



COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

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

Mark Your Calendar



January

9th Community Garden Grant Application Available

24th Zoom Book Club **PG 12**

February

7th / 21st Zoom Book Club **PG 12**

March

7th Zoom Book Club **PG 12**

11th Beginning Beekeeping

12th Course **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



Who was elected to the CCFB Board of Directors during the 102nd CCFB annual meeting?

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)

November Winner: Diamond Kelley

Question: A new membership travel discount program has been made available to Cook County Farm Bureau members through the Illinois Farm Bureau. What is the name of the travel discount program?

Answer: Mayflower, Drury Hotels, and Travel Sherlock.



The 15 students that attended Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag Leadership Academy on Nov. 2 were given a tour of the anaerobic digester and facility of Green Era Sustainability in Chicago. The students were able to climb inside the liquid waste tank at the end of the tour for a group photo. When the facility is operational, it will divert millions of pounds of food waste from landfills to produce clean energy and nutrient-rich compost. **For more photos and info, go to page 6.**

Farm Service Agency Office Slated for Cook County

In order to establish a client base in Cook County for all urban farmers and producers to be served through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, there is currently a campaign to have urban farmers and producers complete the form necessary to become FSA customers. This provides the individual with the ability to:

- Take advantage of the farm safety net programming offered by the USDA
- Vote for a candidate within their Local Administrative Area to serve on the Urban Agriculture FSA committee
- Seek nomination to the Urban Agriculture FSA committee.

If a producer is already an FSA customer, that individual can elect to change their service office to the Cook County urban agriculture FSA office.

In addition, the USDA is looking for candidates to serve on the Urban Agriculture FSA committee by being elected in their Local Administrative Area. The deadline for nominations to run for this position was December 2, 2022.

The election ballots will be sent January 3, 2023 to eligible urban farmers and producers to vote on a candidate within their Local Administrative Area. The deadline to cast the

*Continue reading **Agency** on Page 2*



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Eva Manzke, a third and fourth grade teacher at Walker Elementary School in Bedford Park, was named 2023 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year. Pictured, from left, Cook County Farm Bureau's Director of Agricultural Literacy Katrina Milton, Walker Elementary School Principal Amanda Venegonia, Manzke, and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Education Director Kevin Daugherty. **See page 3 for more on Eva.**

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!

Agency Continued from Page 1

ballot will be January 31, 2023. Included with the ballot will be a bio of the individual(s) seeking the position.

The elected three-person Urban Agriculture FSA committee will begin responsibilities on March 1, 2023. The committee members serve three-year terms but since this is a new committee, the committee members will determine which individuals are serving initially one year, two years, or three years to create an annual election of a committee member each year moving forward.

The three-person Urban Agriculture FSA committee will be responsible for hiring the Cook County Executive Director to run the office as well as a program technician.

The Cook County office is scheduled to be a four-person office with the previous two individuals and two individuals from Natural Resources Conservation Service (also a part of the USDA).

The Cook County location of the office has not yet been identified but the USDA lease company criteria includes the office to be located in Cook County near

public transportation and major highways.

Cook County Farm Bureau's role regarding this newly created FSA office will be:

- To communicate with members and urban producers about how to become clients of the new urban agriculture FSA service office.
- To assist members on filling out the form AD-2047.
- To help identify individuals who may wish to seek nomination and election on to the Urban Agriculture FSA Committee.
- To promote the vote in January 2023.
- To develop relationships and serve as a resource for the Urban Agriculture FSA committee.
- To develop relationships and partner with new FSA staff.

Additional information and a link to the list of the Q and A information provided by the FSA can be accessed at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/cook-county-fsa-resources>.

Please call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 with questions or for assistance.

HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN NOVEMBER

- ▶ **Secured the approval of a Class 7d property tax incentive to spur the establishment and expansion of grocery stores in food deserts in Cook County.**
- ▶ **Engaged with members and guests by hosting a "Learn to Make a Holiday Swag for Home Décor" workshop, also allowing us to promote our local member Ag business, West End Florist & Garden Center in Evanston.**
- ▶ **Informed the county's ag community of important upcoming programming and resources available.**
- ▶ **Provided members hotel and rental car discounts for traveling this holiday season.**



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...

- Members who responded to the action request regarding the rail strike.
- The many member volunteers that give their time, knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Action Teams that develop, plan, and execute programs and activities for the benefit of the members of this organization. We look forward to working with you for another year!
- Eva Manzke from Walker Elementary in Bedford Park for incorporating agriculture and farm education in her classroom curriculum. Eva has been named the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year for her efforts!
- The Foundation Fundraising Committee made up of Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Ruth Zeldenrust, Dan Biernacki, Kim Morton, Heidi Yunker, Karen Biernacki, and Sharon Stemke for working hard to gather information and develop plans for the 2023 Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation fundraising activity.
- PM member, Mr. Greg Stack, for agreeing to serve on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
- **The many voting and associate members who have renewed their membership for 2023!**

Co-Operator

Published Monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

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James Gutzmer	Roger Freeman
Mike Rauch	Todd Price
James Bloomstrand	Greg Stack
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Past issues of the Co-Operator are available online at

cookcfb.org/stay updated



Downwind

by BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER

"A Letter to Santa"

Dear Santa,

I thought you might not be real but then I found your Facebook page. I hope that the recent META layoffs don't end up damaging your communications with your many fans this season.

From the movies I watched about you, you seem quite powerful, and you certainly seem to be a fan of "good". I believe that I've been a very good Farm Bureau manager this past year. Therefore, I thought I would draft a letter to you with some requests in case you would be willing to make a difference.

Here are some items on my wish list...

For our farmer members, I wish for

- Weather, the good kind (rain sometimes and not other times) for great yields
- Customers, demand, and trade
- Reduced input costs
- Health, both physical and mental
- A shiny new tractor or side-by-side under everyone's tree
- Low interest rates. There are a lot of people trying to get operating loans for their farm business and to purchase equipment necessary for farming.
- Free time - it seems so rare these days
- A barn cat (and a barn if you have one handy)
- Hope. Hope provides the power to believe that anything is possible. Perhaps a fresh start. Perhaps a second chance. Perhaps improved relationships. Perhaps the assurance of opportunity.

And for our non-farmer members

- The gift of low inflation, especially in the area of fuel, natural gas, housing, and food. Our members could use some relief and wages are not keeping up.

- The gift of patience and peace – locally, in our country, and worldwide. As you well know, nobody wins with hatred, division, and wars.
- Free time - it seems so rare these days
- Health, both physical and mental
- Climate change in the hearts of the angry people. Help melt their cold "ice cap" hearts.
- A shiny new automobile or scooter under everyone's tree
- The end of mosquitoes, except for the good ones
- Low interest rates. There are a lot of people trying to purchase and sell property and houses.
- Hope. Hope provides the power to believe that anything is possible. Perhaps a fresh start. Perhaps a second chance. Perhaps improved relationships. Perhaps the assurance of opportunity.

