

6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
(708) 354-3276
ccfb@cookcfb.org

Visit our website

www.cookcfb.org

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



By Bona Heinsohn,
CCFB Director of Gov.
Affairs and Public
Relations

April marked an important moment for Illinois. No, not April Fool's Day. Or spring showers. Not even Hug Newperson Day. And unfortunately, not my personal favorite, Jeep 4x4 Day. Instead of my favorite, glossy black

Jeep Grand Cherokee, April brings us our local government elections.

Every two years we have the opportunity (yes, opportunity) to elect our local officials, our mayors, aldermen, supervisors, road Commissioners, library board, and more!

Local officials touch individuals' lives more often than the President, U.S. Senators, Congressmen, State Senators, or State Representatives. Think I'm wrong?

You want to build a fence? Local government. Your garbage not being removed? Local government. Oh, you want to add that pool in your backyard. Local government. Can't make it to work because your road isn't plowed. Local government. Unhappy that you can't get that cable channel? Local government. Neighbor's dog keeping you up all night. Local government.

Prior to moving to our new-to-us farmhouse, I served as aldermen for nearly four years. It wasn't glamorous. It was a lot of meetings. Finance. Zoning and Ordinance. Park Board. Library Board. A lot of meetings. Over the years, I handled water bill complaints. 'No truck' traffic road signs. And a zoning ordinance rewrite that briefly included backyard chickens.

Local government isn't glamorous. It is fancy. It may sound cliché but it's more like making sausage. You just chug along. And things slowly move forward.

In April, voter turnout hit another low.

Perhaps it was voter fatigue or pandemic fatigue. Just under 75,000 Cook County voters graced the polls during early voting this spring. In comparison nearly 433,000 Cook County early voters traveled to the polls prior to the November 2020 election. Historically, voter turnout for off-year elections is low, especially compared to turnout during a Presidential Election.

This fall's Presidential Election was highly political, contentious, and well-attended. Perhaps voters were tired this spring or needed a break after the onslaught of political ads and negativity. Or perhaps it was the continuing controversy over the election results.

Arguably, the low turnout in April could have also been a result of the psychological letdown among some voters after the November election. I was raised to respect the office regardless of which party won. I guess you can say I'm a "movin' on and movin' out" kind of person.

Political experts worry that the low turnout was due to the nationwide controversy over Georgia's recent election law change. Generally, statute changes places restrictions on vote by mail procedures and increases the legislature's control over elections. Notably, photo identification is required for absentee vote by mail and the time-frame for absentee voting is reduced.

Regardless of the reason and regardless of how non-glamorous local government is, it is incredibly important that individuals vote in off-year elections. Local government touches your life daily. Lawn too long? Code enforcer may be visiting. Garbage cans not put away. Hello again code enforcer. Want to add a driveway. Local government.

Local government touches individuals' lives daily. Every single day.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org

Farm Bureau Continues Efforts on Clean Energy

Farm Bureau staff and leadership continues efforts in the arena of clean energy. Efforts center around minimizing any negative impacts to agriculture, to promote the use of renewable fuels as a solution for reduction emissions from the transportation sector while ensuring that private property rights of landowners are protected, and that Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements are utilized.

Items of interest include:

Clean Energy Jobs Act

House Bill 804 sponsored by Representative Ann Williams and Senate Bill 1718 sponsored by Senator Castro are large omnibus bills dealing with numerous renewable energy issues. Among the items included in the bill are:

- A goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Establishment of various programs supporting renewable energy development
- Creation of programs to support equity in renewable energy development
- Fixed resource requirement where the Illinois Power Agency would determine generation resources for the northeast portion of Illinois, an increase in the cost caps for additional renewable energy credits
- Transmission line planning process convened by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)
- Creation of authority for local governments to plan for climate change and energy development

- Programs to increase the number of electric vehicles on the road
- Changes to net metering for individual renewable energy generation
- Changes to ICC hearings on projects

At this time, Farm Bureau opposes both House Bill 804 and Senate Bill 1718.

