



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



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A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 92 No. 7

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

July 2018

Mark Your Calendar

JULY

14th	Goat Yoga Deer Creek Farms	Page 11
14th	Cook County 4H Fair	Page 11
17th	Online Orientation Volunteer Class 2018	Page 1
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AUGUST

18th	Farm Crawl	Page 12
21st	Chicago White Sox vs. Minnesota twins	page 10

SEPTEMBER

22nd	12th Annual CCFB Member Picnic	Page 10
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SAVE THE DATE!

Aug 16th	Farm Dinner at Fairway Farms/Cog Hill CC
Sept 29th	18th Giant Pumpkin Contest - Puckerville Farms

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 using the member service center at www.cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Volunteer Class 2018

Online Orientation Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM

- The program is designed to provide members with potential interest in volunteering with...
- A better understanding of the goals of the Cook County Farm Bureau (CCFB) organization
 - Understanding the structure of the CCFB and potential opportunities for volunteerism
 - Insight on the tangible and intangible rewards of volunteering with CCFB
 - Connections into the organization to make membership more rewarding

Today's Cook County Farm Bureau

Farm Experiences
Connecting kids with local farmers about how their food arrives on their table.

Talking with Moms
Helping urban consumers know their food, fiber, fuel and farmers.

Connecting with local food
Providing people with fresh, nutritious food that is produced by area farmers.

Food Checkout Day
Giving and supporting our community.

Teaching Teachers
Providing useful and effective farm lessons using agriculture as the teaching medium.

Bees make honey
Helping grow the local bee population, enhance pollination and teaching new enthusiasts.

Greenhouse connections
Encouraging the public to check out the local, farmer greenhouse scene.

Member experiences
Enhancing members lives with fun, rewarding activities to create and enjoy with others.

Taking the Farm to the City
Bringing the "mysterious" world of today's farming to a curious audience of city folks!

If you have an interest in a strong and vibrant agriculture community, quality food, fiber and energy, interest in giving back to your community or love of hanging out with fun-loving farmers, please consider giving some of your time and talents to the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Pre-register: call 708-354-3276 or email ccfb@cookcfb.org

We will provide to you a Skype link to connect into the program online that evening from the comfort of your home or office! No need to drive!

Question of the Month

What Ag in the Classroom presenter just celebrated a 10-year anniversary teaching agriculture to students?

☆*Bonus*☆: What page of this publication is CCFB mascot Corny Calvin "hanging out" on this month?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or fax your answer to 708-579-6056 for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 gas card. **If you will be emailing your entry, our email address has changed. Please email your answers to FBCooperator@gmail.com (Please include Name, FB# and phone number)**

June's winner is **Michael Bavier**.

Last Month's Question:

What official from the U.S. EPA did local Farm Bureau Leaders and staff meet in May?

Answer: Alec Messina

☆*Bonus*☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, Corny Calvin, was hanging out in the May issue of the Co-Operator was... page 8.



Members of the Young Leaders Group brought Cook County Farm Bureau board members, friends and family to participate in a food packing effort at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on June 12. Gathered around the packing table from left to right included: Dan Biernacki, Karen Biernacki, Heidi Yunker, Lexi Yunker, Doug Yunker, Tim Stuenkel, Kevin Nolan, Ryan Mars, Kristen Yunker, Rebecca Biernacki, Justin Kopping, Rebecca Kopping, Jessica Biernacki, Jane Quetsch - Rohrer, Gerry Kopping, Gina Modica and Bob Rohrer.

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate



Mark Yunker and family

“What are you doing to protect the land?”

Answered by Mark Yunker, Cook County Farm Bureau®

Our land is our livelihood, so farmers are deeply committed to protecting it. Many farmers no-till to protect soil health and structure and to limit water or wind erosion. With no-till, farmers grow crops from year to year without tilling or disrupting the soil. If a corn field isn't tilled, the corn stalks will “cover” the soil and hold in moisture and help to prevent soil erosion.

Farmers prevent runoff of farm nutrients by ensuring that they are

using the right product at the precise moment the plant is ready to absorb the nutrients. Many farmers will also use riparian buffers or vegetated areas near creeks and ponds to help protect those areas from runoff.

Many farmers also use cover crops, which are crops planted in a field before winter to reduce soil erosion, improve soil structure, and to provide nutrients for next year's crops. Some common examples of cover crops are crimson clover and radishes.

Our land is our family's future so we're deeply committed to protecting it.

Have a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.

IAITC: Summer Reading? Don't Forget Ag

Materials are available that focus on commodities grown in Illinois and around the country.



Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom offers lesson plans and activities along with materials and other resources to make agriculture and farming part of the 2018 statewide summer reading program. (Photo by Kay Shipman)

Librarians' thoughts are turning to summer reading for youngsters who recently ended the school year. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) offers lessons and activities to ensure agriculture is part of the 2018 statewide “Reading Takes You Everywhere” summer program.

IAITC hopes students take agriculture, especially commodities, on their summer reading journeys, according to Illinois Farm Bureau Education Specialist Laura Vollmer.

“We focus our lesson booklet on different commodities in Illinois, and we also focus on looking at different commodities nationwide,” Vollmer said.

Since 1981, iREAD has developed statewide summer reading programs for local libraries and is supported by librarians and the Illinois Library Association.

Vollmer noted young readers can use existing IAITC resources to take

journeys across Illinois, the United States and the world.

Using a statewide commodity map, students can learn about individual counties and find facts “not easily found even by Googling,” Vollmer explained. “With this activity, they can navigate all throughout Illinois.”

Another activity encourages readers to find the locations of every ingredient used to make an apple pie, tracking items across the world.

Librarians and county ag literacy coordinators have received the booklet that includes related resources and books. All of the lessons and activities align with common core standards. Home-school families and others also use the materials, according to Vollmer.

IAITC's summer reading materials are geared primarily for students in third through sixth grades, but may be adjusted for younger or older students, Vollmer said.

To view or download the free booklet and lessons, visit agintheclassroom.org and click on Teacher Resources on the left side of the page. Scroll down to Lesson Booklets and then scroll down to summer reading themes at the bottom.



Janet McCabe (R), President of the Cook County Farm Bureau, and the rest of the Board of Directors expressed appreciation to Elizabeth “Beth” Christian for serving on the Board of Directors as well as serving as a leader of the Ag Literacy Team. Beth is stepping down from the Board of Directors after accepting a university assistant professor of Early Childhood/Special Education position and will be relocating. We will miss Beth and wish her the very best.

Gracias **THANK YOU** **Gratified**

The Gratitude Box

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

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- The Young Leaders Group for providing such a great group to volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children food pack day.
- Ag in the Classroom Presenter Linda Dunn as we celebrated her 10 year anniversary as a presenter in the classroom for the program.
- The libraries (Glenwood, Morton Growth, Evergreen Park, and LaGrange) that hosted us for the Family Breakout Box evenings. We had a great time interacting with so many families!
- Dr. Elizabeth “Beth” Christian for serving for so many quality years on the Ag Literacy Team as well as during the past two years as a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. We will miss you.
- Joe Bestwina from THE FEED STORE for including in their mailers a letter to their patrons about the importance of those that raise livestock and grow food for a living.