I know this is a lot, so please, don't worry about me. I don't need much other than Cubs games back on regular TV...and butter.

Sincerely,

Your pal, Bobby Rohrer,
Cook County Farm Bureau

P.S. I did think of something else. If you could do a little something about that knee pain that I've been experiencing lately, I'd appreciate it. It makes me crabby.

P.P.S. I hope that you're not having any issues getting elves to work for you. Many businesses in our area are having troubles filling positions. We could use a part-time maintenance person here at the Farm Bureau.

P.P.P.S. Santa - If you're not a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau, we would welcome you! Give us a call at the office or you can join online. I'm pretty sure some of your elves and helpers are already members.



Eva Manzke reads a book about apple orchards to her students on Friday, Oct. 28. Manzke, a third and fourth grade teacher at Walker Elementary School in Bedford Park, pictured, was named 2023 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.

Local Teacher Named Illinois AITC Teacher of the Year

Eva Manzke, a third and fourth grade teacher at Walker Elementary School in Bedford Park, is the recipient of the 2023 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award.

Manzke, who has been a teacher for 30 years, utilizes agriculture across her curriculum with her students. From urban agriculture and hydroponics to livestock and crop production, Manzke finds unique opportunities to integrate agriculture into her classroom. She has received multiple grants to further develop her afterschool program B.A.M (Body, Agriculture, and Mind) to further expose her students to all facets of agriculture. Manzke has taken advantage of the local connection to Ingredient, the multi-national ingredient provider located in her neighborhood, to further integrate careers and impact of agriculture on the local economy. Manzke has attended multiple ag-related teacher professional development workshops, as well as the American Farm Bureau's On the Farm Dairy STEM experience.

As the winner of the award, Manzke will receive a trip to others a start the National AITC Conference in Orlando, Florida in June 2023, a plaque, and is nominated for the USDA AITC Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award.

On Friday, Oct. 28, Manzke was surprised in her classroom with the news that she is the award's recipient. She also received a floral arrangement and a framed certificate.

Congratulations may be addressed to Eva Manzke, Walker Elementary School, 7753 W. 66th Place in Bedford Park, Illinois 60501.

For more information about Illinois Ag in the Classroom, visit www.agintheclassroom.org.



Recipe of the Month

Your Choice Ragoon

by Michael O'Brien, Summit

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c chopped savoy cabbage
- 4 oz cream cheese
- ¼ c onion and garlic mix
- 3 T soy sauce if using pork/chicken
- 3 T fish sauce if using fish/seafood
- 1 T dried cayenne pepper flakes
- ¼ c fresh parsley or cilantro
- ½ t sea salt and ½ t pepper
- ½ lb meat or seafood choice: pork, chicken, pan fish fillets, salmon, shrimp or crab meat
- 1 package Won Ton wrappers, (about 20)
- 1 egg, whisked
- 2 c vegetable or canola oil for cooking

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix meat/seafood choice with all ingredients (no egg) in a bowl and chill. Lay out won ton wrappers and brush with whisked egg. Spoon 1 heaping T of chilled filling mix onto prepared individual wrapper and fold to close and seal. Heat oil to a med/high heat, add wrapped ragoon, 6 at a time to oil, cook until golden, turning once. Cooking is swift so don't burn or over cook. With slotted spoon, remove and dry on paper towel. Enjoy with or without dipping sauce of choice.

View or Download all 2022 Recipes Online at: cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes

We need your recipes for the soon to be...2023!

Do you have any recipes that feature fresh, local ingredients to share? Consider submitting to be a part of the CCFB 2023 Recipe Booklet by:

**Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org OR
Mail: CCFB/Recipes 6438 Joliet Rd Countryside, IL 60525.**

Board Selects Leadership Team for Next Year, Sets Goals



President Janet McCabe (R) presents a welcome package to Mr. Greg Stack (L) as a new director on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board

At the November 9, 2022 meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau Board, following the Annual Meeting, the Directors elected its leadership team for the upcoming year. The following individuals were selected to lead the Cook County Farm Bureau in 2023.

Ms. Janet McCabe, Orland Park, was re-elected by the Board to serve as the organization's President, a position she has held since November of 2017. McCabe and her husband, Joe, farm in the southern Cook County area and northern Will County

raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and marketing hay/straw. She has served on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's Team structure since it was created in 2005. She has served in a variety of leadership roles including Secretary/Treasurer, Governmental Affairs Team, Political Action Committee, Public Relations Team, Audit Committee, and Building Committee. She has also served as a director on the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Board. In addition to her on-farm role, Janet is



Janet McCabe

Gerry Kopping

Ruth Zeldenrust

Mike Rauch

Dan Biernacki

a Registered Nurse and has been practicing for over 30 years.

McCabe said, "It is humbling to be re-elected to another term as President. I really look forward to continuing our work at Cook County Farm Bureau with the goal of having the importance of agriculture in everyone's daily life recognized. I look forward to working with the board to optimize our volunteer base and serve members in the organization."

Mr. Gerald Kopping, Lemont, was re-elected to the Executive Committee as the Vice-President of the Board for a second term. Kopping has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2004 and has served as the Chairman of the Commodities and Marketing Team, Foundation Fundraiser Chair, Executive Finance Committee, and other leadership roles. Gerry, along with his family, operate Kopping Farms where they board 110 horses, farm 600-acres, custom farm 100-acres, and raise 35-head

of cattle. In addition to Farm Bureau, Gerry is an active member of St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church in Lemont, the oldest Catholic church in Cook County; a member of the Lemont Chamber of Commerce; a board member for the Francis Field Youth Foundation; a member of the Land of Lincoln, Illinois, and American Quarter Horse Associations; and a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. Gerry and his wife, Linda, have three adult children.

Ms. Ruth Zeldenrust, Chicago Heights, was elected Secretary-Treasurer by the Board. She is also Chair of the Audit Committee. She has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's team structure since it was created in 2005. She currently serves as Chair of the Governmental Affairs Team and is on the Foundation Board of Directors. She owns and operates Zeldenrust Farm Market and Greenhouses, raising local fresh vegetables and flowers/bedding plants in south Cook County.

Joining these three officers on the Executive Finance Committee for the next year will be board members Mike Rauch and Dan Biernacki, both of Tinley Park. The Executive Finance Committee holds the responsibility of the budgeting, finance, personnel, and day-to-day oversight of the organization. They also joined the three officers as part of the Foundation Board of Directors.

From the Board of Directors, the following leaders will head up programming committees of the organization: Mike Rauch, Public Relations Team; Gerry Kopping, Commodities/Marketing Team; Jim Bloomstrand, Member Relations Team; Mike Rauch, Ag Literacy Team; and Ruth Zeldenrust, Governmental Affairs Team.

Under these individuals' leadership, the Cook County Farm Bureau will be focused on achieving the goals and objectives approved by the Board of Directors in 2022.

