



COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

To serve all our members with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our agricultural heritage

Mark Your Calendar



July

- 11th Monarch Club Meeting **PG 12**
28th "Spectacular Soil"
Library Workshop **PG 6**

August

- 9th "It's Corn" Library Workshop **PG 6**
19-20th Conceal/Carry Class **PG 12**
26th Fall Planter Workshop **PG 12**

September

- 19-20th Defensive Driving Course **PG 12**
30th 23rd Annual Giant
Pumpkin Contest **PG 12**

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



The Cook County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program had another successful year reaching students and teachers with the importance of food, fiber and fuel.

How many students did the program reach during the 2022-2023 school year?

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 number, and phone number)

June Winner: David Jerbi

Question: The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved a resolution in May that focuses on what flying (Lepidoptera) insect?

Answer: Monarch Butterfly



RAFFLE FOR AG EDUCATION

Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation President, Janet McCabe (center), announces the first-place winner, Tino Ramirez, of the Raffle for Ag Education as Cary Tate (left) and Eva Manzke (right) celebrate. Mr. Tate, COUNTRY Financial Orland Park agency manager, represented the company as the platinum sponsor for the raffle and turned the raffle tub. Ms. Manzke, teacher in Summit and Illinois in the Classroom teacher of the year, served as the impartial and neutral drawer for the event.

For more info and winners, see page 4.
See the entire drawing event video at: <https://cookcfb.org/foundation/raffle-for-ag-education>

AITC by the Numbers

More than 22,000 Students Learn about Agriculture through AITC Program

Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program brought agricultural education to 22,389 Cook County students during the 2022-2023 school year.

Throughout the school year, CCFB's AITC program was presented to 22,389 students in 989 classrooms in 208 schools. 95% of the presentations, or 933, were done live; 5% of the presentations, or 56, were done virtually. That number is an increase from the 2021-2022 school year, up 29.87%.

The presentations offered included: "Intro to Illinois Ag" which teaches about the food supply chain, science and technology in agriculture, and how agriculture provides food, fiber, and energy; "There's Ag on MyPlate" which explains where food comes from and the importance of a balanced diet; "Pumpkin and Apple Fall Facts" about fall specialty crops; "Keeping Warm with Agriculture" about how food and fiber keeps us warm; and "What's the Dirt on Illinois' Soil?" which includes the topics of soil science, earthworms, how to prevent soil erosion, and conservation. Additional unique programs were also offered throughout the year.

In the evaluation form teachers complete online after their presentation, educators described the program as "very educational for students," "engaging," and "fantastic." Teachers and their students enjoyed the presentations' hands-on aspects and games.

"My students wouldn't otherwise be exposed to agriculture, especially the ways that agriculture impacts their lives," one teacher wrote in their evaluation.

AITC Numbers continues on Page 5

THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF POLLINATORS

By Carrie Steinweg, Freelance Writer

When you are used to simply buying your food off of a shelf at a supermarket, you may not give much thought to all that had to happen for it to arrive there. There are many levels of necessary steps behind the scenes that ensure that our food gets to consumers. There are those who transport it. Those who harvest it. Those who plant and grow it. But even before we get to those steps, there is a critical component that initiates the creation of that food: pollination.

Did you know that pollinators are directly responsible for bringing us about 75% of the flowering plants and about 35% of the food crops grown in the world? Pollinators are animals that move the pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower to cause fertilization that results in the vegetables, fruits, and nuts that are part of our diets. According to the USDA, over 100 crops grown in our country depend on pollination.

Local farmer Doug Yunker is helping to educate the public on the importance of pollinators. He partnered with the Cook County Farm Bureau for a recent event at Lincoln Park Zoo aimed at raising awareness of pollinators and how necessary they are to our food supply. He talked about why we need to create an environment for these creatures to thrive.

"Thirty-five percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. Without pollinators, our food supply would be in real trouble!" said Yunker. "Anyone can help provide a habitat for pollinators to thrive. Planting a diverse mix of plants that flower in the spring, summer and fall allows the pollinators to have a food source they can consume all year long."

Pollinators continues on Page 2

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 in an effort to support the success of local farmers and to keep agriculture present and strong in Cook County.

This Co-Operator publication for members is designed 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 fuel that comes from farming.

As an added value, we are able to provide great membership deals, savings, discounts, benefits, programming and activities that reflect our agricultural heritage and modern expectations.

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

Pollinators

Continued from Page 1

Yunker is also practicing what he's teaching. "On our farm, we do a few things that help pollinators thrive. On part of our farm, we have transitioned some of our land to certified organic. On these acres we do not apply pesticides, which allows the pollinators to move freely without the risk of spray injury. We also grow hay and cover crops. These allow pollinators to have a diverse environment to feed and pollinate throughout the summer and early fall."

The 5 B's of Pollination

Bees often come to mind first on the subject of pollination and more than 3,500 species of native bees contribute to crop output, but there are other 'b's beyond 'bees' that play a huge role in the world's food supply.

Pollination depends on these five 'b's as well as other small animals. They're responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food! They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce.



Yunker farm field.

- BEES**
- BIRDS**
- BUTTERFLIES**
- BEETLES**
- BATS**

"People most often think of bees as nature's main pollinator, but moths, birds, bats, and butterflies also have a big role in pollinating. While feeding on the flower's nectar, the pollen gets brushed on the animal. When they visit the next flower that pollen falls off and pollinates the plant," said Yunker.

5 Ways We Can Help Pollinators

- Plant milkweed, which serves as a host plant for monarch butterflies
- Designate a plot on your land or in your yard for native plants
- Help plant a community garden
- Reduce pesticide use
- Spread the word to others letting them know the importance of pollinators and post pictures of your native pollinator plants using the hashtag **#pollinateamerica**

Long Time Leader, Former CCFB President Passes

Mr. James "Jim" Goebbert, 94, passed away on June 17, 2023. He served as a leader and Cook County Farm Bureau Board member for 30 years from 1974 – 2004. He served as secretary/treasurer of the board and served as the organization's president from 1979 – 1984. He also was a founding Board member for the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation in 1997.

During his board tenure, Goebbert helped lead local efforts on putting in place a statewide sales tax exemption on ag machinery, permitting the Cook County farmland assessment process, financial stability for small County Farm Bureaus in Illinois, greater service to associate members of the organization, expansion of Ag in the Classroom locally and more.

