



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## AG IN THE CLASSROOM 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

**17,240**  
**STUDENTS**

**811**  
**CLASSROOMS**

**334**  
**SCHOOLS**

*Our six Ag in the Classroom presenters conducted in-person and virtual presentations to fourth grade students throughout Cook County. Presentation topics included Introduction to Illinois Ag and There's Ag on MyPlate, as well as two specialty seasonal programs, Pumpkin and Apple Fall Facts and Keeping Warm with Agriculture.*

*There were 311 attendees of our 2022 Ag Day program, held at The Children's Farm in Palos Park on April 7. Ag Day featured eight educational stations that each of the third grade students visited: poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, plants, composting and worms, and bees and honey.*

## A MESSAGE FROM JANET MCCABE PRESIDENT OF THE CCFB FOUNDATION

Dear Friends and Neighbors –



Following the difficult past 2 years of pandemic challenges, schools in Cook County returned to more of a traditional in-person approach to education (albeit with continuing challenges).

While the Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag Literacy program adjusted into the world of video-conference education, the return to “in-person” education was a welcome relief for our staff, presenters and volunteers. Knowledge from hands-on lessons and experiences on farming and agriculture are received and retained better than by delivery through a computer.

However, the ability to deliver virtual presentation lessons, honed in recent years, provides us with greater flexibility and options to fulfill teacher and school needs as necessary.

Through our scholarship program, we continue to support the next generation of agricultural producers and professionals. These scholarships go to members and dependents pursuing agricultural careers through higher education. We want our area's enthusiastic, bright minds to seek agricultural careers.

The Foundation Board recently announced a new scholarship that will be available in 2023...the Stuenkel Family Scholarship. It is intended for members and dependents pursuing higher education with a focus on an agriculturally related career in the

areas of technology, education, leadership development and/or mental health. The scholarship honors the many contributions made by the Stuenkel family (Harry, Janet, Julie, Jill and Tim) to the Cook County Farm Bureau, Foundation and the organization's agriculture education and literacy programming. We were so heartbroken to lose our friend and Foundation board member, Tim Stuenkel, this past spring.

I want to personally thank our many wonderful supporters, donors, partners and Foundation friends. Your continuing generous and broad support has impacted the future of individual lives connected to farming, food, fiber and fuel.

*Janet B. McCabe*

Janet McCabe,  
President, CCFB Foundation

### “How can you help?”

*Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, volunteer for an AITC activity, or serve as an ag mentor for students through the Farm Shadow Program.*

*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.*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Ag Literacy Program offered multiple workshops for educators. Topics included integrating agricultural books and activities into classroom curriculum, the harvest, apples, pumpkins, reading and STEM, and seeds, plants, and soil in an Earth Day-related workshop.

Summer Ag Institute took place June 20 through June 22 with 11 educators. Stops on this year's trip included a flour mill, a wheat field, a dairy farm, the Illinois Farm Bureau and the McLean County Farm Bureau, an organic flower farm, a grain elevator, an aerial application service, a greenhouse, and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.



## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Programming went beyond our traditional classroom programs with multiple educational events held throughout Cook County. Events held this past year included three sessions of the Cook County Sheriff's Department's youth leadership summer camp to teach about dairy and nutrition, a booth and activities at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, and a program about trees and leaves at the Morton Grove Public Library. The Cook County Farm Bureau hosted a Party for the Pollinators on July 13, which educated the community about pollinators, as well as celebrated our pollinator garden.





## FARM SHADOW PROGRAM

Last year, the Foundation supported the development of a Farm Shadow Program, which provides virtual presentations by agriculture professionals and field trips for students who are interested in exploring a future job or career in the agricultural industry.

Two Farm Shadow events were held at Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park on March 23 and March 29. Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences brought two groups of thirteen horticulture pathway students to learn about the operation of a commercial production greenhouse from Greg Stack, retired University of Illinois Extension educator.

On May 12, 20 students from Rolling Meadows High School learned about horses, animal nutrition, barn management, and equine veterinary career opportunities from Dr. Ali Power of Premier Equine Veterinary Services and the staff of Nova Quarterhorses in Mokena.



## 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation selected six individuals as recipients of the 2022-2023 Scholarship Program. A total of \$15,500 in scholarship funds were distributed.

CCFB Foundation has provided over \$285,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1999. Scholarship recipients were selected to receive the scholarships for the 2021-2022 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 Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship carries the highest financial award and is given to the top-rated applicant. The scholarship honors Howard Paarlberg, the first president of the Foundation and president of the Farm Bureau for 16 years.

# 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Jessica Biernacki\***

TINLEY PARK



**Elijah Floerke**

ORLAND PARK



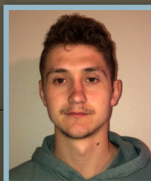
**Katherine Manika**

NORTH RIVERSIDE



**Jennifer Miller**

JUSTICE



**Andrew Smits**

SAUK VILLAGE



**Matthew Smits**

SAUK VILLAGE

*\*Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Award*



Foundation-sponsored ag literacy programs brought farm, food, fiber, and fuel knowledge to classrooms and provided hands-on experiences to students.

## "EVENING FOR AG" EDUCATION GALA FUN RAISER

The Foundation's Gala Fundraiser was held July 22 at Crystal Grand Banquets in Lemont. Through the support of generous donors and event attendees, we were able to surpass our fundraising goal of \$16,000. The event featured dinner, entertainment by the band Libido Funk Circus, both a live auction and a silent auction, a Truth or Hogwash trivia game, as well as other fundraising activities for the Farm Bureau's Ag Literacy Program and Foundation.



## 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.

## 2021-2022 CCFB FOUNDATION BOARD

**Janet McCabe**  
President

**Gerald Kopping**  
Vice-President

**Ruth Zeldenrust**  
Sec./Treasurer

**Mike Rauch**  
Director

**Tim Stuenkel**  
Director

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DONATION

Donor Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Discover

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to the CCFB Foundation can be made by:

Mailing a check to  
6438 Joliet Road,  
Countryside, IL 60525

Calling 708.354.3276  
to donate with a credit card

Visiting our website at  
[www.cookefb.org/foundation](http://www.cookefb.org/foundation)