At the beginning of the meeting, the board welcomed new director, Greg Stack, to the board.

CCFB Holds 102nd Annual Meeting OF ORGANIZATION

Janet McCabe, President; Jim Gutzmer, Chairman of the Cook County Farm Bureau Credentials Committee and the Nominating Committee; and Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer, led the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau held November 9, 2022.

Cook County Farm Bureau Pres., Janet McCabe chaired the meeting to address the business of the organization including receiving an audited financial report, election of directors (Dan

Biernacki, Roger Freeman, Gerry Kopping, Todd Price, and Greg Stack were elected), approval of acts and deeds of the board for the past year, and approval of delegates to the IAA annual meeting.

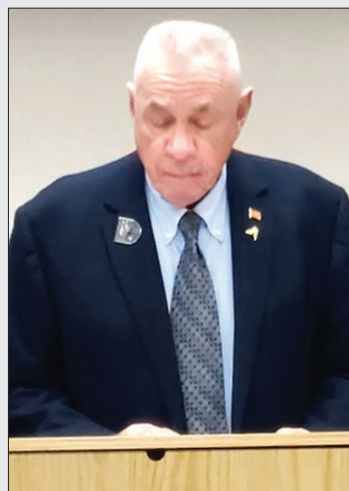
President McCabe recognized the board, staff, and teams for a great year of programs and membership service and commended the board, staff, and members for working and adjusting through recent years with difficult circumstances.



President Janet McCabe



Secretary-Treasurer, Ruth Zeldenrust



Chairman, Nominating and Credentials Committees, Jim Gutzmer

Stack Named to CCFB Board of Directors

During the 102nd annual meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau, Professional Member Greg Stack was elected to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Greg Stack has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Speakers Bureau since 2015 and serves on the Ag Literacy Team.

Stack graduated with a degree in Horticulture from the University of Illinois and retired after 43 years as a Horticulture Educator from the University of Illinois Extension. He now works at Ted's Greenhouse, a family-owned company that offers a wide variety of annuals, perennials, biennials, herbs, vegetables, and specialty stock where his passion and knowledge for commercial horticulture continues.

In addition to Farm Bureau leadership, Greg served on the Board of the National Junior Horticulture Association and Chairman of the Horticultural Judging Committee. Stack is a member of the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Association of Professional Horticulturalists. Stack resides in Palos Heights.



Greg Stack

CCFB to Support Cook County Families and Food Pantries

Donations can be made by credit card by calling the Farm Bureau office at 708-354-3276 or by mailing in the form below with a check. **Donations will be accepted until March 3, 2023.**

In celebration of the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers, Cook County Farm Bureau® members and partners are supporting local families and food pantries.

The year 2023 marks the 23rd anniversary of Food Checkout Day and Cook County Farm Bureau's latest effort to date to support local families in need. Rather than support a single charity or even a handful, **Cook CFB will match member donations to any Cook County food pantry up to \$1,000.**

Farm Bureau members who wish to donate to a local food pantry in celebration of Food Checkout Day are asked to complete the form below and to designate the food pantry that their donation and Cook CFB's match is for. The food pantry selected must be a registered 501(c)3. Farm Bureau will match the first \$1,000 donated. All donations will be considered part of Food Checkout Day.

In addition, Cook County Farm

Bureau is partnering with four local food pantries for Food Checkout Day. The food pantries were selected by our partners at COUNTRY Financial.

All Saints Food Pantry in Palatine is an extension of the ministries of All Saints Lutheran Church. All Saints Food Pantry supplies food to underserved individuals in the northwest suburbs of Cook County, including Rolling Meadows, Palatine, Mount Prospect, and Arlington Heights. Through their Pantry on Wheels, over 100 families are served weekly. The mobile pantry serves area apartment complexes on a rotating basis. Member donations will directly benefit the individuals served through the mobile pantry. All Saints Food Pantry was selected by Chicago Northwest COUNTRY Financial Representatives.

Alicia's House in South Chicago Heights is dedicated to Alicia who loved people and loved helping people. She

would spend hours working with her Grandma Stella at the church food pantry, making bags of food to hand out to people in need. Although her grandma had a specific way to nutritionally pack the bags, Alicia would always add her special touch by making sure each bag would contain a special treat, usually candy. To honor the memory of Alicia who passed away at the age of four, Grandma Stella and Poppy Juan started Alicia's House. Alicia's House feeds hundreds

of hungry families and each bag of food contains Alicia's special loving touch. Alicia's House serves the communities of Beecher, Crete, Steger, Peotone, University Park, Monee, and South Chicago Heights. Alicia's House was selected by Chicago South COUNTRY Financial Representatives.

Niles Township Food Pantry in Skokie serves over 1,000 families in the area. With the assistance of the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation, the pantry is able to provide

assistance five days a week. Niles Township Food Pantry was selected by Chicago North COUNTRY Financial representatives.

Together We Cope in Tinley Park serves 27 south suburban communities in four townships, Breman, Orland, Palos, and Worth. Monthly, over 5,000 individuals rely on the services provided by the pantry. Together We Cope was selected by Orland Park COUNTRY Financial representatives.

Food Checkout Day 2023 Food Pantry Match Donations

Food Pantry for Match _____

Your Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

ZIP Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to Cook County Farm Bureau. **Checks should be mailed to Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.** All proceeds will be donated to Cook County food pantries.

CCFB Members Share Takeaways from Ag Marketing Summit

Networking, teaching, and bringing home marketing tools were key takeaways from Illinois attendees of the National Agricultural Marketing Summit.

The summit, in which Illinois Farm Bureau was a sponsor and partner, was held Oct. 23-25 in Pensacola Beach, Florida.

The agenda covered equitable and inclusive food markets, marketing and business innovations, building partnerships and community collaboration, market research, trends and impact, and successful approaches to managing marketing risk.

Raghela Scavuzzo, IFB associate director of food systems development, along with other experts and resources from the public and private sector, gave presentations.

Illinois Farm Bureau sponsored four members, who shared their experiences with FarmWeek.

Ruth Zeldenrust is a farmer in southern Cook County who grows vegetables, corn, tomatoes, and peppers, and raises bees. She also has greenhouses where she raises bedding plants and vegetable starts.

"The summit intrigued me because we spend a lot of time trying to figure out new markets and trying to figure out what to do with the excess that we produce.

"You see a lot of the younger generations and there's so much urban farming that I don't know about; maybe we could collaborate.

"It's been very eye-opening. I'm finding that people want to know what my past experiences have been and what doesn't work and what do I think will work. I have met at least a dozen people that I have to follow up with. We're sharing ideas and sharing the future."

Originally printed in FarmWeek on October 31, 2022. Article by Tammie Sloup.

Helping families, farmers and businesses since 1925



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Planting Seeds

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



Katrina J.E. Milton

It's the most wonderful time of the year: and one of the most agricultural, as well!