Jim and his wife Esther farmed in northern Cook County in the South Barrington and Arlington Heights area for many years. In the early 70s, they established Goebbert's Pumpkin Farm as a destination for many urban and suburban consumers. In 1985, they expanded to a second location in Kane County.

In a December 2004 article in the Co-Operator, Goebbert said, "Being involved in Farm Bureau and the Marines were two of the best things that shaped my learning experiences".

Our thoughts go out to Esther and the Goebbert family.



Jim and Esther Goebbert during Jim's 90th birthday celebration held on the farm.

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 purchasers of tickets and the sponsors for the Raffle for Ag Education fundraiser that allowed the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation to raise nearly \$13,000 for scholarships, Ag in the Classroom programming and leadership training.
- The Foundation Fundraising Committee made up of Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Ruth Zeldenrust, Dan Biernacki, Mike Rauch, Kim Morton, Heidi Yunker, Karen Biernacki, and Sharon Stemke as well as the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for creating and marketing the Raffle for Ag Education.
- Cary Tate and Eva Manzke for participating in the Raffle for Ag Education drawing event with Janet McCabe and Gerry Kopping.
- Tammy Halterman for her donation to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation recognizing the Cook County Farm Bureau board member efforts to become certified directors.
- Amy Hansmann for serving as tour guide for the Farm Foundation agricultural tour in mid-June.
- Janet McCabe for joining the Farm Bureau and Cook County legislators on this year's Cook County Idea Exchange.
- The folks at Ted's Greenhouse for hosting and welcoming our members on June 19th at our "Shaken or Stirred with Herbs After Hours" event.
- PM member Pyeisha Allen, who shared some kind words about our organization during a recent member event.
- Members that entered the spring photo contest: Shelia Jaskierski, Wanda Bruinsma, Mariola Bisakowska, Mike O'Brien, Candice Conner, and Don Carlson.



President Janet McCabe (left) accepts a donation from Mrs. Tammy Halterman.

Co-Operator

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Downwind

by **BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER**

“A common farm tool”

How many people do you hear complain about their memory? Add me to your list. Faulty nerve cells, misfiring synapses, a bad cerebellum? I don't recall.

Random thoughts, ideas, facts, data, concepts and information invade my mind when I'm listening to the news, working out, doing yard chores, putzing in my workshop, driving (billboards and vehicle placards) or at night when I'm supposed to be sleeping. Some of it is good stuff if I can remember.

Does it stick? Not likely. As a result, my memory for details and data can be fleeting. I chalk it up to there being way too much knowledge out there for me to store in my little brain.

I wish this “stuff” would magically lodge in my brain at a convenient time (like when I'm at my desk, pen poised for capture). But no - that's when my mind decides to play the brain fog game.

My solution has been to go “old school” ... pen and paper. I carry around a pocket-sized spiral-bound notepad, so I am always ready to record those fleeting snippets of thoughts, concepts, ideas, data, etc. I usually have a maximum of 27 seconds to write it down or I risk that it will be gone forever.

Later, when I go back to look at my captured notes, I hope they make sense! I find some useful notes while some notes should be gone forever.

An example of a “not useful” note I wrote recently...Set a goal for solutions to be less stupid. What? Huh? I'm sure it made sense when I wrote it down?

The use of a notebook has made me

realize that I've become my father! My dad, the Farmer, never left the breakfast table for his work on the farm without his seed corn cap, his pliers, and his pocket spiral notepad. He possessed various of these small notepads distinguishable by the cover promoting an agricultural entity... FS, Illinois Farm Bureau, Country Companies, Pioneer, DeKalb, Gutwein, Asgrow, or Farm Credit to name a few.

The pocket spiral notepads were given to the Farmer “free” as a promotional item by each company. Spend thousands of dollars and we will give you something free to write on. The notepads certainly didn't go to waste.

Further evidence that I've become my father, the notepads I use are freebies. Unlike the Farmer, I did not spend thousands of dollars to get them.

I recently was comparing notes with my father about our notepad similarities. I have witnessed him pull out a notepad hundreds of times to add a notation to the page. What was he writing down? I decided to ask.

His response, “Let me look!”

No shock. He still has them, and he retired from farming nearly a decade ago! (That's correct, I don't throw anything away either)

After riffling through his desk, Dad pulled out several spiral bound notepads. Leafing through them, he began reading his notes and content from years past...

- addresses and phone numbers of landlords
- business phone numbers and cell numbers of various people

- crop yield numbers during combining
- truck delivery pounds or bushels of commodities
- crop prices (heard on the radio from Orion Samuelson?)
- oil filter numbers
- tire sizes
- fertilizer application rates
- grain bin measurements
- planting rates by field
- tax data
- to do lists
- shopping lists
- farming ideas to try and concepts to consider

Certainly, a much more impressive list than what I find in my notepads. Mine contains names of people I meet along the way, including spouses/kids' names, addresses, email, phone numbers, etc. (allegedly, a smart phone will store this information also), computer passwords, to do lists, expense information, phone numbers, information to check out, to do's, measurements, shopping lists, books to read, articles to find, etc. I even found a card game score versus my wife (I rarely win).

This seemingly small link between me and my father and his “farm tool”

has made for another nice connection between us.

It's not so bad to turn into my father! I should write that down.

Jim Goebbert, a longtime leader and past president of the Cook County Farm Bureau, will be missed, not only by his family but by the Farm Bureau family, the farming community and the people that call him “friend”. His creative thought processes, willingness to try new things, attention to marketing and finance, and the respect he garnered made the Cook County Farm Bureau a better organization. A humble, down-to-earth man, Jim left his indelible mark with so many including with me. Thank you, Jim...rest in peace.



Jim and Esther Goebbert with President Janet McCabe (L) during the Cook County Farm Bureau's drive-thru 100-year celebration in 2020, which Covid impacted.