Gratified **THANK YOU** **Gracias**

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Man verses Nature”

I love nature, especially when it is not out to get me. Growing up on the farm, I was privileged to see a lot of forest and wildlife up close and personal. I learned that nature is not always friendly and is usually out to reclaim its territory from humans. We are only in control in our minds.

My wife and I are blessed to live on a wooded property in suburbia that features many varmints of various sizes, shapes and smells. Squirrels, chipmunks, muskrats, frogs, groundhogs, coyotes, skunks, mice, voles, snapping turtles, toads, crayfish, an occasional snake and hordes of insects want to call our place their “home”. I believe they hold secret meetings on a regular basis to plan the hostile takeover of our property.

A couple of weeks ago, my wife and I came home from church to discover that a rather large (seemingly healthy) 80 foot Shagbark Hickory tree had fallen across the driveway. I can't prove it, but I strongly believe those varmints pushed the tree over in an attempt to block our access to the house. The tree landed on a corner of our little hauling trailer and just missed the Durango that it was hitched to. I wish I knew where to send the repair bill.



The tree is just the most recent example of us vs. nature...

The dizzying acrobatics of the squirrels playing chase through the oak trees diminish in cuteness when they rip down and destroy my wife's birdfeeders in the dark of each night.

Mr. Woodchuck trenches holes under the shed, causing the concrete to shift, providing mass invasion opportunities for the mice and voles. I do not appreciate this example of fine team work.

A heavy, pungent odor envelopes the house following the dogs exit at the end of the night to take care of business...just what we want to be doing at bed time... cleaning rancid skunk smell from a stunned dog.

The red headed woodpecker doesn't seem to know the difference between my cedar siding and the dead ash trees...or does he? I hope he has a constant migraine.

Two striped chipmunks (my dad, the farmer, calls them “gophers”) scurry from the woodpile to the grill to their hole/borrow that they carved under our patio (causing the bricks to cave in and sink) ...The entire time, they “chit, chit”, taunting me and the dogs that fruitlessly chase them.

As I run early in the morning, a coyote trots down the middle of the subdivision ahead of me. Unperturbed but perhaps perplexed by the lumbering image of me following him, I swear that coyote smirks at me. I bet it is the same coyote that teases the dogs from the other side of the pond...just out of reach.

While the coyote befuddles the dogs, muskrats borrow hole upon hole literally under their feet into the pond bank, causing the sentiment to wash and fill in the pond.

And why did God invented ticks? They so love to bury their nasty heads in my flesh to feast and try to give me Lyme disease. And the leaches, horse flies, and mosquitoes for that matter...

It's me vs. nature and there is no doubt in my mind who is winning the war on our little property. I can't imagine the difficulties farmers face, on a much larger scale, as they battle nature to produce food. Thankfully, farmers have become so much better than me at co-existing with nature.

Send me some reinforcements...stat.

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.



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Helping you protect what matters most

Join us for a
**Family
Breakout Box
Mystery Hour**

Bring a team and beat the clock to unlock clues and enable the farmer to get local produce from the farm to the market. This farm-themed night is sure to challenge even the best detective. Join us for a fun-filled hour hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau. After solving the breakout box, detectives will wrap up the night fast with a quick game of Ag Bingo.

Program is free to all attendees and includes snack, activities and prizes. Call program location to register.
7/19/18 LaGrange Public Library 6:30-7:30PM



From the Farm Editor's Desk...

THE NEXT WEAPON IN THE WAR ON WEEDS (Reuters) – Robots could be the next big thing to disrupt not only weeds, but the \$100 billion pesticide and seeds industry. The robots, which identify weeds and then spray them with chemicals, could reduce the need for universal herbicides and genetically modified crops, sending a shock to ag giants like Bayer, DowDuPont, BASF and Syngenta.

IFB EARNS NATIONAL AWARDS - The Illinois Farm Bureau won awards from the American Farm Bureau Federation National Communications Conference for the best magazine (IFB Partners) and the best website (Illinois Farm Families).

AG CENSUS DEADLINE - The deadline for the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire is quickly looming. The paper form was due on June 15, 2018. The online form is due July 31 at www.agcensus.USDA.gov The questionnaire needs to be completed by everyone who received the form, including land owners who leased land to farmers and those involved in conservation programs. Federal law requires the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and to only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. For questions, call 888-424-7828.

COOK COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - An update to the Suburban Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan was introduced to the Cook County Board on June 8. It is available for review at <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/environmental-control> Comments may be submitted by July 11 to environment@cookcountyil.gov.

AFTER BASKETBALL, BIODIESEL PROGRAM WANTS TO BE NEXT BIG THING AT LOYOLA (FarmWeek) - Chicago school fuels shuttle buses on fuel made from used cooking oil.



Loyola University in Chicago was well under the radar entering the 2017-18 basketball season. Sister Jean and the Ramblers changed all that during their March Madness run to the Final Four. The school's once-fledgling

biodiesel program is following a similar storyline, as it's starting to make some noise and get some recognition.

"We've got a student-operated small business within the university," said Biodiesel Lab Manager Zach Waickman. "This is part of our Institute of Environmental Sustainability, and it's one of many programs where we really want to give the students an opportunity to step outside of the classroom and start applying that classroom knowledge to real-world applicable skills and problems."

An example of that was responding to emissions from transportation. "So the students over the past 10 years have worked on this great program to turn our used cooking oil from our cafeterias into biodiesel fuel to help fuel shuttle buses at the university," Waickman said. The biodiesel effort started in 2007, and Waickman was involved at the ground level as a student. He said it provided him with a great balance of classroom learning and lab learning.

About this feature: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.



The 2018 Recipe Collection Is Here!

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

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

To download a copy visit: www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes

Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...

Roger Freeman

- Roger Freeman was elected to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 2016.
- Freeman has been involved in the Commodities/Marketing Team for over 10 years. He has grown many giant pumpkins on his Dekalb County Farm.
- Own's a local fence company that has lucky enough to do work for several Bulls, Bears, Blackhawks and White Sox players.
- Die hard Chicago sports fan. Love's to fish. And have made it a point to fish at least one day if possible on every vacation.
- Roger is holding a nice Mahi-Mahi from earlier this year in Costa Rica. The best fishing in the world however, is right at our pond in Northern Illinois.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

When I was a kid, our corn was picked and put in snow fences, the elevator would bring shelling equipment and there would be piles of corn cobs. Corn cob fights were the best! This may sound a little strange, but I loved hard physical work, bailing hay and straw. Especially for neighboring farmer as those were my first paychecks.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

There are so many resources available that are free and only a small amount of the membership uses or even know that they are available. Always remember that there is strength in numbers and for us to stay relevant getting involved is important.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?

Fresh oxygenated air after a heavy summer rain.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

Big Green, of course, Oliver and then Allis-Chalmers.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD?

Pizza and ice, ice cold beer.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Yearly family reunion at our farm that was homesteaded in 1849. My dad had a huge family with 12 brothers and sisters. Everyone brings their favorite dish to pass. I have several cousins (over 30). You can not imagine the variety or the amount that is brought with love.

IAITC Protein Power: Know Your Cuts Of Meat, Species



By Kay Shipman, Farmweek Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's (IAITC) newest educational materials focus on four livestock species and the cuts of meat each provides.