Almost every winter holiday tradition has roots in agriculture.

The name "Kwanzaa" comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "harvest" or "first fruits." Two of the seven symbols of the Kwanzaa display are directly agriculturally-related: crops, which include fruits, vegetables, and nuts to connect to African harvest festivals and the community working together, and corn, which symbolizes fertility. Ears of corn represent the offspring of the stalk, or the children of the parents.

Hanukkah, known as the Festival of Lights, celebrates the successful revolt led by the Maccabees against King Antiochus IV, who forbade Jews to practice their religion in the second century B.C. The holiday Hanukkah celebrates the lighting of the Jewish Temple's menorah for eight nights, even though there was only enough oil for one night. According to the Hebrew Bible, the Torah, the only source of fuel that was allowed to be used to light the lamps was fresh olive oil. In ancient Israel, the candles

used in the menorah were made from animal fat. Today's menorah candles are made from paraffin, beeswax, or vegetable wax.

Christian Christmas traditions tied to agriculture include Jesus' stable and manger (a manger is a long trough that horses or cattle eat from), peppermint candy canes (shaped after shepherd's hooks), Christmas trees, gingerbread houses, reindeer, ugly Christmas sweaters, sugar cookies, hot cocoa, eggnog, poinsettias, mistletoe, gift wrap, and more.

Agriculture is at the center of so many winter holidays because of the winter solstice. The winter solstice is the day with the least amount of daylight and the longest night in the northern hemisphere, which is either December 21 or 22.

The winter solstice is historically agricultural. Ancient Egyptians celebrated the rebirth of the sun god Ra by decorating their homes with plants such as palm leaves and branches. Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, which honored the agricultural god Saturn, by decorating their homes with wreaths and other greenery, lighting candles, feasting, and giving one another gifts. Celtic Druids celebrated Alban Arthan by throwing a large Yule log on the fire and by gathering mistletoe from oak trees.

Christmas was always the holiday with the biggest celebration when I was growing up. My mom put a Christmas tree in every room, lights and decorations outside the house, a Christmas village on our fireplace, and animatronic dolls and ice-skating scenes in the front windows.

As a child, I always looked forward to Christmas because I was excited to see family, eat lots of good food, and open gifts from Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, we looked out our glass patio door to see if we could differentiate the twinkling stars from Santa's sleigh as it crossed the night sky. Instead of believing that St. Nicholas or Santa Claus brought presents, Viking children believed that the Norse god Odin would fly across the sky on his eight-legged horse, Sleipnir, and deliver gifts. Odin would leave the gifts in the children's boots, which were left out by the fireplace.

My family starts decorating for Christmas on December 1 (November is for celebrating Thanksgiving), and Christmas Eve is the most important night of the year. On Christmas Eve, my family celebrates Wigilia, the traditional Polish Christmas Eve

supper, consisting of 12 meatless dishes. We break optatek, a thin unleavened wafer, and share good wishes to one another before the start of the meal. We also celebrate the Epiphany, when the three wise men visited Jesus after his birth, on Jan. 6, and our Christmas decorations remain up until Candlemas on Feb. 2.

Every family and every culture has their own unique way of celebrating the holidays and their own traditions. German families hide a pickle ornament in their Christmas trees to find. Italian families have the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve. Ukrainians add spider web designs to their Christmas trees. South Africans eat fried Emperor Moth caterpillars.

However you spend your holiday season this year, I hope it is spent surrounded by family, friends, and the ones you love. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! I'd love to hear your family's holiday traditions. Tell me all about them by emailing me at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Katrina can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



Students attend CCFB Ag Leadership Academy at Green Era Sustainability

On November 2, 15 students from four Cook County schools attended the Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag Leadership Academy, held at Green Era Sustainability, 650 W. 83rd St. in Chicago.

Participating schools included Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Rolling Meadows High School, Rich Township High School, and Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts.

During the program, the students learned about food safety practices and preventative approaches to food safety from guest speaker Todd Diel from Illinois Institute of Technology. Diel is the manager of academic programs and initiatives and an adjunct industry professor of food science and nutrition at IIT.

The students also learned

about agricultural-related careers, urban agriculture, the importance of growing fresh produce in food desert locations, and how greenhouses work from Green Era's mission development manager, Vernon Fleming.

Fleming told the history of the brownfield that Green Era is located on. The brownfield was used as a tire storage field, a car lot, and dumping grounds for decades. A greenhouse will be built on the seven-acre urban farm so fresh produce can be grown year-round. By 2024, the location will also have a Community Education Center which will feature a teaching kitchen, classrooms, and operational space for both Green Era and Urban Growers Collective.

A tour was given of Green Era Sustainability, which is home to the Midwest's first self-sustainable anaerobic



Guest speaker Todd Diel, manager of academic programs and initiatives and an adjunct industry professor of food science and nutrition at Illinois Institute of Technology, teaches students about food safety practices during the Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag Leadership Academy, held at Nov. 2 at Green Era Sustainability in Chicago.

digester, which will divert millions of pounds of food waste from landfills to produce clean energy and nutrient-rich compost.

The facility is planned to be operational by the end of the year. When operating, the digester will divert 55 million pounds of Chicago's food waste monthly, create more than 300 new jobs, and offset 42,500 tons of carbon dioxide.

During Ag Leadership Academy, students were able to stand inside a brand-new storage tank, which will be able to hold more than five million pounds of liquid waste. When the facility is operational, the liquid waste storage tank will be sealed

and in use daily for at least 15 years.

When reflecting about the program, students wrote about what they learned and experienced. Topics the students learned include recycling, sustainability, the difference between the USDA and FDA, and how food is grown, produced, shipped, and regulated.

Students' responses included:

"I learned how serious food-borne illnesses are and how many people a year are sent to hospitals because of it. In the future, I will make sure to be more careful about the things that I eat."

"[The program] was helpful

with my interest in agriculture and [deciding] if I wanted to follow this career path."

"It gave me a different insight into how waste is managed and how me and my family can create a more sustainable home."

"This will impact my future because I will now know all of this information for the future, if I want to study food science or something with sustainability."

"This was helpful because it shows where our resources and food come from."

"It was helpful because I may want to go into biochem one day. I learned a lot."