Recipe of the Month

JULY



Greek Style Roasted Asparagus

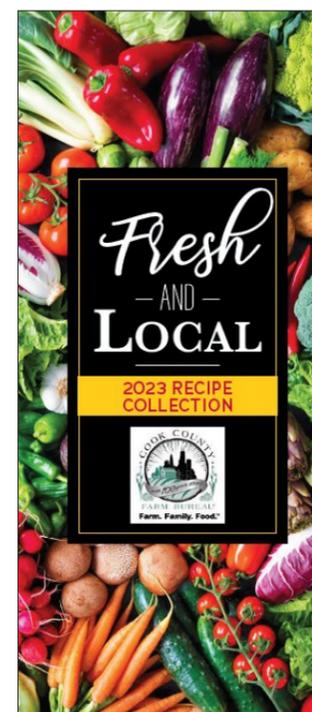
Elaine T, Palos Park

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 c olive oil
- 1.5 lb fresh, crisp asparagus
- 3 garlic cloves
- Zest from 1 lemon
- 1/2 t dried oregano
- 1/4 t red pepper flakes, optional
- Sea salt, black pepper to taste
- 1 lemon, juiced, remove seeds

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400°. Heat olive oil, lemon zest, minced garlic, red pepper flakes, and oregano in a pan over low heat until garlic becomes golden, and oil becomes fragrant; remove from heat. Remove the ends of the asparagus. Toss asparagus pieces with olive oil mixture and arrange in single layer on baking sheet, use parchment paper if available. Season asparagus with salt and pepper. Bake until asparagus is easily pierced through by fork. Thin asparagus, about 10 minutes, thicker asparagus may increase cooking time to 15-20 minutes. Squeeze lemon juice over cooked asparagus and serve.



2023 Recipe Booklet Available!

To request a of the 2023 Recipe Booklet, please email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Cook County Farm Service Agency Update

Cook County farmers with Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm numbers will soon be receiving an update regarding the new FSA Cook County office. Although the office location is not finalized and may not be finalized until closer to 2024, FSA is beginning to notify farmers about upcoming changes.

For fields physically located in Cook County, farmers will be notified that their fields will automatically be transferred to the new Cook County office once it is operational. Multi-county farmers will be the first to receive the notification.

If a farmer does not wish to have their fields transferred there will be a couple of options: request that the farm's FSA records remain with the office they currently are with or continue to report acreage, etc. at the FSA office of their choice and that office will automatically forward that information to the Cook County office.

Contacting the FSA office at this time is premature, the process will not begin until the Cook County FSA office is operational, which may be as late as 2024. Prior to the office being operational, a lease has to be signed, the office will likely need to be remodeled, and it has to be setup. Staff for the office, including the County Executive Director are already training and are looking forward to meeting farmers and learning more about farming in Cook County. Cook County Farm Bureau leaders and staff have introduced themselves to the new executive and are looking forward to working together in the future.

HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN JUNE

- ▶ Educated county, state, and local staff about the contributions of agriculture to Cook County's economy.
- ▶ Hosted a fun and informative event at Ted's Greenhouse where members created herb planters and learned how to make teas and drinks using fresh herbs.
- ▶ Educated families from throughout Cook County and beyond about the importance of pollinators to the U.S. food system and overall ecosystem.
- ▶ Provided members summer fun options with discounted tickets to Raging Waves.



Raffle for Ag Education Winners

RAFFLE WINNERS!!!

1

\$2,500

Tino Ramirez

2

\$1,500

Pat Quetsch

3

\$500

Linda Kopping

Congratulations to the winners of our Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Raffle for Ag Education!

Thank you to our generous sponsors listed below and to everyone that participated and purchased tickets. You are helping the next generation to pursue their dream of entering an agriculture career.

Winner Tino Ramirez said: "I am thrilled! I love to support the programs like this fundraiser and events like supporting food pantries provided by the Farm Bureau and I appreciate the opportunity to partner with the organization whenever possible."

Thank you to Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Board, Cook County Farm Bureau Board, and the Foundation Fundraiser Planning Committee.

For more information and to view the drawing, go to <https://cookcfb.org/foundation/raffle-for-ag-education>.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor:



Chicago North, Chicago South, Chicago NW and Orland Park agencies combined.

Silver: IAA Credit Union

Bronze:

- Chopp Commercial Properties
- Mark Olander Attorney at Law
- Parkway Elevators
- Flossmoor Station
- All Types Elevators
- Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association
- Bob and Jayne Rohrer Family

5 Questions

with Jim Gutzmer,
CCFB Board Member



Jim Gutzmer using a modern compressed air golf ball driver

What impresses you about the Cook County Farm Bureau?

The transparency of our organization. When we talk about agriculture to politicians or the public, the most important aspect is to tell the truth. We are very straight forward with the information and our message.

What is the most interesting question you have received about Farm Bureau?

Anytime I talk about or even mention the farm bureau I get the question, "Are there still farms in Cook County?" I always explain that there are farms in Cook County and they are very successful.

What did you want to be growing up?

When I was in high school I worked part time at a drug store and thought about becoming a pharmacist. Instead of going to college, I joined the service then ended up working for ComEd.

What is your favorite tractor?

Red ones.



Jim Gutzmer golfing

When you are not working on Farm Bureau related business, what is something you like to spend time doing?

I enjoy playing golf and woodworking. I also like to talk to people about the Farm Bureau.



VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

Mr. Dennis Green, President of the Lawrence County Farm Bureau, recently spoke to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors about his candidacy for the Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President position.



First Place: "Grandson Smelling the Flowers" by Mary Kosiek



Second Place: "Family Helps with Vegetable Garden" by Mike O'Brien

Cook County Farm Bureau Photo Contest: Summer Photos

Get your camera and capture moments by showcasing your best photos depicting the theme of **Agriculture in the Summer**. Send in your photos – selfies, pictures of others, landscape, etc.

The deadline for Summer photos is **August 15**.

The winning photos will be posted in the September Co-Operator.

All participating photos will be featured on our website and social media.

The contest is open to all members in good standing.

Go to <https://bit.ly/3GRRXRd> to submit entries.

**Farm Bureau Farm Fresh Funds are funds that can be redeemed at local farmstands, greenhouses and garden centers just as you would use cash.*

Example Categories for Summer 2023:



Horseback Riding, Farmers' Markets, Fun with Animals

Prizes:

Each season will have three winners.