Standards for County Wind Energy Ordinances

Senate Bill 1602 sponsored by Senator Cunningham places restrictions on what can be included in county zoning ordinances that regulate wind energy. The bill specifies:

- Maximum setback distances
- Maximum blade tip height limitations
- Limitations on sound regulations

Senate Bill 1602 also states that a county may not place any restriction on the installation or use of a commercial wind energy facility, except by adopting an ordinance that complies with the provisions and may not establish siting standards for supporting facilities that preclude development of commercial wind energy facilities.

Senate Bill 1602 would eliminate the possibility of county ordinances that require protections for farmland owners like adhering to Agriculture Impact Mitigation Agreements, drainage protections, and other items.

Farm Bureau opposes Senate Bill 1602 as drafted. If amended to better align with Farm Bureau policy on wind and solar energy, this position may change.

County Considering Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Cook County's Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee remains committed to revising the county's ethics ordinance, specifically, sections related to fiduciary duty. The changes provide that officials, Board or commission appointees, and employees shall disclose any conflicts of interests to the appropriate party and recuse oneself from voting or participating in a decision involving the conflict of interest.

Changes further provide that any covered individual shall not participate in making or presiding over making any decision on an agenda item that they know or has reason to know that they or their relative has any economic interest in, derived income from, or expect to derive income from.

When conflict of interests arise, covered officials must disclose the conflict, nature of such, and extent in writing to the Board Secretary or applicable secretary as soon as the covered individual becomes aware of the conflict. Notice must be made within 24 hours of the introduction of any ordinance, resolution, contract, order, administrative action, or other

matter before the covered individual. Disclosures will be available for public inspection upon request.

In addition, the amendment further prohibits the hiring of a covered individual's relative. Covered individuals cannot participate in a hiring decision of a relative or supervise or participate in the evaluation of a relative unless such supervision is:

- Required by law;
- Properly disclosed to the Board and the Board provides written approval; or
- The supervisory arrangement issue predates the enactment of the ordinance amendment.

Cook County Farm Bureau® leadership and staff continues to monitor the issue and committee meetings and will provide comment if deemed necessary. Members interested in providing feedback or seeking additional information please contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Elimination of Stepped-up Basis Poses Hazards to Family Farms

Potential Capital Gains Taxes are Significantly Larger than Cash Rental Rates

Capital gains taxes are based on the change in the value of an asset, such as farmland, livestock or timber, when that asset is sold. Currently, the top capital gains tax rate is 20%. To reduce the capital gains tax, farmers and ranchers use stepped-up basis, which provides a reset for the basis during intergenerational transfers. In effect, upon the transfer of assets following a death, the basis is reset to the market value at the date of death. Following the adjustment, taxes can be levied only on gains realized by the individual during his or her ownership, not on gains realized prior to the step up in basis.

Any change in capital gains tax policy that eliminates or scales back stepped-up basis could result in a massive tax burden on the agricultural sector. The magnitude of the burden depends on the change in the asset value, but it would likely significantly exceed the annual income generated by the assets. In fact, it could take years of returns to equal the amount of the tax.

Change in Cropland Values and Estimated Capital Gains Tax

One of the reasons the step up in basis is so important to farmers is the asset values in agriculture have appreciated significantly in recent years. As a result, when farmland is inherited, without a step up in basis, many farmers would face very significant capital gains taxes. For example, since 1997 (the first year of land value data from USDA) the average cropland value in the U.S. has increased by 223%, rocketing from \$1,270 per acre to \$4,100 per acre. In portions of the Corn Belt, the change in land values is even more significant.

In high-productivity cropland areas such as Iowa and Illinois, the average cropland value has increased by more than \$5,000 per acre since 1997.

