



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Filled up Quickly

Our Ag in the Classroom programming was provided to over

12,000 STUDENTS

in classrooms throughout Cook County through four custom virtual live presentation options. Our calendars filled quickly for the four AITC school presenters as teachers chose between our Agriculture in Illinois, There's Ag on My Plate, Fall Apples & Pumpkins and Keeping Warm with Ag presentations for their students.

AN ADDITIONAL 1000 STUDENTS ATTENDED OUR FIRST VIRTUAL AG DAY

through our partnership with The Children's Farm, complete with lessons for educators and take-home materials for children to continue learning well after the event.

7 SCHOLARSHIP MEMBER RECIPIENTS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF

\$16,000

in scholarship funds to aid in their pursuit of a farm & food related careers.

A MESSAGE FROM JANET MCCABE, PRESIDENT OF THE CCFB FOUNDATION



Dear Friends and Neighbors –

The years 2020 and 2021 will always be remembered by those of us that have lived through them. The pandemic, economic concerns and various personal and professional circumstances

have made these years difficult for many. Obviously, with schools in remote and hybrid situations in the Chicagoland area, the Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy program was impacted immediately.

Fortunately, the value of agriculture made available through our storytelling presentations on farming and agriculture proved highly effective in Google classrooms, zoom lessons and other virtual medium. Most importantly, teachers and students greatly appreciated our skilled presenters in their virtual and hybrid classrooms in a format that was interactive, fun and enlightening.

While our virtual presentations have been highly effective, we truly look forward to the opportunity to return to some “in-person” classroom lessons this school year.

We were very excited to kick off the Foundation sponsored Farm Shadows program this past year, which gives students valuable insight into potential agriculture careers. Members working within the ag industry provide high school students with an understanding of how their school

coursework connects to the variety of jobs in our field, so they will come away with a better understanding of the skills needed to be successful.

We continue to support the next generation of agricultural producers and professionals through our scholarship program for members and dependents pursuing agricultural careers through higher education. We want our area’s enthusiastic, bright minds to seek agricultural careers.

Members frequently ask, “how can I help”? Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation, volunteer for an AITC activity, or mentor students through the Farm Shadows program.

I want to personally thank our many wonderful supporters, donors, partners and foundation friends. Through these difficult times, your generous and broad support has continued to provide us the opportunity to impact the future of individual lives connected to farming, food, fiber and fuel.

Janet B. McCabe

Janet McCabe, President, CCFB Foundation

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation is a 501c3 non-for profit created by the Cook County Farm Bureau in 1997 with the purpose of providing agriculturally related scholarships to members and dependents, enhance agricultural literacy in schools and to expand agricultural knowledge and understanding throughout the County.



INTERNSHIP

Our Foundation supported Ag Literacy summer internship combined virtual and onsite responsibilities for Illinois State University student Emily Lopata. Her many accomplishments over the summer included the revision of our Teacher Resource mAGic Learning Kits, several social media campaigns, video content development for 2021-22 education and extensive youth programming. Our internship provides guided exposure to all aspects of Ag Literacy including adult and youth outreach throughout the county.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We were excited to begin our virtual year speaking with teachers about our AITC resources as part of the Prairie State Career Prep Network PD and end of year resource overview through an ISTA teacher PD. Ag Literacy offered a virtual workshop in honor of Earth Day where educators learned about the importance of the environment to farming, along with lessons on soil, water, and related topics. Through a partnership with IL AITC, local and state teachers were able to attend monthly professional development workshops titled PD's in Your PJ's that were offered one Saturday a month.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Programming went beyond our traditional classroom programs with requests by a variety of organizations and educators. Ag Literacy education was shared with after school culinary clubs, Family & Consumer Courses, the Chicagoland Girls Scouts and a wide variety of virtual field trips for families.

Our CCFB Young Leaders adopted a local 3rd Grade Classroom in Bedford Park this year and provided virtual lessons and activities on agriculture to this enthusiastic group of local students.





FARM SHADOW & CAREER EDUCATION

Due to increased demand for middle and high school agriculture career partnerships, the Foundation supported the development of a Farm Shadow Program that began this year. The program provides a virtual school presentation by an agriculture professional to students who may be interested in exploring a future job in our industry. Featured speakers this year included a small animal veterinarian, a food science educator who spoke of various careers within the food chemistry/flavoring industry, and a marketing director for an ag organization. The Farm Shadow and Ag Careers programs strive to attract our area's enthusiastic, bright minds to seek agricultural careers through this program.



2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

CCFB Foundation has provided over \$270,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1999. Scholarship recipients were selected to receive the scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year based on exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, focus on an agriculturally related need and overall character.

The Foundation Board distributed \$16,000 to college bound member dependents in 2021. Each of these students pictured is planning on seeking an agriculturally related career. The Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship carries the highest financial award and is given to the top-rated applicant.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Colleen Elzinga*



Daniel Macina



Katherine Maniko



Jennifer Miller



Jonathon Poole



Andrew Smits



Thomas Poole

*Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Award

DRAW DOWN FOR AG EDUCATION

We thank the many members and supporters of the Foundation's online Draw Down Event held March 23, 2021. In the midst of the pandemic, it was wonderful to see so many lend their support to the cause of agricultural literacy, education and leadership. In 2022, we are hoping to bring back an in-person event, along with the usual full complement of fun and excitement. Stay tuned!

THE CCFB FOUNDATION BOARD

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PROGRAMMING SUPPORTED BY COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

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WE NEED YOUR VALUABLE SUPPORT!

We can only manage with you and supporters like you! We thank the large number of members that consistently remember the Foundation's efforts with a financial gift annually. When you consider year-end, tax-deductible donations, we encourage you to consider the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation as a worthy cause! We also receive memorials to mark the passing of a loved one. *All donations are greatly appreciated.*

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DONATION.

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Enclosed is my gift of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: _____

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Discover

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