1st place: \$100 cash

2nd place: \$40 Farm Fresh Funds*

3rd place: \$25 Farm Fresh Funds*

CONGRATULATIONS

to the **SPRING** photo contest winners:

1st Place Winner:

"Grandson Smelling the Flowers" by Mary Kosiek

2nd Place Winner:

"Family Helps with Vegetable Garden" by Mike O'Brien

3rd Place Winner:

"Earth Day Tree Planting" by Sheila Jaskierski

Check out all the Spring photos at <https://cookcfb.org/membership/ccfb-photo-contest>



Third Place: "Earth Day Tree Planting" by Sheila Jaskierski

AITC Numbers

Continued from Page 1

"The students loved learning more about Illinois' crops and livestock," another teacher wrote. "I loved seeing them engaged in the demonstrations and the conversations."

"All my students truly learned something new today," a third teacher responded. "They loved the presenter, the game, the videos and the experiments. They also truly grasped a better understanding of agriculture."

All of the presentations explained how agriculture is relevant to students' everyday life and offered valuable insight into potential agricultural careers in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math).

"Our ultimate goal with every presentation is to teach students that agriculture is multidisciplinary and relevant across every topic of their school's curriculum and aspect of their life," said CCFB's Director of Agricultural Literacy, Katrina Milton.

"We also want to make learning fun and exciting," Milton explained. "From hands-on activities, experiments, and educational games and videos during the presentation, Ag Mags from Illinois Farm Bureau's AITC for additional reading, vocabulary lists, pre- and post-tests, ag-accurate book recommendations and lesson plans for before and after our classroom visit, our AITC program offers more than an hour of learning. The program is a catalyst, a spark, to ignite students' love of and interest in agriculture for life."

The AITC program's ag literacy mission is "to expand students' awareness and appreciation for the importance of agriculture everywhere." The program will continue its mission for agricultural literacy and education during the 2023-2024 school year.

For more information about CCFB's AITC program, click on the Ag Literacy & Education tab on the Cook County Farm Bureau's website, www.cookcfb.org.

Thank You, Presenters! 2022-2023 Ag in the Classroom Program



Pictured together at the AITC end of the school year celebration, held May 31 at Honey-Jam Café in Countryside

Back Row, left to right: AITC Assistant Jill Drover, Mike Galassini, Wayne Kolweier, Jim Bloomstrand, Sarah Koukol

Front Row, left to right: Kathy Lesser, Linda Schaeffer, Director of Ag Literacy Katrina Milton. (Not pictured: Barbara Bhojraj).

Planting Seeds

By Katrina J.E. Milton, Director of Ag Literacy



Katrina J.E. Milton

a good year for corn if your corn plants are the height of your knees by July 4.

Due to advances in science, including the planting of drought and pest-resistant seeds, most corn is knee-high by mid-June and at least waist or chest-high by the Fourth of July.

Corn has always been an integral part of my family's Fourth of July celebration. We always had sweet corn at our cookout, along with hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, and my mom's red, white, and blue American flag Jell-O cake.

Some farmers swear by the sweetness of their corn and enjoy the taste so much, they eat the corn raw from their fields after picking. For extra sweet sweet corn, I

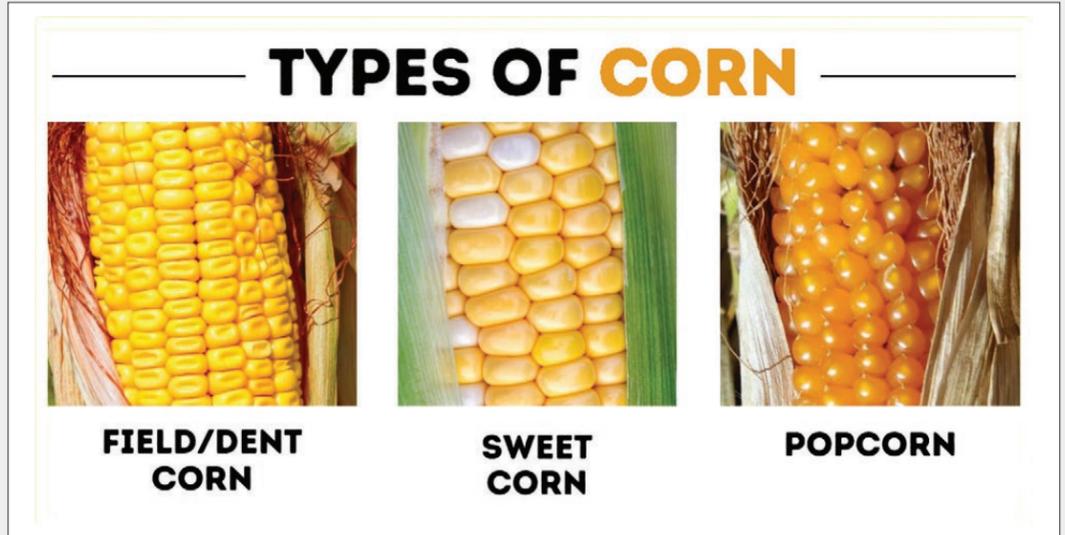
"Knee-high by the Fourth of July" has been an age-old saying about it being

recommend adding a cup of milk and half a stick of butter to your pot as you boil your water.

Sweet corn is "sweet" due to the plant's naturally-occurring recessive gene. That gene gives the corn a sweet flavor because the kernels contain a higher amount of simple sugars and a lower amount of complex starches. Once corn matures or is harvested, which is when the ear of corn is separated from the stalk, the kernels' sugars turn to starch. That is why young, fully-formed but not mature sweet corn tastes the sweetest when it is freshly-picked. That is also why field corn, when harvested in the autumn when it is mature, is so hard, starchy, and not sweet.

According to the Illinois Farm Bureau, about 98% of corn grown in Illinois is field corn, also called dent corn due to the kernels' dented shape. Sweet corn accounts for about 2% of Illinois' corn, and popcorn less than 1%.

There are more than 4,200 uses for



corn, including livestock feed, ethanol for gasoline, cornstarch, corn syrup, corn oil, and corn flour.

A Fourth of July staple, fireworks, are also made using corn. Corn is used to make dextrin, a binding compound that is also found in some glues. Dextrin holds the powders that make fireworks together, including the charcoal, sulfur, and potassium nitrate (saltpeter) in gunpowder. Certain metals and minerals are added to

that powdery mixture to give fireworks their color. According to the United States Geological Survey, barium makes fireworks green, strontium red, copper blue, sodium yellow, and other colors can be made by mixing elements, such as titanium, zirconium, and magnesium alloys making a silvery white.