Colorful 2 posters denote the location of popular meat cuts on an outline of a hog, steer, lamb and hen. The other side is filled with pictures and facts, ranging from history and different breeds to terminology and byproducts.

Kevin Daugherty, Illinois Farm Bureau® education director, said the posters and information are geared for middle school and high school students. Sets of posters recently were distributed to each county ag literacy coordinator.

IAITC is also developing lesson plans to reinforce the poster information. The lessons soon will be posted on the IAITC website agintheclassroom.org, Daugherty said.

Recently, a group of family and consumer

science teachers from Rock Island tried some of the hands-on activities, which use fruit to help students learn about fabrication of animal carcasses. Daugherty said the educators appreciated the activities and the posters.

Several of the lessons are particularly timely. One lesson focuses on which countries consume the most of each type of protein per capita. Students are encouraged to explore how cultures influence consumption and what a tariff might mean, Daugherty explained.

Poster sets are available through ag literacy coordinators and limited to one set per classroom. A separate but related set of four post cards provides cuts of meat information and facts for adult consumers.

Because IAITC has received such a positive response to the protein posters, similar posters related to dairy, soybeans and corn are being developed, Daugherty said.

USTR Announces Tariffs On Chinese Goods and Other Farm Trade News

By Deana Stroisch, Farmweek

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) officially announced plans to place tariffs on Chinese goods starting July 6.

USTR released a list of more than 800 Chinese goods worth \$34 billion that will face a 25 percent tariff. They contain “industrially significant technologies, including those related to China’s ‘Made in China 2025’ industrial policy,” according to USTR. The administration plans to accept public comment on another 284 Chinese products worth \$16 billion that could face tariffs in the future.

“China’s government is aggressively working to undermine America’s high-tech industries and our economic leadership through unfair trade practices and industrial policies like ‘Made in China 2025,’” said Ambassador Robert Lighthizer. “Technology and innovation are America’s greatest economic assets and President Trump rightfully recognizes that if we want our country to have a prosperous future, we must take a stand now to uphold fair trade and protect American competitiveness.”

China pledged to impose retaliatory tariffs on American products, including soybeans.

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers

vowed to continue fighting the tariffs.

“This move jeopardizes many of the 1.3 million good-paying manufacturing jobs our industry supports,” said President Dennis Slater. “The expected retaliatory actions by China also raise costs for equipment manufacturers that rely on a vast supply chain around the world, further eroding the benefits of the recent tax reform. We will continue to fight to end these tariffs immediately.”

In other trade-related actions, here is a recap of recent news:

** Group urges administration not to impose tariffs. The American Farm Bureau Federation joined other ag groups, including the American Soybean Association, in a social media effort urging #TradeNotTariffs.

One AFBF Twitter post highlighted 2017 U.S. farm and food export totals. “Canada = \$20.4B; Mexico = \$18.6B. American farmers #NEEDNAFTA #TradeNotTariffs.”

** Ag Secretary heads to Canada. Sonny Perdue met with Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay on June 15th. The meeting, which Perdue tweeted had been in the works for weeks, followed a war of words between the Trump administration and

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over tariffs.

Trump recently imposed a 25 percent tax on steel and 10 percent tax on aluminum imported from the European Union, Canada and Mexico. The countries had previously been exempt.

Perdue’s visit included a meeting with MacAulay to “discuss further cooperation between Canada and the United States in agriculture,” as well as a lobster boat tour and a visit with potato growers.

** Ag trade mission held in Japan. USDA Undersecretary Ted McKinney recently led a delegation of agri-businesses and state departments of agriculture leaders on an ag trade mission to Japan.

Japan remains the United States’ fourth-largest ag export market overall. It ranks first for beef and pork and second for corn and wheat, according to USDA.

In a call with reporters from Tokyo, McKinney described the trip as successful and record-setting.

“This is certainly the largest in numbers of attendees in the history of USDA and the Foreign Ag Service,” he said, noting 42 U.S. agribusinesses attended along with 15 state departments of agriculture.

Illinois Farm Bureau® General Talking Points on Tariffs and Trade June 2018

Talking Points: U.S. China Trade Tariff Dispute June 15, 2018

Background: The following talking points were developed in response to the ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China. They are intended to help Farm Bureau leaders prepare for media interviews and other conversations on the topic where facts and figures about Illinois commodities would be helpful.

Soybeans

- Annual U.S. soy exports to China are \$14 billion, with approximately \$1.75 billion from Illinois
- Sixty percent of Illinois soybeans are exported
- China is Illinois’ #1 market for soybean exports
- China buys about 25 percent of soybeans grown in the state
- Growing and crushing soybeans represents \$28.3 billion in sales and supports 114,500 jobs

Pork

- Illinois exports an average \$50 million worth of pork and pork variety meats to China each year
- Pork production supports 550,000 mostly rural jobs nationwide; 110,000 are tied directly to exports
- In the current farm economy, the difference between hog farmers making and losing money is the value of exports



Wheat harvest is likely to begin in earnest this month. Please keep your eyes open for farm equipment moving on Cook County’s roadways. Farm equipment is often times difficult to see around, so please use extreme caution when passing.

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Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Kirsten's Korner: Getting to Know Me

By Kirsten Raver



Growing up, my family had no real tie to agriculture, which I knew of. When I thought about agriculture, I always thought of Old McDonald on his farm, with all of his animals. That changed a little bit when I was in elementary school, because my mom had rescued a horse, which got my sister and I heavily involved in horseback riding and 4H. I still had a fairly closed idea on what agriculture was, since I had never been exposed to it. When I got to high school, I met an individual who farmed and they would tell me all about corn and soybeans, as well as various hot topics in agriculture. This led to me being more interested in agriculture as a whole, something that had affected me throughout my whole life, even though I had never known it.

My high school did not offer any agriculture courses and it certainly did not have FFA, which really is unfortunate. So, I had to find my own resources to learn more about agriculture and see if it really was something I wanted to focus more on in high school. When it came time to apply for colleges, I had to choose between secondary math education and agricultural education. After weighing my

options, I ultimately chose agriculture education due to the ever growing field of careers it offers, as well as the wide variety of courses that are offered in agriculture.

When I got to college, I knew that I had chosen the right course of study. I loved every second of what I was learning, so much so that when my best friend decided to switch her major out of agriculture education I thought she was crazy! After being in the agricultural education track for three years now, I can say with certainty that I chose the perfect major. I get to teach high school students about subjects that have lost their meaning in today's society. Many individuals do not learn about agriculture anymore and they do not know many of the processes. For this reason, I believe that attaining this knowledge has helped me to want to learn more about what I feel is one of the most important processes in the world.

For the people who may not know what they want to do in life, I would recommend looking into agriculture. There are many opportunities that you may have never thought about that could ultimately get you excited about agriculture. I was skeptical at first, but once I did a lot more research on all the career opportunities, I knew I had found the right course for myself.

"Your Presenters Are Fabulous!"



Pictured from left to right: Valerie Jones, Toni DeLaurentis, Linda Dunn, Jim Bloomstrand, Amy Toth, Sarah Koukol, Kathy Lesser and Linda Schaeffer.