Putting Capital Gains Taxes into Perspective

A capital gains tax of more than \$500 per acre does not immediately convey the

significance or magnitude of the tax increase, so it's important to put this tax into perspective. Farming is an asset-intensive and low-margin sector. According to USDA-Economic Research Service's February 2021 Farm Income Forecast, the projected five-year average rate of return on farm assets is 2.8%- significantly lower than the median five-year average return on assets for the S&P 500 of nearly 8.0%. At this rate, \$1 million in farm assets would only generate an annual income of \$27,800. As a result of lower returns on farmland assets, taxes based on asset valuation become even more significant for agricultural producers because the assets generate much lower returns than other asset classes.

Summary

To minimize the impact of burdensome capital gains taxes, farmers and ranchers use stepped-up basis, which provides a reset for the asset value basis during intergenerational transfers. Capital gains taxes are based on the change in the value of an asset, such as farmland, livestock or timber, when that asset is sold. Assuming a very likely capital gains tax rate of 20%, without stepped-up basis, it's estimated that the tax burden on farmers and ranchers inheriting cropland would be significantly larger than the cash rental income generated on the farmland. In the case of most farm operations, the capital gains tax would take several years of rental income to pay the tax obligation.

Heirs facing these taxes would incur steep costs from selling the land, thereby increasing costs for everyone in the marketplace. If an estate is passed on with debt, it may not be possible for the family to meet the tax obligation. To protect these family farms and minimize the impact of capital gains taxes, it's important that farms have continued access to stepped-up basis. Eliminating stepped-up basis to generate more federal income risks the livelihood of America's family farms and the economic sustainability of these family operations long into the future.

Hello Ciao Guten Tag Hola Bonjour Tere Olá Shalom Translate to other Languages

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

Cześć Aloha Zdravo Salam Dobry den Hei God Dag Alo

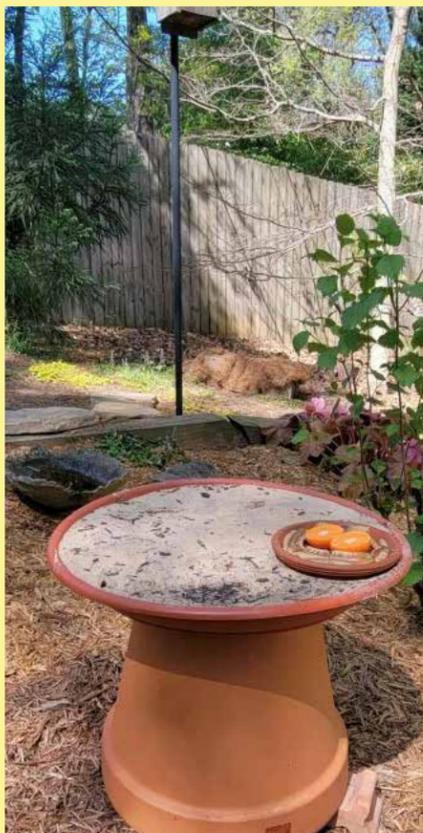
Ag Lit Bit

“A Puddling Station”



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

We all have the special someone who is always creating, educating, and opening our eyes to new ways of experiencing the joy of nature. I have that someone who I equate to the Dr. Doolittle of birds and the Martha Stewart of crafting all things nature. It is a gene she inherited from her Mom and Dad and she generously shares with her friends and family. One of her long-time favorite creations are leaf castings (below) that are made by finding strong, interesting, thickly veined leaves. Once gathered, Shelli hand mixes mortar, molds the leaves, dries, (paint optional) and uses for beautiful garden accents or water sources with some molded shapes. While Shelli can mix endless buckets without pause, my mortar mixing skills are rather weak, thus reducing my productivity. Her latest project, however, does not require intense mortar mixing abilities.