This Fourth of July, as you enjoy a cookout and watch fireworks, remember that some of your favorite

summer foods and activities are all thanks to one of Illinois' top crops: corn. Also, don't forget that Sweet Corn Appreciation Day is observed in Illinois on August 1!

If you want to share items that you find that are made from corn with me, I'm all ears. Have a corny summer!

Katrina can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



Join AITC at the Library

Learn more about agriculture this summer at free magic-themed programs held at Morton Grove and Glenview public libraries. Programs will feature a story time, arts and craft projects, science demonstrations and experiments, and snacks.

Spectacular Soil: The Science and Magic of Soil
Friday, July 28
11 a.m. to noon at Morton Grove Public Library
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Glenview Public Library

It's Corn!: The Many Magical Uses of Corn
Wednesday, August 9
11 a.m. to noon at Glenview Public Library
3 to 4 p.m. at Morton Grove Public Library

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Department of Natural Resources is offering grants to pre-k-12 grade Illinois teachers. Biodiversity, Historic Sites, Schoolyard Habitat as well as transportation opportunities. Don't hesitate, apply today!

Biodiversity

Schoolyard Habitat

Historical Sites

For more information and to apply visit <https://bit.ly/3IRmhwp>

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



WHAT IS A *Pollinator*?

A **pollinator** is an animal that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of a flower (stigma). Pollination is part of the process that helps plants grow fruits and generate seeds.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are about **350,000** pollinator species in the world
- About **1/3** of the food and beverages we consume depend on pollinators
- Honeybees pollinate about **80%** percent of all flowering plants, including more than **130** types of fruits and vegetables
- Plants that are pollinated include apples, almonds, pumpkins, sunflowers, strawberries, and tomatoes

Statistics from USDA's www.farmers.gov

Don't Forget to Visit the Cook County Farm Bureau's *Pollinator Garden!*



MAKE YOUR OWN *Butterfly*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Flatten the cupcake liners and fold in half twice to create two triangles
2. Staple the triangles together in the middle to create wings
3. Clip the wings into the mouth of the clothespin, adding glue in the center
4. Add 1/2 a pipe cleaner to the middle of the clothespin, placing it above the wings
5. Curl the pipe cleaner on both ends using your pencil to create spiraled antennae
6. Add the pearl stickers as eyes and draw pupils

SUPPLIES:

- 2 Cupcake Liners
- 1 Black Clothespin
- 1/2 Pipe Cleaner
- Craft Glue
- Pearl Stickers
- Marker
- Pencil
- Stapler

Pollinator EXAMPLES



BEES

BUTTERFLIES



BEETLES

BATS



BIRDS

WASPS



MOTHS

FLIES



July Word Search

Last Month's Winner:
Mary Pecora

Apples	R	J	S	N	X	E	A	S	Z	Q	P	S	P	S	S
Butterfly	S	T	I	U	R	F	T	L	Z	S	O	T	F	A	E
Flower	Q	Y	D	P	L	L	F	A	E	R	L	A	T	A	L
Fruits	G	N	F	O	E	R	F	E	R	L	L	M	C	R	B
Garden	S	A	W	O	R	G	B	W	M	E	I	E	X	W	A
Generate	A	E	R	S	M	Y	K	Y	S	S	N	N	L	L	T
Grow	R	I	A	D	E	I	Y	N	P	D	A	E	F	F	E
Honeybee	Y	A	O	N	E	Z	L	E	V	E	T	I	G	N	G
Milkweed	J	S	O	Y	Z	N	C	K	R	E	O	J	A	Y	E
Pollinator	P	H	B	N	W	I	N	H	W	S	R	S	P	U	V
Process	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	E	T	H	P	E	W
Seeds	V	W	K	S	Y	R	L	G	G	I	E	A	L	X	M
Species	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	T	G	J	B	D	E	T	X
Stamen	T	G	C	W	M	J	T	M	Q	O	Z	Z	S	I	N
Stigma	I	M	N	I	N	D	A	R	T	K	N	K	H	J	U
Vegetables															

Name _____
Phone # _____
Membership # _____

Choose Your Prize Preference for If You Win:
If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent

Beggar's Pizza Gift Card 3 Movie Tickets
 Delta Sonic Car Wash (Choose one option only)

Located on front of paper

Choose Your Prize: July Word Search

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, Delta Sonic Car Wash (Super Kiss Wash and *10-min Interior Cleaning) OR **3 AMC Movie Tickets

*Additional charge will apply when using Interior cleaning for Full-sized Vehicles

**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 2023 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Deadline is the 20th of each month. **GOOD LUCK!**

JULY 2023

At The
Farm Gate
by Joanie Stiers



Farm threads through summer traditions

My husband fished at the farm. Our son and his friends played paintball-style games in the farm woods. I smoked brisket from our inventory of freezer beef, and our daughter baked an order of graduation cakes that required 30 fresh eggs from her chickens. We ended the weekend as a family kayaking the river that borders the home farm.

The first few days out of school provided a glimpse of farm-infused summer traditions to come, like Sunday mornings in solitude on the front porch. Impromptu wiener roasts under starry skies. And summer-time suppers with hyper-local menu items: Burgers and steaks from our farm's cattle herd paired with green beans, lettuce or sweet corn from the garden.

Despite the Illinois humidity, I love the freedom and energy of summer on the farm between planting and harvest seasons. That feeling amplifies with timely, beneficial rains and having all the hay baled for the time being. This break between the farm's busiest seasons gives our minds an opportunity to pause at spectacular, golden sunsets and lightning bugs dancing in the rural darkness afterward.

West Coast cousins soon visit the farm with an itinerary to catch those fireflies, view as many cows, chickens, and tractors as possible and play wiffle ball in the farmyard. The

kids of my city cousins have requested to see Farmer Doug's excavator in action, giving them more pretend-play scenarios for their favorite 1/16th-scale toy.