Who doesn't like to hear a nice compliment like that? This was just one of hundreds of comments Ag in the Classroom received back from teachers who hosted our 4th Grade Ag in the Classroom program this school year. Our presenters wrapped up another successful school year delivering our three programs (and some specialty requests as well) about agriculture including our Part One- Introduction to Agriculture in Illinois, Part Two- There's Ag on My Plate and Part Three - Ag Science and Careers. We visited 1069 classrooms and reached over 26,000 students. Here are some general comments we received from teachers:

Your presenters are fabulous!! My students enjoyed all parts of the program. What a great resource. The hands-on activities allow students to apply knowledge. I really enjoyed comparing food labels, too! We definitely will have ag in classroom back next year!

We are discussing plant structures and animal structures. It was interesting for the kids to see how plants in IL are used in products and are important in their lives.

We are studying Illinois in great detail. The presentation gave the students a

great deal of additional knowledge on agriculture and its importance in our state.

We are learning about the current movements of goods, people, and jobs within Illinois. Also, how goods and services are produced using people, natural, and capital resources.

This was perfect for understanding economy in Illinois--especially natural resources and industries including agriculture.

We just finished a unit on IL ecosystems, including a lesson on agriculture and agribusiness. This was a wonderful way to help solidify the concepts into a practical understanding of what they read.

We thank the teachers who invited us into their classrooms and thank the students for their amazing comments and questions. We also thank our team of presenters who brave the elements and the parking challenges every month throughout the school year. They've made many friends at the schools over the years who look forward to seeing them arrive with their suitcases to spread the word about ag to the students in Cook County.



Mrs. Linda Dunn was honored for her 10 years of service as an Ag in the Classroom Presenter. We thank Linda for 10 years of dedication to the students of Cook County through her AITC programming, farm camp leadership and Ag Day volunteerism. She is an advocate of agriculture in and out of the classroom. Some feedback teachers shared with us about her in-school visits include: "Linda does an amazing job engaging the students and keeping their attention," "I've lived my whole life in Chicago and never knew half of the important facts Mrs. Dunn shared with us," and "Linda has come to us for several years now and the kids are ALWAYS drawn to her and the activities she brings."

Food Science Grant Results Impressive

"I've been teaching for ten years and each year I am pleasantly surprised by the impact that this grant provides the students at Rolling Meadows High School," stated Advanced Culinary Arts teacher Ms. Krupicka. Using a curriculum that incorporated sustainability, the students researched the farm to table concept and created a menu featuring locally grown products. This was one of five programs that used funds provided through the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation for expanding student awareness of using locally grown meat, dairy or vegetables. "Our cha cha project was a huge success on all fronts," commented teacher Nancy Zook from CCA Academy in Chicago. Students interacted with local gardeners and food experts while creating their own product with produce they grew and harvested. Over 30 students participated and were able to make over 40 jars of cha cha relish as part of an entrepreneurial experiment in their Culinary Class.

As you can tell by these lessons, teachers used the funding to go many different and interesting directions with their students. Westchester Middle School teacher Cathy Malloy explained, "This year's grant funds were used for food and supplies for an Introduction to Agriculture unit with a focus on livestock for over 200 6th and 7th grade students. A goal for the project was to get students thinking about the importance of agriculture to our daily lives and economic system." The scope and focus of the various projects was truly impressive this year. Every fall, Food Science Grants are available to middle and high school teachers in Cook County through Ag Literacy Coordinator Diane Merrion (aitc@cookcfb.org).

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

Hopefully your summer travels will include some stops in Illinois to visit historic sites as part of the bi-centennial. To look for suggestions on travel stops visit <https://www.enjoyillinois.com/travel-illinois/> You might even want to pull over at a scenic location and have a picnic as part of your travels. Thanks to farmers everywhere who grow the food and supplies that make that picnic possible. Let's take a peek inside your basket!



Tortilla Chips: 94% of the corn grown in the United States is field corn. There are over 4,000 uses for corn products and more are being found every day. Tortilla chips are made from field corn, the #1 crop in Illinois.

Beef and Pork Hot Dogs: Pork is the top meat produced in Illinois which ranks 4th in pork production in the U.S. In 2017 there were over 1 million cattle on Illinois farms which ranked 27th in the nation.

Flowers: 79% of our county's annual agriculture sales comes from floriculture crops, including those grown in nurseries and greenhouses.

Honey: Illinois is home to many beekeepers who are creating wide varieties of honey. On average, one hive of honeybees collects 66 pounds of pollen per year.

Soybean oil: Soybeans are used in the main edible oil used in the United States. Soybeans are the #1 ingredient in vegetable oil and the #2 crop grown in Illinois. Many salad dressings contain soybeans as well.

Lettuce: Right now a huge new industry is producing vast amounts of lettuce and microgreens using indoor hydroponics and aquaponics. This new industry is changing the way farmers are producing greens.

Hot Dog Bun: Most hot dog buns are made from wheat, but also may contain corn and even soybeans. Illinois grows red winter wheat which is harvested in mid-summer.

Oatmeal Cookies: Oats are produced by farmers in Illinois and are used in human foods where they are most commonly rolled or crushed into oatmeal, or ground into fine oat flour.

Cheese: Many farming operations in Northern Illinois are cow dairy farms. There are also goat dairy farms in Illinois.

Fruits and Vegetables: Illinois has good soil and a favorable climate, making the state a top grower of several specialty crops. Many people don't realize that crops like pumpkins, peaches, apples, grapes, horseradish and melons are grown on Illinois farmland.

Wool blanket: Sheep have played an important role in human history. They were among the first species to be domesticated and provided both meat for food and wool for clothing. One pound of wool can make ten miles of yarn.



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 2018 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!



Stephanie Oehmen
 Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!

July Word Search

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

- Aquaponics
- Beef
- Cheese
- Flowers
- Greenhouse
- Honey
- Hot dogs
- Hydroponics
- Ice Cream
- Oats
- Pork
- Soybean Oil
- Specialty Crops
- Tortilla Chips
- Wheat
- Wool Blanket

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Barn-Raising Symbolic of Rural Volunteer Spirit

People repeatedly shared praise: “Incredible.” “Amazing.” “Phenomenal.” Yet, I struggle to find words that can duly describe the barn-raising in our small farming community.

Farmers with hay to bale volunteered their time and tractors. Carpenters with decks to build offered their labor and tools. Land specialists put excavation jobs on hold to bring an excavator and laser level. Professionals with office jobs took vacation days to donate physical labor through 90-degree heat and intermittent rain.

Together, more than 40 volunteers raised a barn: a professionally engineered, steel-framed playground barn. It arrived with enough parts to fill a 40-foot flatbed trailer, including more than 1,600 bolts and at least 28 steel poles weighing 200 pounds apiece.

We photographed the momentous first hole, dug by a tractor with an auger that typically builds cattle fences. Two-and-a-half years ago, the Playground Barn-Raising Project started as an idea in our community. After significant planning, the project transitioned into an ambitious 15-month fundraising campaign jointly led by the local volunteer parks association and FFA Alumni affiliate.

With the project fully funded by more than 130 generous donors, we gathered three days in June for the barn-raising. Occasionally, I paused from assembling slides to commit the scene to memory. An electrician with a bucket truck added extensions to the barn’s center poles. A farmer used his scissor lift to affix the plastic panels that resemble board and batten. Volunteers formed a team to add the roof panels higher than 20 feet in the air. Another group raised 17-foot poles for the silo.