Use shallow pan/container like a large clay or plastic pot saucer that can hold some water and sand. To provide the salts and amino acids the butterflies are searching for, add a small amount of soil, composted manure or salt and mix with your sand. You can mix in salt (table salt or rock salt) to the sand at a rate of 1/2 to 3/4 cup salt to 1 gallon of sand to provide some minerals for the butterflies. Smooth out your sand and create a slight indentation in the center for your puddle. Add water and then place in your butterfly garden. The sand needs to be kept moist, which can be easily done by placing the pan under a soaker hose or near a water source. Replace water daily or as needed, depending on your temperatures. If you would like more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3ahxaGx>.

We are excited to be creating a Pollinator Garden here at the farm bureau (see information in this issue). Who knows, maybe we will create a puddling station in honor of all the nature lovers, especially Shelli, whose puddling station is shown above. Happy Spring!

For more information, contact Diane Merrion, aitc@cookcfb.org.



Her newest creation is what she called a puddler. That piqued my curiosity. She taught me that butterflies assemble around puddles to fill their need for salt and nutrients. As Horticulture Extension Educator, Nancy Kreith shared with me, “Often times we see groups of butterflies gather on wet sand or mud. This is an activity called “puddling” and the butterflies are going to the wet sand or mud to obtain minerals from the soil. Adding some small “puddling” areas in a butterfly garden will also help attract butterflies.”

While there are many ways to make one, here are the basics:

Materials:

- Shallow container
- Sand
- Soil, composted manure and/or salt

Energize Your Curriculum with Agriculture and Horticulture!

Our three day experience will provide speakers and local tours where you will learn about careers, food supply, conservation and much more. Walk away with lessons, resources and, most of all, a new understanding of the agricultural connections to your existing curriculum.

Contact Diane at aitc@cookcfb.org

Cost: \$70 (members*) or \$100 (non-members)
Includes: All materials, books, speakers, tours, and supplies. Lunch provided as part of in-person social distanced tours. 22 PDCH credits included



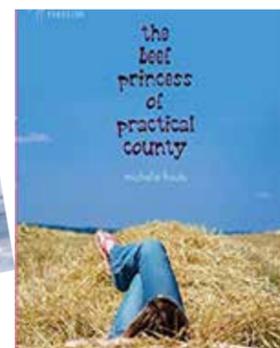
for more information or to apply visit us at <http://bit.ly/sai2021>

~ CATTLE, FARMERS MARKETS AND MORE ~

Teachers, students, families, individuals interested in where their food comes from, be sure to take advantage of the exciting May opportunities from Illinois Ag in the Classroom



May 6
Virtual Field Trip
Derrer Farms
Register at
<https://iaite.co/fieldtrips>



May 7
Virtual Author Visit
Michelle Houts
Register at
<https://iaite.co/authorvisits>



May 15
PD in your PJ's
Register at:
<http://bit.ly/PDsPJ>



For more family fun, activities, and lessons visit Illinois Ag in the Classroom at:
<https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/>

Grants for Teachers

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture® announced resource grants honoring the work of long-time AFBF staff member and former foundation executive director, Christy Lilja. The Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants will provide 50 educators with \$100 each to purchase agricultural literacy resources from the Foundation store for their classrooms.

Lilja's family established the CSL Foundation in her memory following her heroic battle with cancer in 2019. Lilja's dedication to agricultural education lives on through the work of the Foundation and the resource grants in her name. For grant application visit <https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/CSL-resource-grants> or contact Diane at aitc@cookcfb.org. Grant deadline is 6/30/2021.



High school students are learning about careers in the field of agriculture through our new Farm Shadow Program. Farm Bureau Board Member Tim Stuenkel recently shared his background and experiences in his role as Global Marketing Communications Manager at TeeJet Technologies with students in District 211. For more information or to request a career speaker for your school, visit <https://bit.ly/CustomAg>.