Once upon a time, our kids played similarly, using toy backhoes and wheel loaders in a designated corner of the vegetable garden. Now teens, the farm Jeep supercharges their summer fun. The 4x4 effectively scouts crops and teaches our license- and permit-holding farm kids how to drive a stick shift. We spend summer nights practicing on the backroads in the vehicle's iconic, open-air glory. Subsequently, I think I found my spirit vehicle.

Summer brings sunflowers to cut, chickens to show and ice cream worth a country drive. The kids' schedules include youth leadership events, summer employment on the farm, and the debut of a 75-foot slip-and-slide on the slope north of the farm shop. The State Fair signals the end of summer break. Soon after, our neighbors will close their "farm pool" for the season, a glammed-up livestock water tank. I give them the prize for most creative, farm-infused fun.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family, growing corn, soybeans and hay and raising beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.



**BUY FRESH,
BUY LOCAL,
EAT DELICIOUS!**

**Local Farm Stands Are Open
Offering Fresh, Local Produce
to Cook Fresh and Healthy!**

Visit our member farmstands and buy local! Locate a member farmstand or farmers market near you using our **ShopLocal** directory for business profiles, their location, hours, and product/service information.

cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory



GREEN ERA TOUR Cook County Commissioners and their staffs, as well as representatives from the Illinois General Assembly, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Illinois Soybean Association joined Cook County Farm Bureau for a tour of Green Era in Chicago. Green Era's mission is to create more sustainable communities by supporting local food production through better management of biodegradable waste and access to soil. They're also home to the Midwest's first self-sustainable anaerobic digester, which will divert millions of pounds of food waste from landfills to produce clean energy and nutrient-rich compost.

STRUVITE RESEARCH IN SOUTHERN COOK COUNTY



Research being conducted by the Margenot group at the University of Illinois has established that struvite is a viable phosphorus source for corn, soybeans, and wheat production in Illinois. Through research funded by the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Grant, students from the University of Illinois installed testing strips and tools to monitor phosphorus loss in specialty crop fields at Zeldenrust Farm Market in Chicago Heights. Testing will examine crop phosphorus use, efficiency of struvite to provide yield context, balance agronomic goal with water quality benefits, and calculate yield-scaled phosphorus loss.

Illinois Budget Impacts Agriculture

Below are some brief details from the budget approved by the Illinois General Assembly.

Budget highlights

- Spends \$50.6 billion from the General Revenue Fund
- Anticipates \$50.7 billion in tax revenue
- Provides an addition \$200 million in pension payments, bringing the total pension stabilization investments to \$700 million

Education funding

- \$350 million increase for kindergarten through twelfth education
- \$100 million in additional MAP grant funding
- \$80.5 million increase for public universities
- \$19.4 million increase for community colleges

Fighting poverty

- \$85 million increase to support homelessness prevention, affordable housing, outreach, and other programs.
- \$20 million investment in a new Illinois Grocery Initiative to expand grocery access to underserved rural towns and urban neighborhoods.

The following are major agricultural related budget line items and their proposed budget levels:

Line Item	FY 2022 Actual Expenditure	FY 2023 Enacted Appropriation	FY 2024 Approved Budget
Cover Crop	660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000
Cook County Extension	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200
State Cooperative Extension Service Trust Fund	\$10,994,700	\$10,994,700	\$10,994,700
Ag Extension - 4-H	\$786,400	\$786,400	\$786,400
SWCD Cost Share	\$3,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,000,000
SWCD District Operations	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
Co. Fair and Exposition Authorities	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$960,000
Co. Fair Rehabilitation	\$1,314,300	\$1,314,300	\$1,314,300
Co. Fair & Agriculture Societies	\$1,818,600	\$1,818,600	\$1,818,600
Viticulture/Enologist	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Administration of the Pesticide Act	6,275,000	\$7,700,000	\$7,700,000
Pesticide Control Act	\$382,400	\$724,900	\$724,900
Animal Disease Labs Act	\$0	40,000	\$40,000
Livestock Management Facilities Act Administration	\$352,500	\$364,600	\$420,000
Agricultural Education	\$4,958,000	\$7,050,000	\$7,050,000
Food Safety Modernization Initiative	\$172,300	\$200,000	\$200,000

Line items for agriculture

The enacted budget provides maintenance level funding for the operational and regulatory functions of the department. The budget includes a new \$30 million appropriation for the federally funded Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

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



Bona Heinsohn previously spent by Congress. Article I Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to borrow and spend money.

Again. Congress has the power to spend money. Not the Treasury. They have the authority to act on the spending previously approved by Congress. So, in reality, the debt limit has nothing to do with controlling spending. The only people with the authority to control spending are the people

who establish and approve the budget and programs. Cue Congress.

Up until the late '70s, debt ceiling debates were snooze fests. Congress raised the limit usually without drama and the public never heard a peep. In 1979, Congress passed "The Gephardt Rule" named for then-Representative Richard Gephardt. The rule automatically lifted the debt ceiling to coincide with the spending amount previously approved by Congress.

After 15 uneventful increases, the rule was repealed in 2011 thus beginning the debt ceiling drama that we are now unfortunately accustomed to. The first debt ceiling battle out of the gate resulted in the very first

U.S. credit downgrade.

Let's talk recent history. Unless you've been fortunate enough to live in a full media blackout, you're aware that the latest debt ceiling debate bothered the markets and the U.S.'s standing with foreign markets. Succinctly, the Biden Administration wanted a clean debt ceiling bill. Republicans wanted spending cuts. Remember the debt ceiling has nothing to do with spending. In this case, like many times before, the debt ceiling was just the political football of the moment being lobbed around.

The result was the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 which suspended the debt limit until January 1, 2025 while also capping discretionary spending

during fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Further, a portion of the \$80 billion in additional funding for the Internal Revenue Service was also rescinded.

Also notable, the Act broadened work requirements for adults ages 50-54 who are Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients with no children in the house. Proponents of the restrictions argue that the work requirements are necessary to grow the workforce and provide additional resources for residents in need. Opponents of the changes are concerned that the deal contains the largest restrictions on SNAP to date since President Biden voted for welfare reform when he was a senator in 1996 during the Clinton Administration.

The Congressional Budget Office added their own flare to the conversation by arguing that the broadened work requirements would actually increase SNAP enrollment benefits and spending.

For Congressional process hardliners, the addition of SNAP in the Act creates another hurdle given that SNAP is traditionally handled during Farm Bill negotiations. The next Farm Bill is scheduled to be worked on this summer.