Local tradesmen secured poles and in-ground play equipment with concrete from a mixer – a machine that stirred more than eight tons of bagged concrete mix over the three days. FFA members worked alongside their advisor to install monkey bars. Nearby, volunteers assembled slides, benches and a big farm seesaw.

Within three days, the park site went from an excavated 60-foot square plot of soil to a shiny red, steel-piped barn with striking white gates and a tan silo offering two levels of play. Volunteers torqued the final bolt a full day sooner than our consultant predicted. The pace stunned even the playground manufacturing company’s president, who saw a single day’s progress in photos and wanted to know who was on the crew. Our consultant told him “hard-working farmers.”

The volunteers took a short break only at the dinner bell for sandwiches, fried chicken, pulled pork, sides and desserts provided by a local farm woman. The food, like the barn-raising, offered a slice of rural Illinois volunteerism at its finest.

The stately playground barn sits in our village’s 15-acre park, a red icon visible across the neighboring soybean field and from home plate at the local ballpark. Parents drive by with anxious kids peering out windows at a project that has garnered nearly four times as many Facebook views as residents in our no-stoplight town. This legacy landmark celebrates our community’s kids and agricultural roots with a single, powerful barn-raising too extraordinary for words.

About the author: Joanie Stiers writes from west-central Illinois where her family farms and joined fellow community volunteers who poured their hearts into this playground barn-raising.

Family Food Bytes

FOOD SAFETY CONCERNS ONLINE SHOPPERS (FarmWeekNow) - More than half of Americans report they worry about the safety of online purchases, according to marketing research firm Mintel. Nearly eight in 10 consumers are concerned about the freshness of food bought online. Roughly 10 percent of Americans report buying fresh produce, meat, poultry and fish online with cost savings as the top reason for online shopping. Women, especially mothers, are more likely than men to buy food and beverages online to avoid going to the store and to save time.

EGG DEBATE (Wall Street Journal) – Are eggs good for you? Nutrition experts say they’re beneficial in a high-protein diet. The Food and Drug Administration says they’re too high in fat and cholesterol to be labeled healthy. It’s such a scrambled issue that one brand is asking for an official government reassessment of eggs.

LEATHER GLUT (Bloomberg) – Once a status symbol and staple of formal outfits, leather shoes are falling on hard times. The casual-dress trend has fueled the rise of sneakers for all occasions. More shoppers are avoiding products made with animal parts. As a result, footwear makers—formerly top users of leather—are buying a lot less.

DOG NUTRITIONAL SURVEY (FarmWeek) - Own a dog or two? Consider taking a University of Illinois online survey aimed at discovering practices of pet owners in terms of their lifestyle, dietary choices and good behavior, and how they translate those practices to their pets. Maria Cattai de Godoy, an assistant professor in companion animal and comparative nutrition, aims to get 1000 or more responses by the end of August. Survey results may be used to develop educational journals for owners about their dogs nutritional needs and well-being, and possibly assist the pet food industry in developing products tailored to the owners’ habits and preferences, as well as dogs’ nutritional needs. Visit Bit.ly/ChooseYourDogsFood to take the online survey.

AG ACROSS AMERICA (FarmWeek) - Know some third or fourth grade students who would like to learn more about US agriculture? The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has newly updated the game and agriculture to America! The game tests students’ knowledge on different agricultural commodities grown and raised throughout the United States. Updates include new graphics and 100 new questions, including 20 videos from American farmers and ranchers. Visit bit.ly/AgAcrossAmericaGame

NCBA: DON’T BE FAKED OUT BY FAKE MEAT (FarmWeek) - The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) isn’t against the movement of producing “fake meat” that’s either plant based or grown in a laboratory. But if products such as the Impossible Burger (produced in part from soy and genetically engineered yeast) compete with meat, they should be labeled accurately so consumers know what they’re getting, according to Kevin Kester, NCBA president. A key area of focus falls on labeling of new designer “meat” products. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authority over production of the products, but NCBA also wants to make sure all labels are USDA approved.

IAITC PROTEIN POWER; KNOW YOUR CUTS OF MEAT, SPECIES (FarmWeek)- Posters help students learn about different cuts of meat and the animals that produce them.

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom’s (IAITC) newest educational materials focus on four livestock species and the cuts of meat each provides. Colorful foot posters denote the location of popular meat cuts on an outline of a hog, steer, lamb and hen. The other side is filled with pictures and facts, ranging from history and different breeds to terminology and byproducts. Kevin Daugherty, Illinois Farm Bureau education director, said the posters and information are geared for middle school and high school students. Because IAITC has received such a positive response to the protein posters, similar posters related to dairy, soybeans and corn are being developed, Daugherty said.

About Family Food Bytes: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

State Budget Approved

The state budget has a combined total of \$80.26 billion in expenditures, an increase of \$1.1 billion over last year.

Key budget items include:

- \$8.3 billion to fund the Evidence Based Funding formula and other programs for elementary and secondary education funding
- \$1.793 billion for higher education
- \$14 billion for human service programs.

The budget also makes some changes in key programs like the state pension program and Medicaid, including the option for some retired employees to switch their retirement benefits from a state plan to a private system and a state employee COLA buy-out. The budget also establishes a process for local taxing districts to pick up the cost of pension increases for salary spikes over three percent for employees who are under state retirement systems. Each of these are estimated to save money for the State of Illinois.

Most programs within the budget see funding levels equal to what was appropriated last year. The Illinois Department of Agriculture and other key agricultural programs saw a similar outcome with mostly level funding. Below is a breakdown for some of the key agriculture program areas included in the state budget:

Line Item	FY 2017 Actual Expenditure	FY 2018 Enacted Appropriation	FY 2019 Budget Bill
Cook County Extension	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200	\$2,449,200
State Cooperative Extension Service Trust Fund	\$994,700	\$10,994,700	\$10,994,700
Ag Extension (4-H)	\$786,400	\$786,400	\$786,400
SWCD Cost Share	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$4,500,000
SWCD District Operations	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$3,000,000
Co. Fair and Exposition Authorities	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Co. Fair Rehabilitation	\$1,301,000	\$1,301,000	\$1,301,000
Co. Fair & Agriculture Societies	\$1,798,600	\$1,798,600	\$1,798,600
Viticulture/Enologist	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Administration of the Pesticide Act	\$5,754,500	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Pesticide Control Act	\$351,200	\$650,000	\$650,000
Animal Disease Labs Act	\$404,900	\$700,000	\$25,000
Inspection of Agricultural Products	\$1,352,600	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Agricultural Education	\$1,799,900	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Food Safety Modernization Initiative	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Farm Bureau Working on Property Assessments

According to recent studies, since 2009 the county's assessments have violated the accuracy standards set by the International Association of Assessing Officials, an international professional organization that develops assessment guidelines and standards, that assessors check their assessments- known as sales ratio studies- for fairness and accuracy.

The Cook County Assessor's Office has admitted in recent newspaper articles that they do not check their work for fairness and accuracy, as is a standard practice for assessors. A result of home values that are "outside the target range" of industry standards is regressivity- the tendency to over value lower-priced homes and

undervalue more expensive properties.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is submitting a resolution to amend the Farm Bureau's Property Tax Administration policy to support legislation to require that multi-township assessors check their assessments for fairness and accuracy.