Introducing Our Summer Intern



Emily Lopata

The Ag Literacy team is excited to welcome our Summer 2021 Intern, Emily Lopata. Majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Business Administration, Emily attends Illinois State University. “My

family has a farm in Rockton, Illinois where we raise Belted Galloway cattle, grow a big garden, and make our own maple syrup!”. Some fun facts

Emily shared include:

- I love going to the farmers’ market with my mom in the summer.
- I enjoy spending time outdoors, walking my dog, and going fishing!
- I am the President of Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority at Illinois State University.

Emily will help lead our Ag Literacy programs this summer including presenting to local libraries in person and virtually, organizing teacher professional development programs, and creating content for next year’s educational outreach efforts.

For your comprehensive access to membership discounts & offers, go to
Go to www.cookcfb.org/membership

Agriculture Adventures for Families

Apples, peaches, pumpkin pie! Raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries too. What about avocados, almonds, tomatoes, and cucumbers? What do these have in common you might guess? Besides being an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber, they all depend upon pollinators! Look for the sights and listen for the sounds of pollinators all around you this beautiful month of May.

This month we are going to let you test your knowledge about pollinators. Let's see how well you do!



1. True or False: There are about 4,000 species of bees in the U.S.
2. True or False: Pollinators are important to sustaining functioning ecosystems and food supplies for wildlife.
3. True or False: Bees feed on both nectar and pollen.
4. True or False: One bush or one clump of perennials is often all it takes to foster native bees in your yard.
5. True or False: The loss of plant diversity does not affect the health of native bees.
6. True or False. Along with bees, bats, birds and butterflies, some beetles are also pollinators.
7. Yes or No. To bee or not to bee?
8. True or False: Other methods of pollination include beetles, birds, flies, water and wind.

Answers:



1. True. There are nearly 20,000 known bee species in the world, and 4,000 of them are native to the United States. Native bees come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. And all these bees have jobs, as pollinators.
2. True: While the importance of a healthy pollinator population to agriculture is clear, pollinators are just as important to sustaining functioning ecosystems and food supplies for wildlife.
3. True. Bees feed on both nectar and pollen – the nectar is for energy, and the pollen provides protein and other nutrients. Most pollen is used by bees as larvae food, but bees also transfer it from plant-to-plant providing the pollination services needed by plants and nature as a whole.
- 4: True. Bees are tiny; one bush or one clump of perennials is often all it takes to foster native bees in your yard. Within a mile of your yard (urban or rural) there are at least 100 species of bees looking for the right plants. Attracting and tending these native bees on your property is all about planting the right flowers and flowering bushes.
5. False. Loss of plant diversity is the primary cause of native bee decline, and 30-50% of all native bees are highly specialized.
6. True. Bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles provide vital but often invisible pollination services that support terrestrial wildlife and plant communities, and healthy watersheds. Beetles are among the earliest prehistoric pollinators.
7. Yes. To bee! Native bees are estimated to pollinate 80 percent of flowering plants around the world. According to the USDA, bees of all sorts pollinate approximately 75 percent of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the United States, and one out of every four bites of food people take is courtesy of bee pollination. In sum, bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value each year.
8. True. Fun Fact is that plants pollinated by water release pollen onto the surface or beneath the surface of the water. On the surface of the water, the pollen floats to another flower. The pollen grains released beneath the surface are heavier than water. That pollen sinks and is caught by flowers that grow underwater.

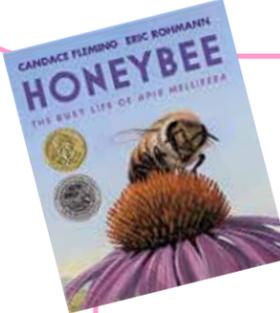
Source: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/test-your-bee-and-other-pollinator-knowledge>

What is Pollination?



Pollination is a very important part of the life cycle of plants. Plants cannot produce seeds unless they are pollinated. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the stamen to the pistil of the flower. There are two methods of pollination. The most common method is cross-pollination where pollen is transferred between flowers on two different plants. Self-pollination takes place when pollination occurs within just one flower or between flowers on the same plant.