As much as I love the political process and the idiosyncrasies of government, its time to get down to the business of governing and start acting like adults.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org.



MEET AND GREET Cook County Farm Bureau joined the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Specialty Growers Association for the US Department of Agriculture Meet and Greet held in partnership with the USDA Farm Service Agency at Herban Produce at the end of May. Panel participants included: Dakari Howard, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Rob Baren, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Rebecca Huston, Illinois State Treasurer Office; Joseph Bridges, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ron Burling, USDA FSA; Shannon Murphy, USDA FSA; and Director Scott Halpin, USDA FSA State Director.



COUNTY COMMISSION VISIT Cook County Commissioners joined the Farm Bureau for a tour of the Youth Community Garden of Evergreen Park. The garden is the recipient of one of this year's Urban Garden Grants. Pictured left to right are: Commissioners John Daley and Monica Gordan; Farm Bureau President Janet McCabe; Commissioners Kevin Morrison, Sean Morrison, Stanley Moore, and Josina Morita; and Director of Youth Services Pyeisha Allen.

Pertinent Legislation Approved by General Assembly

The following legislative items were approved during the spring legislative session and may be of interest to Cook County Farm Bureau members.

Farm to Food Bank Program

This legislation creates permanent market opportunities for surplus products for farmers and increases food access.

Urban and Suburban Gardening

Allows the Housing Development Authority to create a program to incentivize the development of affordable housing projects that incorporate urban and suburban gardening programs.

Counties Lease of Farmland

Provides that a county board may lease farmland acquired or held by the county for any term not exceeding five years. Provides that farmland may be leased to either public or private entities and that the lease

may be made via a cash lease, crop-sharing arrangement, or custom farming arrangement. House Bill 1076 requires a bid process for farmland leases and provides that counties shall not acquire farmland for the sole purpose of entering into a cash lease, crop-sharing arrangement, or custom farming arrangement or other speculative purpose.

Food Label Standardization

The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, shall, on or before July 1, 2024, publish information to encourage food manufacturers, processors, and retailers responsible for the labeling of food products to voluntarily use the specified uniform terms on food product labels to communicate quality dates and safety dates. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall promote the consistent use of the terms specified pursuant to these provisions in the course of its existing interactions with food manufacturers, processors, and retailers.

Cook County Minimum Wage to Increase in July

As a reminder, effective **July 1, 2023**, the minimum wage increases to **\$13.70** for non-tipped workers and **\$8.00** for tipped workers.

Most Cook County employers are covered by this ordinance; however, there are exceptions. Exceptions are provided in the Minimum Wage Ordinance Rules document located at <https://rb.gy/km9q4>. Generally, persons employed in agriculture or aquaculture who are subject to subsection 3(d) (2) of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law are exempt from the ordinance. Employers are encouraged to double check the ordinance and rules to ensure that they are in compliance.

As a reminder, if a municipality has passed their own minimum wage (like the City of Chicago) then the municipality's minimum wage applies to employers located within or doing business in the municipality. If the municipality has not enacted their own minimum wage, the County's minimum wage ordinance applies. Certain municipalities in Cook County have opted out of the ordinance. The list of municipalities that do not follow the MWO changes frequently.

The updated "Notice to Employees" and "Frequently Asked Questions" documents are available here: <https://rb.gy/5nrtl>.

COOK COUNTY Financial Representative 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.



***VIOLETTA KAMINSKA** has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2023 by Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager. Violetta's office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Ave Chicago, IL 60634-0000. Her phone number is 773-427-2951, (fax)773-427-4831. Violetta has been a Financial Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since April 2009.

Chicago North, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager



***FAUSTINO RAMIREZ** has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2023 by Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager. Faustino's office is located at 830 E Higgins Rd Ste 111A, Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since October 2017.

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

**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.*



POLLINATOR GARDEN

The pollinator garden on the CCFB building grounds is looking vibrant this summer.

Illinois Farm Bureau members receive
\$500 EXCLUSIVE CASH REWARD*
ON ELIGIBLE NEW SUPER DUTY®, F-150, RANGER OR MAVERICK

FORD SUPER DUTY FORD F-150 FORD RANGER FORD MAVERICK

*Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau today!

Computer-generated image with available features shown.

We value our long-standing partnership with Illinois Farm Bureau and are proud to offer you exclusive savings.

*Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2022/2023/2024 Ford Maverick®, Ranger®, F-150® or Super Duty®. This incentive is not available on Ranger Raptor®, F-150 Lightning®, F-150 Raptor, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 2, 2024. See your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #38656.

FUN. FAMILY. MEMORIES.

Santa's Village
Amusement & Water Park

SAVE BIG!

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2. Click on the "BUY TICKETS" button
3. Select 2023 Any Day Admission
4. Enter coupon code below at checkout

SV2023CDP

847-426-6751 | 601 Dundee Ave. | East Dundee, IL 60118



SHAKEN OR STIRRED WITH HERBS

A few of the Shaken or Stirred with Herbs Mixology & Planter event presenters and contributors that made the event such a success include: (left to right) Ted's Horticulturist Greg Stack; Hort Educator, Garden Writer and Mixologist, Nina Koziol; Ted's Greenhouse owners, Dan and Karen Biernacki. Not pictured, Becca Biernacki and CCFB volunteer, Angelica Carmen.



Ted's Greenhouse was turned into a palatial tropical oasis where members and guests heard from professionals and tasted mocktails, cocktails and appetizers created using fresh herbs, and then selecting their choice of herbs to make a planter for home using recipes provided during the event.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 months.

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

Automobile – 2018 Ford Focus SE 2.0, 4 Cylinder, automatic, 4-door. 10,116 Original miles, purchased from 91 year-old woman who can no longer drive. Excellent condition, like new. \$13,500. **Call James at 708-361-8230.**

18 position ladder, 16 ft, asking \$200. Coleman Camp wagon, brand new in box, never opened, asking \$100. **Call 708-354-2010.** Photos of ladder and wagon available online at cookcfb.org/stay-updated/classified-ads.