The draft policy states: "We will support legislation to improve the administration of local assessments including: Requiring local assessors to conduct sales ratio studies to check assessments for fairness and accuracy."

Farm Bureau members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Farm Bureau Negotiates Changes to Cook County Zoning Code

Farm Bureau actively engaged with Cook County Commissioners and staff to minimize the impact of proposed zoning changes on Cook County agriculture.

The amendment, which was approved in June, provides:

- Reasonable minimum lot sizes for individuals interested in keeping livestock or horses.
- Reasonable requirements for apiaries located on smaller residential lots.
- Reasonable minimum requirements for animal enclosures.

In February, Farm Bureau submitted comments regarding minimum lot sizes for the keeping of bees. The proposed ordinance stipulated that bee hives were limited to lots with an area of at least two-acres. This lot minimum along with limits regarding the number of hives was eliminated in the most recent draft of the ordinance.

A subsequent draft provided that

livestock and horses could only be kept on lots with a minimum area of three or five-acres respectively and that an acre of space was required for each adult animal. Almost all horse riding stables, horse tracks, and carriage barns in Cook County have fewer acres of land than horses. Midwest farmers use a combination of limited time grazing and supplemental feed (hay, grain, etc.) to maximize the number of animals they can house. Farm Bureau successfully negotiated a change to the ordinance to reduce the lot size requirement and to eliminate the requirement for an owner to have an equal number of acres and horses.

Farm Bureau is working closely with the Chairman of the Building and Zoning Committee and his staff to negotiate the changes and to mitigate the impact on Cook County agriculture. Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org with any questions or concerns.



By Bona Heinsohn

My first car was a sweet little faded 1989 red Ford Escort hatchback. The 'BUNNI 9' (yes, that was its license plate) was complete with a stick shift and a left turn signal that only worked if you pressed on the hazard button at the same time. That little car went some great places during its short tenure with me. We went to Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and to the top of my farmer's corn silage pile. We parked illegally during a campus visit in Urbana. Carted too many people to the Dells. It even rolled down the driveway one night after I didn't use the emergency brake.

I traded in the Escort for a purple two-door Saturn with a spoiler. In addition to having a working turn signal, that glorious car even had an automatic transmission. The Saturn ran me back and forth to junior college, undergrad, and graduate school. My farmer wouldn't let me trade it in when we bought the sports car. Instead he drove it until it hit 225,000 miles. He cracked the windshield hauling steel rods, drove it through a cattle yard, and most famously got three speeding tickets in three different states on the same weekend in it. The Saturn finally kicked it when it ran out of oil...completely out of oil.

In my youth I longed for fast, fancy cars. As an adult I'm more in the mood

for reliable, easy to clean and safe. Clearly my priorities have changed, although I do harbor a secret love affair with a jet black Mini Cooper. Unlike many motorists, I live in an incorporated area without a vehicle sticker.

Funds from vehicle sticker purchases have long been used for roadway repairs. But despite the income, many municipalities have eliminated the program citing the cost of enforcement, staff time, and the printing of stickers. Vehicle stickers are also one of the most hated fees a municipality can impose on its residents, which begs the question why aren't more Cook County residents living in unincorporated areas howling about the county's vehicle sticker program?

I motor around in a Grand Cherokee. Each year I begrudgingly visit my friendly Secretary of State location and hand over \$101 also known as the cost of traveling on some of Illinois' well-maintained roadways. If I lived in unincorporated Cook County, I'd have to fork over an additional \$100 to the county. I'm not a math genius, but let's take a moment and dive a little deeper. Illinois is home to 57,915 square miles. At a license renewal cost of \$101 it costs me \$0.002 per mile to cruise the state. Granted that figure ignores gas, maintenance, insurance, etc. Cook County on the other hand is home to 1,635 square miles. At a Cook County license fee for my "larger or luxury" vehicle of \$100, it costs me \$0.06 to travel

all of Cook County.

But wait! (That was my favorite line from one of my kids' beloved bedtime books.) Cook County's license fee is only for residents living in unincorporated areas. There's 125.8 square miles in unincorporated Cook County. It costs \$0.80 to travel in the unincorporated areas.

People who know me will tell you that I'm a believer in fee-for-service. But that fee must be used to maintain and improve on the services being provided. I wonder: What are the funds from the vehicle sticker fees being used for? Road repairs? Police services in unincorporated areas? Public safety? To pad the county's coffers?

Also: Why aren't residents as outraged as I would be? Why aren't they beating down their commissioner's doors? The answer for that may be because they don't have their commissioner's contact information (see bottom of this column for that information).

If the cost of driving on Cook County's roads annoys you as much as it does me, call you commissioner and then drop me a line to let me know how the conversation went. I'll be here, cruising around the county and trying not to have a repeat of my farmer's infamous three speeding tickets weekend.

Cook County Commissioners

Commissioners representing unincorporated areas:
Sean M. Morrison

- Sean.Morrison@cookcountyl.gov
- Stanley Moore
stanley.moore2@cookcountyl.gov
- Timothy O. Schneider
tim.schneider@cookcountyl.gov
- Peter N. Silvestri
cookcty9@aol.com
- Larry Suffredin
lsuffredin@aol.com
- Edward M. Moody
edward.moody@cookcountyl.gov
- Gregg Goslin
commissioner.goslin@cookcountyl.gov
- Jeffrey R. Tobolski
jeffrey.tobolski@cookcountyl.gov
- Deborah Sims
deborah.sims@cookcountyl.gov
- Commissioners primarily representing Chicago:
- Bridget Gainer
Bridget@bridgetgainer.com
- Dennis Deer
Dennis.Deer@cookcountyl.gov
- Jerry Butler
jerry.butler@cookcountyl.gov
- Jesus G. Garcia
jesus.garcia@cookcountyl.gov
- John A. Fritchey
john.fritchey@cookcountyl.gov
- John P. Daley
john.daley@cookcountyl.gov
- Luis Arroyo Jr.
Luis.ArroyoJr@cookcountyl.gov
- Richard R. Boykin
richard.boykin@cookcountyl.gov

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

MEMBER RELATIONS

12th Annual CCFB Family Celebration Picnic

Goebbert's Farm
40 W. Higgins Rd., So Barrington, IL.
Saturday, September 22, 2018
1pm-4pm (lunch served 1:00-3:00)
Early Bird rates end 8.15.18



Tickets are limited!

\$20 Early Bird Admission
 (ages 2 & up)
 1 & under are FREE
\$40 value!

The event will feature a picnic buffet lunch which includes:
 Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, roasted corn, chips, apple cider donuts, kettle corn and assorted sodas/water

Each person will receive:
 ♦ Admission to Animal Land & Little Farmers Playground including the corn & straw town maze
 ♦ 1 voucher for a wagon ride
 ♦ **1 voucher to be used for either a pony ride, camel ride, haunted house or jumping pillow
 ♦ All children will receive a voucher for 1 small pie pumpkin
 **1 & under excluded

*Tickets/vouchers will be picked up at the welcome table the day of the event.

Ticket orders must be in our office by Friday, September 7, 2018.