Source: www.agintheclassroom.org



If you'd like the opportunity to see a honeybee up-close, look no further than this amazing picture book by Illinois author, Candace Fleming.

As you turn the pages you will see (through the illustrator's astonishing work) and learn about the life cycle of hard-working honeybees.



May Word Search

Bees

Butterfly

Flower

Method

Native

Nectar

Perennial

Pistil

Plants

Pollen

Species

Stamen

Transfer

Water

Wildlife

Wind

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

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.

Choose your prize:

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

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

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2021 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is..



Deming Sun

Programs, Workshops, and Webinars

For Members, Farmers, Teachers, Landowners, Foodies, Business owners, and those that want new experiences and to have a great time!

Register today for the following great programs by calling the office at 708-354-3276 or at www.cookcfb.org



SHOP LOCAL Webinar for Local Food or Farm Businesses - Lunch & Learn RESCHEDULED
Hear from SHOP LOCAL site experts and learn how to Register or Login to Your Local Food or Farm Business Profile! Our Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Join and register your business today. Once you join, you can login and access your account profile as often as you need. The

more information you place on your profile, the more searchable you become to the consumer and across a joint network of affiliations. You can also add an e-commerce store or link to an existing store. Grab your lunch and learn with us!

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Webinar via Zoom or call in by phone – info and link will be sent the day before class

Price: Free for members & guests

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



Virtual "Wine Wednesday" Tasting

Join Terry Landschoot, certified wine specialist, to taste, discuss, and evaluate your favorite wine or 2 (you purchase and pick your favorite) during this one hour "Introduction to Wine" session. We will create tasting notes to help you develop your wine palate. Limited participants.

Date: May 19, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom (the zoom link will be emailed to all participants the evening before the class)

Price: \$10 for members

Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276

or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Save the Dates – details coming:

- 2021 Farm Crawl – Saturday, September 11, 2021
- 21st annual Giant Pumpkin, Honey, Carving, Dessert & Youth Contest – Saturday, October 2, 2021

Soil Testing Kits Available

Cook County Farm Bureau offers both members and non-members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth's store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs, and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables or crops. Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous, and other key elements to begin the soil improvement process.

Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as well as mailing information, included in the test

kit. Members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$25 | 2 sample kit: \$32 | 3 sample kit: \$50 | 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$52 | 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$45
Non-member pricing also available.

Soil kits are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau or by phone at 708-354-3276 using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover at no additional charge. Costs are subject to change.

Greenhouses, Garden Centers Are Open 2021

Consider a member business for all your planting and landscaping needs this spring!

Planting is happening...visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member farm, greenhouse, and garden centers for all your planting needs this spring! Their vegetable and flower plantings, flowers, trees, shrubs, and landscape materials will be ready for you. Now more than ever, we ask that you continue to shop and patronize your fellow Farm Bureau member businesses.

Phone ahead or go online; many greenhouses and garden centers offer phone and online order options, curbside pickup, and possible delivery. For a complete listing of member farms, greenhouses, and garden centers in the Cook

County area, please visit: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-products-locator> or our new online ShopLocal page: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>. Updates and new profiles being added in June! Don't forget to check out our special pull-out section in this month's Co-Operator!

We do have some local member farm, greenhouse, and garden centers that are offering additional discounts to members this spring including Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center in South Barrington, Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park, and Zeldenrust Farm Market & Greenhouse in Chicago Heights. Check our website for details.