**Congratulations 2022
Illinois Ag in the Classroom
Book and Project Grant Recipients**

<p>Stacey Kane Jen Battistoni Dawn Leensvaart Eva Manzke Gina Shields Pacheco Lisa Carlisle Amani Ghusein Lydia Marcos</p>	<p>Walker Elementary Walker Intermediate Springfield Elementary Wharton Elementary Tonti Elementary St. William School Dawes Elementary Springfield Elementary</p>
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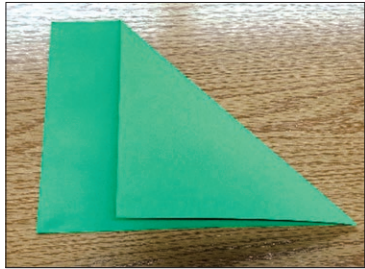
We look forward to seeing the magic you bring to your classrooms

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



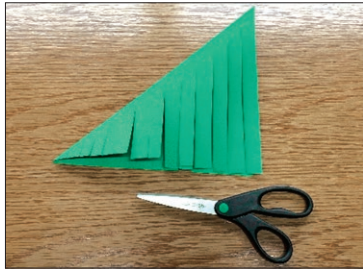
D.I.Y Christmas Tree Craft

STEP 1:



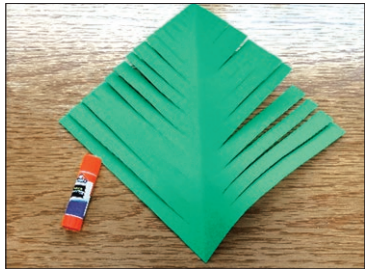
Fold and cut a rectangular sheet of green construction paper into a square.

STEP 2:



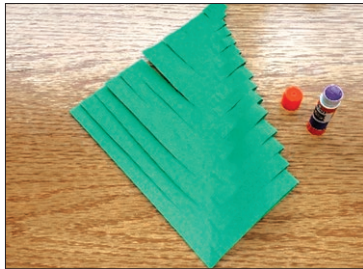
Cut even-sized strips into the folded paper, leaving a few centimeters of space near the folded crease.

STEP 3:



Open the paper and lay it flat, with the longest strips on the bottom and the shortest at top.

STEP 4:



Fold the strips into the center of the design and use a glue stick to keep them in place.

STEP 5:



Decorate with stickers, sequins, or pom poms.

STEP 6:



Glue a small strip of brown construction paper on the bottom as a trunk, and your Christmas tree is complete!

We'd love to see your Christmas tree designs!

Send in your photos to aic@cookcfb.org.

Choose Your Prize: December Word Search

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 2022 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!**

Learn All About CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS with These Ag-Accurate Books:

"Pick a Pine Tree"

by Patricia Toht



A family visits a pine tree lot to pick out the perfect tree. Rhyming, instructional text accompanies the family as they transport the tree, set it up, unpack decorations, and find friends to help decorate it.

"Christmas Farm"

by Mary Lyn Ray

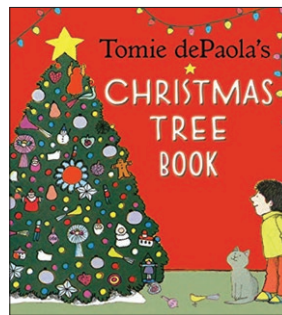


When Wilma decides her garden needs a new

beginning, she gathers string, scissors, shovels, sixty-two dozen balsam seedlings, and Parker, her five-year-old neighbor. Year after year, Wilma and Parker nurture their trees, keeping careful count of how many they plant, how many perish, and how many grow to become fine, full Christmas trees.

"Christmas Tree Book"

by Tomie dePaola

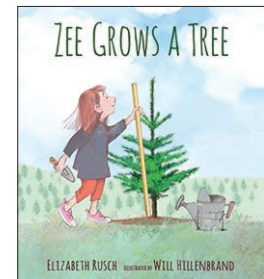


While picking out their Christmas tree, a couple of curious kids start to wonder where Christmas

trees came from. Who invented the first one? How did they become so popular? And how have they changed over the years? This book tells you everything you ever wanted to know about Christmas trees—and everything you never even thought to wonder about.

"Zee Grows a Tree"

by Elizabeth Rusch



On the day that Zee was born, a Douglas-fir seedling planted on her parents' Christmas tree farm began

growing. As Zee grew up and developed, so did the tree. This beautifully designed picture book follows their development, showing readers how Zee and the tree changed and grew over time.

December Word Search

Last Month's Winner:
Helen Krynski

Artificial	W	M	M	D	X	M	S	X	O	P	A	L	P	N	B
Balsam	D	I	R	K	T	G	G	N	A	W	P	I	F	I	P
Decorate	E	T	N	A	H	J	N	B	W	I	C	G	Y	T	E
Douglas	C	U	P	T	F	O	I	S	N	R	I	H	S	N	L
Family	O	G	Z	X	E	I	L	E	C	H	E	T	S	A	W
Farm	R	K	X	J	V	R	D	I	R	D	B	S	I	W	H
Fraser	A	H	Q	L	V	K	E	N	D	S	J	C	A	P	G
Greenery	T	L	X	S	Q	L	E	Y	T	A	I	O	H	R	Z
Grow	E	K	M	N	X	L	S	N	K	F	Y	D	Z	N	F
Holiday	Y	D	A	U	L	X	A	Q	I	H	H	M	R	Q	W
Lights	W	F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	S	A	L	G	U	O	D
Pine	O	G	N	F	P	G	R	E	E	N	E	R	Y	Z	K
Plants	R	M	I	Y	Q	A	V	O	E	M	A	S	L	A	B
Seedlings	G	L	Y	A	J	L	T	N	R	X	M	X	U	A	F
Tree	Z	T	N	K	V	L	H	P	T	R	O	H	I	W	J
Winter															

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

Home Run Inn Gift Card (Choose one option only)

Located on front of paper

DECEMBER 2022
Farm Gate
 by Joanie Stiers



my mother and grandmother before me. Now, my daughter often joins me.

Two hours later, the fragrance of baked cinnamon rolls fills the house, something like the loving aroma of a Thanksgiving meal. The household stirs, ready for the sweet, warm richness we enjoy around the holidays. When age 4, our son provided the only objection that I can recall. Mind you, I had sacrificed sleep to make the family-recipe rolls when he awoke and asked for pancakes. I managed to laugh at his innocent, insulting request. Now 10 years later, the cinnamon rolls have won him over.

As a kid, I remember cinnamon roll dough rising in every warm spot of the house. I recall the

rhythm of Mom rolling the dough at the counter and the way she uniformly sprinkled brown sugar and cinnamon across the dough, free from the over-applied globs I struggled with as a newbie. The timing at which to frost them seals the deal — slightly melted to a transparent sheen to reveal the cinnamon-brown sugar swirl, but thick enough to sit atop a warm roll.

Dozens upon dozens of foil pans full of fresh cinnamon rolls left the farmhouse in which I grew up. Mom topped them with a bow for neighbors, landlords and relatives.

I preferred mine at the dining room table with a glass of store-bought chocolate milk, which she purchased only around the holidays. I would slowly unwind the roll, eating it from tail to core every morning when they were available. I've eaten far more cinnamon rolls than my age for this annual tradition.

While much about the farm has changed with time and technology, we remain rooted in our favorite traditions. Nothing warms the soul quite like the homemade instructions that fill my recipe books. Even if it's pancakes.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms, writes and bakes in west-central Illinois where her family honors the morning of her December birthday with a candle in a homemade cinnamon roll.