Family Celebration Picnic Order Form

Name _____	General Ticket (2 & up)	\$20.00 (early bird price) x _____ = _____
Farm Bureau Number _____		
Address _____	\$25.00 (rate after 8.15.18) x _____ = _____	
City _____ Zip _____	1 & under FREE _____	
Phone _____	Total amount _____	

Mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau
 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or call 708.354.3276 to charge your Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
 *Price includes food and activities.

Cook Country Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month.



Mirsad Kljucanin
 Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Mirsad Kljucanin has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave., Ste.280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-728-3041. Mirsad has been a Financial Representative since February 2010.



Sylwia Grochowska
 Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



Yani Zavakos
 Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Yani Zavakos has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. His office is located at 401 S. Milwaukee Ave., Ste 270 in Wheeling, IL. His phone number is 847-419-1281. Matt has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2010



Craig Kline
 Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Craig Kline has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. His office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste 550 in Skokie, IL. His phone number is 847-733-0763. Craig has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Kathy Spiewak
 Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Kathy Spiewak has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. Her office is located at 11 W. Wise Rd. in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-716-1010. Kathy has been a Financial Representative since February 2007



Renata Bondarwicz
 Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Renata Bondarwicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. 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.



Martha Dominguez
 Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Martha Dominguez has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-254-5810. Martha has been a Career Financial Representative since June 2012.



Ed Beavers
 Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Ed Beavers has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2018. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-588-1404. Ed has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.



Brian Zielinski
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Brian Zielinski has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for May 2018. His office is located at 106 Stephen St., Ste.102 A in Lemont, IL. His phone number is 630-257-6100. Brain has been a Financial Representative since May 2016.



Bart Zona
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Bart Zona has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for May 2018. His office is located at 9731 W. 165th St., Ste 36. in Orland Park, IL. His phone 708-789-6027. Bart has been a Financial Representative since December 2017.



Kyle Stevens
 South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Kyle Stevens has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for May 2018. His office is located at 30 S. Ash. in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-9018. Kyle has been a Career Financial Representative since December 2005.



Tim Winters
 South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Mike Burton has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Tim Winters has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for May 2018. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave. in Worth IL. His phone number is 708-361-4330. Tim has been an Employee Financial Representative since May 2016.



FARM BUREAU GRAND SLAM GROUP

WHITE SOX VS. MINNESOTA TWINS

Tuesday, August 21st, 2018 - 7:10 PM
 Guaranteed Rate Field

SPECIALY PRICED WHITE SOX TICKETS!

Specially Priced White Sox Tickets! www.whitesox.com/fbn

On this special night the White Sox would like to offer specially priced tickets to all Farm Bureau members, their families and friends. Tickets start as low as \$13.44!

Orders will NOT be redeemed at the Guaranteed Rate Field ticket windows or the White Sox administrative offices.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH.

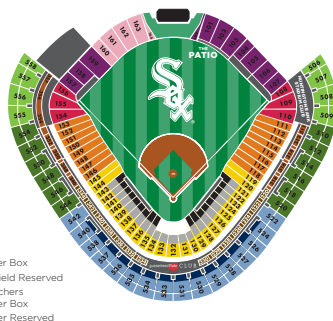
OPTIONS TO ORDER TICKETS	# OF TICKETS	TICKET PRICE	TOTAL
WEB Visit whitesox.com/fbn (Service fees will apply)		Lower Box - \$28.00 (regularly \$42.56)	
		Outfield Reserved - \$15.68 (regularly \$24.64)	
CALL (866) 769 - 4263 for Ticketmaster and give the "FBN" code (Service fees will apply)		Bleachers - \$13.44 (regularly \$22.40)	
		Upper Box - \$13.44 (regularly \$17.92)	
MAIL with payment to: Chicago White Sox Sales Department ATTN: Farm Bureau GSG 333 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL 60616		Hot Dog Value Meal (hot dogs, chips, soda) - \$7.75	
		Car Parking - \$20	
FAX with payment to: 312-674-5140		Handling Fee (Applies to groups of 19 or less)	\$5
		Total Enclosed	

PRICES ABOVE INCLUDE 9% CITY AND 3% STATE AMUSEMENT TAXES. ALL GAME TIMES AND PROMOTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover
 Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

OR: Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Chicago White Sox.
 (If check or money order is greater than total cost of the tickets, the difference will be made up in Comiskey Cash.)

Check # _____



Lower Box
 Outfield Reserved
 Bleachers
 Upper Box
 Upper Reserved



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WHITESOX.COM/SPECIALEVENTS

MR

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 (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) 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 date 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 free, 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

4 Combo vending machines (RC800/RC850) Cap. 200 snacks, 177 drinks each machine. \$3500 all 4- call Ruben at 630-665-9832 leave

message. Greenhouse buildings for sale must be dismantled and removed by July 2018. We also have Concrete garden, Religious statues, and flower pot planters left. No reasonable offer refused. For viewing call Charlie 708-707-7423.

Misc items for sale: High end gun collection for sale. Long guns & handguns, home defense shotguns & AR rifles. Various taxidermy animals for sale. Also selling a Swedish made partner masonry saw, electric, Model K2300 el. Exec. Condition, used Twice. Paid \$1,200, will take \$550 OBO. Call Jim for details 773-581-4400.

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

Casablanca mission fan, never used, still in box \$150. Call Mike at 847-910-5745

1994 Cadillac Fleetwood LT1 triple black extra lean all original nice \$3800.00

Wanted

One thing to buy your electric trains and slot

cars, turn those unwanted Trains and Slot Cars into cash! Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

To buy-Antique, Classic British MG, Triumph, Morgan cars and parts in any condition. Call Donato at 630-985-8895.

\$\$\$ INSTANT CASH\$\$\$ FOR YOUR CAR OR TRUCK RUNNING OR NOT TOP DOLLAR PAID \$\$\$ CALL GREG AT 224-465-4733.

Old balloon tire bicycles with tool or horn box, also front spring fork handles, Schwinn, Ranger, Elgin, Silver king, JC Higgins, Monark etc. Also 20' inch banana seat bikes, pedal car's and motor bikes. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

Goat Yoga. It's a Thing...at Deer Creek Farms

Deer Creek Farm, located at 360 Glenwood Dyer Rd, Glenwood, IL is offering Cook County Farm Bureau® members a discount to attend their Goat Yoga Class on: Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 10 AM. This 90-minute Yoga Goat class will include 1 hour of yoga, led by a certified instructor, and 30 minutes of chill time on the farm with goats. Cook County Farm Bureau members can sign up for \$20.00 (\$10 discount) to JoAnn Shults (owner of Deer Creek Farm) at www.paypal.me/deercreekyoga. Additional class and farm information at <https://deercreekfarm.co/>. Deer Creek Farm is home to farm fresh food, goat yoga and archery!



2018 Cook County 4H Fair...Let the fun begin!

The 2018 Cook County 4-H Fair is Saturday, July 14th from 9:30 AM – 2 PM at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave, Bridgeview, IL. Admission is free and includes games and activities for the whole family including a bug zoo, magic act, bounce house, extreme slide, watermelon eating contest, and see the best of this year's 4-H projects. For more information, visit 4-H online at cookcounty4Hfair.com or find them on Facebook.



Did Something Change? Let Us Know!

Our members' lives are constantly changing and evolving...moving of residences, marriage, divorce and more. Please keep us "in the loop" as changes occur so that we can properly reach, communicate and serve you.