Recipe of the Month:

Tres Hombres Shroom Toast

Gibby's Gourmet Mushroom, LLC

Ingredients:

- 2 T butter or olive oil
- 1 lb mushrooms, combination of choice: Shiitake, Blue Oyster, Mediterranean Oyster
- 2 T chopped green onion
- Garlic powder, to taste
- ¼ c dry white wine vinegar
- 2 T sour cream
- Salt & pepper
- Low sodium soy sauce
- Choice of bread toast, sliced ¼-in thick: French baguette, Italian, sour dough

Directions:

Melt butter in non-stick skillet. Add all sliced mushrooms, sauté until desired tenderness. Add green onions, wine, vinegar, salt, pepper, soy sauce, and garlic powder (soy sauce can replace salt). Mix mushroom mixture with sour cream and spoon over freshly toasted bread slices.
Bread Toast: Heat oven to 350° F. Toast your bread on the middle rack of oven on sheet pan, for approx. 10 minutes, flipping halfway through. Enjoy!

2021 Recipe Collection Booklets are available!



To receive a free copy:
Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Download a digital copy at:
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes>

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276

Board of Directors Recognize Volunteers During April National Volunteer Week

The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, in celebration and recognition of the outstanding volunteers and supporting members, approved a donation of \$800 to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The board contributed \$10 per volunteer for the 80 active members that served the organization during the past year.

In a letter sent to the volunteers, Janet McCabe, Cook County Farm Bureau President, said, "We consider ourselves so fortunate to have you involved as a committed volunteer within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. This Farm Bureau has thrived for over 100 years because of volunteers becoming involved and staying involved. Throughout the history of

the Cook County Farm Bureau, our success can be traced to the knowledge, talent, time, and expertise generously provided by volunteer members."

The involvement by members has been especially impressive this past year as a pandemic struck, essential workers were challenged, a stay-at-home order locked people down, and many members faced economic and health related pressure and threats.

Members interested in getting involved in the volunteer structure of the organization can go to the Cook County Farm Bureau website volunteer landing page:

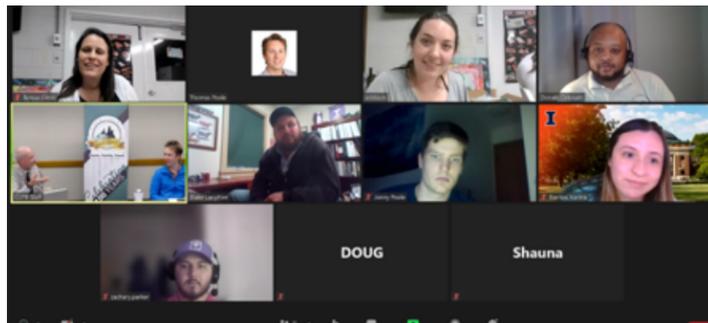
<https://cookcfb.org/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities>

Good News

Santa's Village is opening this year on Saturday, May 8th and they are offering \$3 off each ticket purchased online for members. Visit www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits to purchase tickets.



Young Leaders Virtual Exchange



Young leaders from Cook County Farm Bureau and Wake County Farm Bureau in North Carolina conducted a Virtual Exchange on April 12. The purpose of the activity was to learn more about the similarities and differences in farming and agriculture between the two locations and to share

stories of both successes and frustrations as they establish themselves in the agriculture industry.

If you are a member 18-35 years old and are interested in getting involved in the Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Team, please contact Chairman Tom Poole at tpoole2@illinois.edu.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Summer Selfie Contest

Join us as we kick off the Cook County Farm Bureau Summer Selfie Contest! We are holding this contest to obtain usable and appropriate photos that accurately portray today's agriculture in Cook County. Win one of three cash prizes in three different categories in June, July and August.

Categories:

- 1) Farmers Markets
- 2) Crops/Gardening
- 3) Farm Animals

Prizes:

Photos will be selected from each of the three categories. 1st and 2nd place winners will receive a cash prize and photos will be featured in the Co-operator, on our website and social media.

1st place: \$75

2nd place: \$35

3rd place: CCFB swag bag

Go to <https://cookcofarmbureau.wufoo.com/forms/mskwd5v0xbnyf/> to submit entries. The contest is open to all members in good standing.