Homemade for the holidays

For the family's love of homemade cinnamon rolls, I quietly step through the silence of our predawn home and into the kitchen to get rolling.

Still dark outside, I work from the glow of Christmas tree and the light of the kitchen island, where I had staged the final

roll-making supplies the night before. I softly stream holiday music and savor the early morning peace, interrupted only by the tick of a warming stove and gentle blow from the furnace vents. That moment continues a home-baked holiday tradition at least three generations old, taught by



YUNKER COMBINE

Harvest 2022 is nearly complete in northern Illinois, but not before Doug Yunker was able to snap a picture of his combine with the American flag.



HOLIDAY SWAG

Thank you, Elizabeth Hoffman (center), co-owner and Manager of West End Florist & Garden Center, for hosting and leading a Make a Holiday Swag for Home Decor Workshop for members and guests of the Cook County Farm Bureau on November 19th. Fun and cheer helped members Melissa Stressler (L) and Elisabeth Wagner (R) kick off the Holiday Season!

Help or Hinderance How Daylight-Saving Time Impacts The Farm

Contrary to popular belief, farmers are not responsible for the daylight-saving time we've come to enjoy (or dread, depending on your perspective) twice each year. While many believe it was meant to help them by giving them more hours in the field, many farmers were against it.

Why? Because as hard as it is for humans to adjust to new wake times and schedules, it can be even harder for animals. Think of how your pets at home rely on their own consistent routines to be fed or even walked at the same time every day. It's similar for farm animals. For instance, a dairy cow with her own internal clock that is used to being milked promptly at 5 a.m. each morning doesn't easily understand

(or adjust) to pushing that milking back an hour. A group of Northern Illinois University dietetic intern students heard firsthand how farmers prioritize keeping a schedule at the Mitchell farm and shared this:

"The farm also has a timely system for milking the cows; the cows are milked three separate times throughout the day. It is important to stick to this schedule – if they were to stop milking them, the cows would become engorged, which can lead to infection or diminished milk production."

For some dairy farmers who use robotic milkers, cows can determine on their own when to be milked. Farmers still monitor the cows, and tracking tags

connected to a computer show when each cow was milked, how much milk she gave, and a quick check-in of overall health.

For beef farmers who have cattle who calve (give birth) in early spring, they're on a whole other schedule, or lack

thereof. Mother Nature dictates when calves are born, at all hours of the day and night.

Rest assured, as long as daylight saving time is or isn't around, farmers will continue doing their best to care for their animals – every hour of the day.

Illinois Farm Families is a partnership of farmers from agricultural organizations in Illinois. We know you want to know more about your food and the people who grow and raise it. We're here to share how we grow good food for all of us. This is a place to hear a variety of voices from families who care about growing safe, healthy food. For all of us, our families come first. And, lucky for us, we work alongside our families. Our roots are planted firmly by generations before, and today we're working to farm sustainably for those who will come next.

Meanwhile, we're here to talk about what's on your table. If you have questions about us and our Illinois family farms, just ask at www.watchusgrow.org

Dial 988 to connect with a counselor

In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to be operated through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The 988 number became active on July 16, 2022.

Within the membership of the Cook County Farm Bureau, we have seen some members struggle with mental health related issues. We want to make sure that our members know that the 988 number is a quick access lifeline. Members can talk to a professionally trained counselor and find other potential resources in the local community to provide potential relief and support.

Coming Soon
 Scholarship Application Period
JANUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 15

IAA Foundation Scholarship Program THE IAA FOUNDATION

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

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



Bona Heinsohn

Election night came and went in my household. Like in 2020, my farmer and I voted by mail. Together we sat on the couch researching candidates and filling in circles. It was enjoyable. And a little strange.

My farmer will tell you that each election I remind him that he can't complain about the election outcome. Politics. Policy decisions. Or elected officials without voting.

According to early numbers, over 97,000 Cook County voters requested a mail-in ballot. Of the ballots requested, over 66 percent were returned. Cook County early voters, like my farmer and me, most likely filled out their ballots on the couch. At the kitchen table. Or at their desk during their workday. Shh don't tell their bosses.

My mom loves voting on Election Day. Like her nieces, she reports what number voter she was at the precinct. What time she was in. Who was in line. Who she met in the parking lot. And for several years she even brought donuts for the election judges. It wouldn't

surprise me if she volunteers to be an election judge after she retires in January.

My aunt jokes that she has to vote to cancel out my mom's vote. I'm not sure anymore if they really do cancel each other out or if the joke has been going on long enough now that they're attached to it. Neither of them is a straight party ticket voter. Like the children they raised, they vote based on the person not on the letter behind a candidate's name.

Prior to the election, I spent the fall traversing the county presenting State Senators and Representatives with tractors. Well, actually a replica of a Case IH Magnum 380 tractor with duals. And navigating the county delivering an image of a farmers' market printed on metal to Cook County Commissioners. Both the tractors and farmers market prints were presented in recognition of individuals' voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Those receiving an award had a voting record percentage of over 75 percent or higher on key issues.

Throughout the fall and over 2,000 miles later I visited many Chicago neighborhoods. Edgewater. Lakeview. Little Village. West Lawn. Mayfair.

And suburban Cook County. Lemont. Arlington Heights. Glenview. Schaumburg. Northfield. Dolton.

Offices and office mates included pets, interns, fellow elected officials, young children, volunteers, and constituents completing any number of forms.

While I came home with a litany of swag and snacks, my favorite was the deli sandwich with spicy cheese made by Representative Eva-Dina Delgado's staff.

As Illinois election season wraps to a close. In less than two years we'll press 'repeat' and start this crazy experiment we call democracy all over again. It's my hope that politics will become less polarizing and that votes will be cast for those candidates pledging bi-partisanship and a willingness to work with their colleagues.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org.

LOCAL LEGISLATORS



State Senator John Curran received his third Friend of Agriculture award from Cook County Farm Bureau. The Friend of Agriculture award recognizes a legislator's voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Pictured with Senator Curran is Farm Bureau staff Bona Heinsohn.



Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen, pictured right, was named a 2022 Friend of the Farm Bureau in recognition of her outstanding voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Pictured with Commissioner Degnen is Farm Bureau staff Bona Heinsohn. This is the first time Commissioner Degnen has been named a Friend of the Farm Bureau since her election in 2018.



Cook County Commissioner Sean Morrison was again named a Friend of the Farm Bureau by the Cook County Farm Bureau®. The Friend of the Farm Bureau recognizes Cook County Commissioners for their outstanding voting records on agricultural and small business issues. Pictured with Commissioner Morrison is Farm Bureau staff Bona Heinsohn.



Senator Mike Simmons (pictured right) received his first Friend of Agriculture award in November. Senator Simmons represents the seventh district in the Illinois Senate and was appointed in 2021 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of then-Senator Heather Steans. Pictured with Senator Simmons is Bona Heinsohn, Farm Bureau staff.