Call us at 708-354-3276 • Fax us at 708-579-6056 • Email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org

Thank You!

I'm a Mother, a Farmer and a Nurse and I Care about the Food I Grow



By Janet McCabe, Cook County Farmer

As a child, I never imagined that I'd be responsible for raising high-quality, healthy food products that feed my family and yours.

I grew up in Mt. Prospect, a northwest suburb. My sister and I didn't even mow the lawn; instead we played with other kids in the neighborhood and were active in the youth group at our church. During college breaks, I first worked in an office and then as a certified nursing assistant before earning my Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

I met my future husband during my freshman year of college. His sister and I were on the same dorm floor and six-years later we were married. On the weekends, I'd go back to Orland Park to his family farm. Orland Park at that time was still fairly rural. He'd let me ride in the tractor or combine with him, but he wasn't quite ready to hand over the steering wheel.

After we were married, we started to farm together. I started by going to pick-up parts before becoming more involved in management decisions and the day-to-day operations of the farm. Both of us work full-time off the farm, my husband as a heavy machinery mechanic and I'm a critical

care nurse, so dividing up the day-to-day tasks is essential. I primarily handle our hay operation-raking, baling, delivering the bales, and making contacts for additional sales. My husband, daughter, and son are involved in our family farm.

In addition to growing hay, we raise corn, soybeans, and wheat. Both my husband and I are involved in the management decisions. Before making any decision, we carefully consider our soil, seed traits, and our markets. We also review land grant university studies and new developments in farming to ensure that we are using the safest and best practices on our farm. Before applying any crop protectants, we examine our crops for insects, weeds, and disease, and only use crop protectants when needed.

The crop protectants of today are extremely precise, effective, and leave virtually no residue. They're also extensively tested and proven safe by the Food and Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Before we can purchase or apply any chemical, we are educated, tested, and certified by the Department of Agriculture.

I'm a mother, a farmer and a nurse and I'm confident that the food I grow is safe to eat for my family and yours.

John Deere Member Benefit

Illinois Farm Bureau and John Deere recently announced a new partnership providing Farm Bureau members special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership. The new member discount program strengthens the existing partnership between John Deere and Farm Bureau and continues to grow John Deere's dedication to strengthening its support of America's farmers and ranchers.

Along with equipment discounts, GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards Platinum members are eligible for special parts savings, Home & Workshop Products discounts and other members-only

- \$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing
- \$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing
- \$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles
- \$200-\$350 off Tractors
- \$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf
- 17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite



Go to the GreenFleet website at deere.com/en/campaigns/ag-turf/greenfleet/ to learn about the discounts and other benefits of being a Platinum 2 member!

Recipe of the Month: Hibiscus Gin & Tonic!


- ½ c dried hibiscus flowers
- ½ c sugar
- ¾ c gin
- ¼ c fresh lemon (1 or 2 lemons)
- 1 ½ c of tonic water
- 1 c water




Bring dried hibiscus flowers, sugar, and 1 cup of water to a boil in small saucepan. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring until sugar is dissolved, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a small bowl and chill in refrigerator 1 hour. Strain the hibiscus syrup into a jar. Combine gin, ¼ c hibiscus syrup and lemon juice in a small pitcher. Stir in the tonic water. Fill 4 glasses with ice, pour in the cocktail and enjoy. Dress glass with a fresh hibiscus flower for that wow effect!

Recipe reprinted with permission from Ray's Quality Greenhouse Staff, from our 2018 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure.


You can submit your recipes for the 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure by mailing to the Farm Bureau or to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.




Theme Park



Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL
Tickets bought directly from Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$49.00**
Tickets DO NOT INCLUDE Hurricane Harbor but are VALID for Fright Fest.
Online 1-Day General tickets are \$54.84
No Processing fee; a minimum of 2 tickets must be purchased through ilfb.abenity.com.



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



Santa's Village, East Dundee, IL
1-Day: \$16.75 Ages 2 and under are free.
Tickets for Santa's Village are available at the CCFB office.

For pricing and to order tickets online for King's Island, Cedar Point and Other theme parks go to
<https://ilfb.abenity.com/perks/>

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

Types of Farm Bureau® Memberships

The Cook County Farm Bureau®, born in 1920, is a 501c5 not-for-profit membership organization that serves to improve farming and agriculture for its members.

The CCFB features three main membership classifications:

- M (Farmer Member) - for individuals that are farming and earned \$2,500 or more annually. This classification is for individuals earning income from farming or from farm ownership. Farmer Members have full voting rights, are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors locally and statewide, and can serve as an officer on the board or and a delegate to the state annual meeting. This individual receives the publications FarmWeek, Partners and The Co-Operator.
- PM (Professional Member) - for individuals that are employed in the field of agriculture. The PM member has voting rights, is eligible to serve on the local Board of Directors and as an officer of the CCFB and can represent the organization as a

delegate at the state annual meeting. The PM should have a passion for agriculture and farming and be seeking a strong industry in the Cook County area. This individual is eligible to receive the publication FarmWeek and Partners and the Co-Operator.

- A (Associate Member) - for individuals seeking to support the efforts of the Farm Bureau and to access the benefits and services offered through the organization. This individual receives Partners and The Co-Operator.

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

Want a free movie ticket?

Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer or professional member. If they join, you will receive a free movie ticket! Call our office at 708-354-3276 to let us know that you referred a member.



Individuals can join the Cook County Farm Bureau by going to www.cookcfb.org and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.

Join us for our 2nd Cook County Farm Bureau® Cook County FARM CRAWL!



Cook County Farm Bureau 2nd Annual Member

FARM CRAWL

on

Saturday, August 18th ~ 10 AM – 4 PM

- ✓ The CRAWL is an **educational event for adults & children – all ages to enjoy!**
- ✓ The Farm Crawl is **self-guided with no set schedules!**
 You choose the participating farms and agri-businesses to visit during the CRAWL. Special offers or tour times will be indicated on the passport.
- ✓ The **CRAWL is free** but bring money to purchase products or produce!
- ✓ Participating Farms may offer a **CCFB member discount or promotion!**
 Special promotions, discounts or tours will be advertised in August prior to the Crawl; members must show their member card to receive promotion.
- ✓ Attendees use a **Passport to Ag** booklet at Farm Crawl locations!
 Have your Passport stamped when you visit the various locations.
 Passports turned in to the CCFB office after the event will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates to member Crawl locations.

Full Crawl details, participating Farms / Agri-business information, Passport to Ag booklet will be available in the August on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. Details will also be published in the August issue of The Co-Operator.


We hope to see you “on the farm”!

Saturday, August 18th from 10 AM – 4 PM!

Ford

\$500

BONUS CASH



Lincoln

\$750

BONUS CASH



Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2017/2018 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2017/2018 Lincoln vehicle.

Enjoy valuable savings on your choice of vehicles from our comfortable and capable lineup! Take advantage of this exclusive special offer today by visiting our home page at www.cookcfb.org and click on ‘Member Benefits’.

**Must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days to take advantage of the Ford/Lincoln program.*

NEW Great Wolf Lodge

Gurnee, Illinois
Reservations begin July 8



302,000
BENEFITS





Click on link to begin your savings
<https://ilfb.abenity.com/perks/search?q=Great+Wolf>