17 ft Grumman Aluminum Canoe, never used, \$350 (located in Lemont). **Call 708-217-0397.**

New and used assortment of Halloween & Christmas décor, both indoor & outdoor. Prices range from \$5 to \$25. **Call Paul for details: 708-826-0000 (cell phone).**

WANTED

Wanting to buy your H/O and N scale electric trains; and H/O scale slot cars and tracks. I buy large and small collections. **Turn those unwanted items into cash give me a call at 630-272-4433 Ron.**

Wanted 1972 older cars, Trucks/Parts unfinished projects, and 1967/69 Camaros. **Call 708-439-9770.**

ABC'S OF FOOD

At Cook County Farm Bureau, we love food... All types of foods in all types of shapes and all types of flavors. In this feature, we will be highlighting different types of food, primarily fruits and vegetables, from A to Z (we are not sure what to do with X yet!)

This month: **"Q"** is for

QUINCE



The quince is a hard, yellow, fragrant fruit that looks like a cross between an apple and a pear. The quince is a hard, yellow, fragrant fruit that looks like a cross between an apple and a pear.

The fruit itself is too hard and bitter to eat raw, so it is usually cooked or made into jams, jellies, or wines.

They are an excellent source of vitamins C and A, as well as iron and potassium.

They grow on a rather small shrubby tree and the fruit ranges in size from an orange to a grapefruit.

Sometimes the quince smells like a tropical fruit.

Because quince contains a high level of anthocyanins, the chemicals that are responsible for turning autumn leaves **red**, it turns **pink**, or sometimes even **deep crimson**, when it is cooked.



The word "marmalade" comes from the Portuguese word for quince.

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. Scan our QR for our Events Calendar.

Conceal and Carry Class

The Illinois concealed carry permit certification consists of a minimum of 16 hours of training and range time. This class is a two-day class, broken into two 8-hour segments. The first eight hours takes place in the classroom covering gun safety, basic firearm knowledge and the basics of marksmanship, followed by two or more hours of actual live fire on the shooting range. The second eight hours takes place in the classroom covering Illinois laws pertaining to the "Concealed Carry Act" and the legal use of deadly force with a firearm.



DATE: Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20

TIME: Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LOCATION: Pelcher's Shooters Supply Classroom, 18200 Chicago Ave., Lansing, IL

FEE: \$150 Members/\$200 Non-Members (includes instructors, classroom, range fees, the use of .22 caliber firearms, eye and hearing protection, ammunition, targets, printed material and refreshments/lunch); \$125 for vets or active military.

REGISTRATION: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org. Must be a minimum of 10 participants.

Make a Fall Planter at Big John's Farm Market & Greenhouse

Start your day and fall off right and make a Fall Planter event at member business, Big John's Farm Market & Greenhouse in Lynwood.



DATE: Saturday, August 26, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Big John's | 1754 E Joe Orr Rd, Lynwood, IL 60411

FEE: \$40 for members & guests - includes pot, soil, fall plants, and fall decoration.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Call the Farm Bureau at **708-354-3276**; email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org; online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

AARP Smart Driver 2-Day Course

The AARP Smart Driver course, offered by AARP Driver Safety, is the nation's largest classroom driver safety course and is designed especially for drivers aged 50 and older. You'll learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. By successfully completing this course, you may be eligible for a discount on your COUNTRY Financial auto insurance. People over 55 who have not had a motor vehicle accident or violation within the past twelve months are eligible.



DATE: Tuesday, September 19 and Wednesday, September 20

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: CCFB, 6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL

FEE: The classroom course costs \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-AARP members. Non-Farm Bureau members will also be charged an additional \$5 registration fee.

REGISTRATION: Space is limited, so register now by calling 708-354-3276 or at our Member Center. Those attending should bring their AARP membership card, if members (phone app acceptable) and driving license as these numbers are entered onto the course completion record/certificate.

23rd Giant Pumpkin, Dessert, Carving, Local Honey Contests

Giant pumpkin growers, bakers, carvers, and beekeepers - this is the contest for you! Adult and youth (under 16 yrs.) divisions. The contest is free for members and registration is required. Cash prizes are awarded in all categories.



DATE: Saturday, September 30, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m. Check-In

LOCATION: Puckerville Farms, 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont, IL

REGISTRATION: Call the Farm Bureau at **708-354-3276** or register online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org. Registration form and full program details at: <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>

FARM BUREAU FORWARDS RESOLUTION Addressing Food Waste and Resource Recovery to State Association

Cook County Farm Bureau Board approved a resolution addressing the tremendous amount of food that is landfilled. In Illinois, twenty percent of the nineteen million tons of general landfilled waste is comprised of food.

Forty percent of all food in the United States gets wasted. One in seven Americans are food insecure. In Illinois, more than one million people struggle with hunger and food insecurity. While rescuing and redistributing surplus food is not a cure for hunger, it is an important stopgap in meeting immediate anti-hunger efforts.

In brief, the new policy provides the following:

We support:

- Implementing state-based liability protections for food donors and rescue organizations that expand and strengthen those provided by the federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. Food rescue includes donation or recovery of surplus food used for feeding hungry people.
- The USDA and the Food and Drug Administration clarifying food safety

donation regulations for pre-cooked and pre-packaged food items.

- Updating USDA's definition of compost so that a greater number of potential buyers, including farms, golf courses, or other operations near waterways, are encouraged to purchase compost. Compost refers to a mixture of various decaying organic waste substances, such as food scraps, dead leaves, or manure, used as soil fertilizer.
- Streamlining and simplify the permitting process for compost facilities, including those that accept landscape waste and food scraps. Food scraps include pre-consumer food scraps, which includes waste generated during the manufacturing and production of food prior to the item being sold and processed food scraps.
- A separate permitting pathway for anaerobic digestion of source-separated food waste that includes requirements similar to those imposed on composting source-separated food waste.

The policy will now be considered by the Resolutions Committee made up of County Farm Bureau Presidents in August.

A POP OF COLOR

The Cook County Farm Bureau building is popping with color this summer. Building committee members Ruth Zeldenrust and Dan Biernacki collaborated for a selection of annual and perennial flowers that greeted visitors.



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MONARCH CLUB

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE MONARCH CLUB!

**Tuesday, July 11th
10 a.m.**

**Cook County Farm Bureau
small conference room**

Attendees will begin the conversation on club goals, schedule, and discussion topics while also touring and learning more about Farm Bureau's pollinator garden.