Grocery Store Property Tax Incentive Approved by County Board

In November, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved Ordinance 22-5345 to create a Class 7d property tax incentive to spur and support the establishment or expansion of grocery stores in food deserts.

Earlier this year, Farm Bureau advanced a policy position to increase food access in Cook County and Illinois. A copy of the policy is provided below.

Joining Cook County Farm Bureau in support of this ordinance was Chicago Food Policy Action Council, City of Palos Hills, Illinois Realtors, Midwest Independent Realtors Association, Neighborhood Network Blue Island and Robbins, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Village of Chicago Ridge, Village of Oak Lawn, Village of Park Forest, Village of South Chicago Heights, and the Village of Thornton.

Farm Bureau extends its appreciation to the ordinance sponsors and supporters.

Food Access

Food insecurity occurs when food is either too distant or too expensive to purchase. A food desert is one type of food insecurity.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a food desert as any census tract where at least 20 percent of the inhabitants are below the poverty line and 33 percent live over a mile or in rural areas more than 10 miles from the nearest supermarket.

We support:

1. Incentives, including but not limited to, offering tax credits or breaks to grocery stores in underserved areas.
2. Policy development to support grocery stores and neighborhood-based farmers' markets.

3. Simplifying the process for permitting and launching grocery stores.
4. Programs to encourage healthy eating, food preparation, and proper food storage.
5. Partnering with the community when selecting food desert measurements, policies, and interventions.
6. Increasing the use of third-party and digital platforms for all approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailers providing that benefits are not used for service fees or delivery charges.
7. Increasing SNAP approved food sales outlets.
8. Food insecurity networks, like food banks, non-profit grocers, and produce carts.
9. Farmer cooperatives to provide services such as crop marketing, distribution, guidance on partnering with food banks, and farmer training.
10. The aggregation of farm products and partners to connect institutions, municipalities, school districts, hospitals, community-based organization, government agencies, and other groups to provide produce to families living in food deserts.
11. Farms connecting directly with food banks, food recovery organizations, and other distributing nonprofits.
12. Expanding the existing tax deduction for food donations to non-profits.
13. Simplifying food pantry partnerships, expansions, and new development.

COOK COUNTY

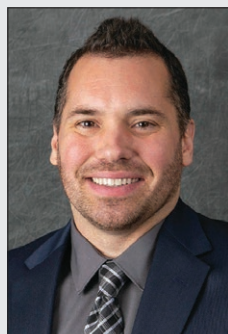
Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by COUNTRY Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



***ILIR NUMANI** has been named Financial Rep of the month for October 2022. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy., Ste. 200, in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager



***MATTHEW BELOW** has been named Financial Rep of the month for October 2022. His office is located at 3285 N. Arlington Heights Rd., #203 in Arlington Heights, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3072. Matthew has been a Financial Representative since September 2019.

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager



***TIM VAN ZUIDAM** has been named Financial Rep of the month for October 2022. His office is located at 8626 Wicker Ave, Ste.A, in St. John, IN. His phone number is 219-365-1781. Tim has been a Financial Representative since October 1991.

Chicago South Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager



JOHN TYM has been named Financial Rep of the Month for October 2022. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit 1A, in Worth, IL. His phone number is 708-480-5091. John has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, 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.

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
"K"

KOHLRABI



Kohlrabi is a vegetable whose common usage name comes from the German mashup of kohl (cabbage) and rabi (turnip).

Kohlrabi grows as a bulb with leaves shooting up from the sides.



It can be white, green, or purple with little difference in flavor, and has a mild taste that has made it popular in dishes from salads to soups.

Kohlrabi is a versatile veggie that can be cooked in a variety of ways. Cube, slice, or dice the bulb and steam, sauté, or roast.

When raw, kohlrabi has a flavor similar to raw cabbage with a lightly spicy kick like a radish or turnip.

Farmers like to plant the bulb since it is easy to grow in tandem with other crops and has a long growing season, making it a popular farmers' market find.



PEELING AND CHOPPING OR SLICING IS THE ONLY PREP REQUIRED.



The amount of spice will depend on the size of the bulb, with smaller bulbs having a milder taste and crisper texture. Cooked, it has a subtle flavor and texture similar to broccoli stems.

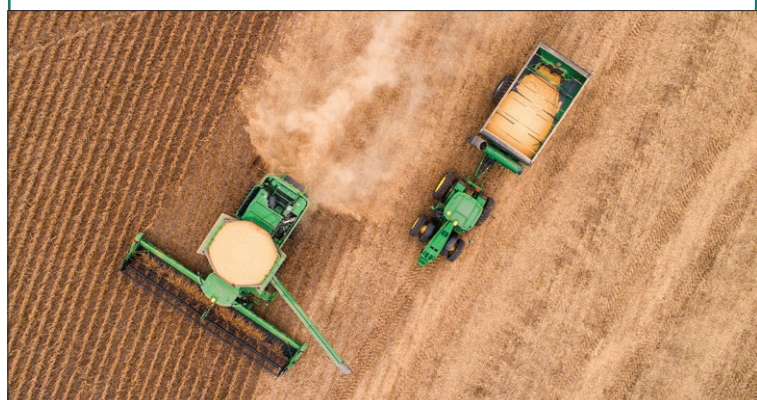
Next month...Lychee

2023 Farmland Questionnaire

2023 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit for farmland status in Cook County should be sent out by the Cook County Assessor soon. The filing deadline date is January 31, 2023, and the forms must be notarized. Cook County Farm Bureau does have 2 staff members who are notaries and will notarize documents free of charge (please call in prior to stopping in the office to verify their presence).

Copies of the 2023 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit can be obtained at cookcountyassessor.com/farms and sent to:

Cook County Assessor's Office Incentive Department
Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit
118 N Clark Street Room 301
Chicago, IL 60602



DECK *your* HALLS

this holiday season with fresh trees, garland, wreaths, poinsettias, greens and décor!

Purchase from a Farm Bureau Member Business. To locate one near you, visit our ShopLocal online directory at:
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>

MEMBER BUSINESS

- Clarke's Garden Center** Chicago Hts. | Wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
- Gorman Tree Farm** Monee | Trees, wreaths, garland
- Horcher's Farm** Wheeling | Trees, handmade wreaths, greens, flowers
- Kolze's Corner Garden** Woodstock | Trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, decor
- Melka's Garden Center** Mokena | Trees, wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
- Puckerville Farms** Lemont | Trees, wreaths, garland, decor
- Smits Farms** Sauk Village | Trees, wreaths, greens
- Ted's Greenhouse** Tinley Park | Poinsettias, greens, handmade bows
- The Children's Farm** Palos Park | Wreaths
- Historic Wagner Farm** Glenview | Trees, wreaths, roping, garland, greens
- West End Garden Ctr** Evanston | Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, plants, decor

What Makes a Farm Success Story?

Research Underway to Find Answers

Researchers at the University of Illinois, Illinois State University, Western Illinois University, and Southern Illinois University are conducting research to understand what factors influence farm success in the state of Illinois and to learn about farm experiences. We are surveying about 500 farmers in total.

This survey will gather anonymous information about the benefits people gain from farming, and the barriers and supports they have for their work. The research will help policy makers, agencies, and farm groups to understand whether there are barriers to farm ownership, activity, and success faced by people in the state.



To take the survey, scan the QR code, visit <https://bit.ly/IllinoisFarmSuccess> or contact Susan Graybill at farmsuccess@ilstu.edu to have a paper survey and return envelope sent to you.

THE COOKIE GARDEN

CCFB member and owner of The Cookie Garden is offering a 30% CCFB member holiday discount on all company products!

30 % off Promo Code: CCFB30
24 Hour Online Orders at:
<https://www.cookiegarden.com/>
Mon-Fri | 9 am-3 pm at Facility: 800-582-9191

Holiday deal ends 12/31/22

The Cookie Garden is locally owned since 1987, baking and creating their freshest delicious cookies and cookie gifts for every occasion, celebration and holiday!
 The Cookie Garden uses the highest quality ingredients, no preservatives, and ships nationwide.

Census of Agriculture Survey Process Underway

This fall, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is sending the 2022 Census of Agriculture to nearly three million ag producers across the country, including all of the farms and producers in Cook County. NASS is trying to get as many internet responses as possible, so survey codes for responding securely online were sent in November, with paper questionnaires mailed out in December. Online responses will save taxpayer dollars by eliminating the need for data entry and saving postage and paper.

The ag census includes every operation – large or small, urban or rural – from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold, or would normally be produced and sold, in the ag census year. This includes greenhouse growers, backyard chicken coop and horse owners, along with wheat, cattle, and dairy producers. The Census data not only influence business and supply chain logistics, but it also informs policy and program decisions that directly impact producers, ag operations, and communities across the United States.

To learn more about the 2022 Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

DON'T FORGET YOUR

STOCKING *Stuffers* THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Home Run Inn Gift Cards

\$25 gift cards sell for \$20
 \$10 gift cards sell for \$8
 (20% savings)

Delta Sonic Car Wash Tickets

Super Kiss \$13.00 | Deluxe \$9.50
 Super Interior (larger vehicles) \$16.00
 Super Interior (smaller vehicles) \$14.50

AMC Theatres

Yellow Tickets \$9.50 each
 Valid any day/time for new releases.
 Ticket codes can be used online to reserve seating at any theatre beforehand.
 (A processing fee will apply online. AMC Stubs Rewards members pay no extra fees).
 Not valid in: CA, NY, and NJ.)

Regal Theatres

Premiere Movie Tickets \$9.50 each
 Valid any day/time for new releases.
 Not valid for special events, private screenings, or online ticket purchases.

Marcus Theatres

Silver Tickets \$7 each
 Void on films listed as an Extra Special Attraction (First 14 days of release)
 Not valid for VIP Seating (when valid), 3D and D-Box, surcharges apply.

Platinum Tickets \$8 each

Valid for any movie, anytime at all Marcus Theatres locations
 NOT valid for VIP Seating, 3D or SuperScreen DLX. Extra charge will apply if going to see a movie in 3D or SuperScreen DLX.

Tickets/gift cards can be purchased directly from our office or over the phone (free of charge) by calling (708) 354-3276. Visa, MasterCard, or Discover cards are accepted.

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

Pool table light \$80. Slate pool table \$200. 5' wooden ladder \$15. 4' florescent light \$8. Steel rail sled \$40. Type case \$5. Sony speakers \$10 each. 30 cup coffee maker \$15. Schwinn scrambler bike \$495. Antique toy cement maker \$225. Old sit on toy train \$150. White rocking chair balsa wood \$50. **Call Norman 708-371-0163.**

For Sale – Stock exhaust for a 1998 Yamaha v star 650, \$200 obo. **Call 708-805-7949 ask for Tom.**

King size bedroom set, mattress box spring, dresser and chest, 2 nightstands, headboard with lights, white oak, made in Canada. \$1200, perfect condition. **Call 708-594-6399.**

Electric stove 4 burner glass top. Free. Motorcycle CX650 turbo Honda, \$2200. 2001 Harley Davidson bagger, \$7000 obo. **Call 815-464-5747.**

Antique 1870 Buggy tongue with double tree, and two single trees \$100. **Call 847-975-6666.**

Fantastic opportunity- Solo brick commercial building, with full basement, zone b2, 2350 sq. ft, 1 mile from expressway, very near Arlington Park metra and future Chicago Bears Stadium. **Call 847-259-9339.**

(2) Reznor hanging heaters 110,000 btu \$50 for both. **Call Dan 312-969-4831.**

Selling 14 new white-colored double hung residential windows manufactured by Monda Industrials in Chicago. Made of Vinyl material to preserve energy. Sizes and prices are 1-32w x 64h \$225, 1-33w x 38h \$190, 2-25.5w x 48h \$190, 2-37w x 48h \$210, 2-26w x 52h \$225, 6-33w x 63h \$225. Price includes tax.

Email mmaeda735@gmail.com or call Marina at 773-712-7949.

Gemmy life size Christmas Santa 5'ft. plus Gemmy 5'ft. life size Christmas Santa bear. Used for just house display, non-smoking environment, very nice condition, \$125 for both. **Call 708-361-8230.**

Pepsi vending machine dispensing cans of soda; works well and in good condition. Must be able to remove from the building and haul away. Seeking \$250. **Please call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, ask for Melanie.**

WANTED

Wanted LP Rock & Roll Album Records, call John 708-860-9562. Pre 1971 Baseball cards, call Gary 708-363-4559. **Bbnut123@msn.com**

Wanted- Older sports & non-sports cards autographs and memorabilia. **Call or text John 773-213-4204.**

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

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.

“Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman” Zoom Book Club

Unfolding as a journey down the Mississippi River, Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman tells the stories of five representatives of this stewardship movement: a Montana rancher, a Kansas farmer, a Mississippi riverman, a Louisiana shrimper, and a Gulf fisherman. In exploring their work and family histories and the essential geographies they protect, Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman challenges pervasive and powerful myths about American and environmental values.



DATES: January 24, February 7, February 21, and March 7
Documentary Screening March 14 in Glenview, more details TBD.

TIME: 6:30 pm

FEE: No Charge

LOCATION: Live via Zoom

REGISTRATION: Register by January 13th at <https://cookcofarmbureau.wufoo.com/forms/rlwjmtq0jfspvj/>

Beginning Beekeeping Course In Person at the CCFB

Beekeeping for those interested and never kept bees and beekeepers looking to learn and overcome challenges of bee loss and keeping bees sustainably.



DATE: Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12, 2023

TIME: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

LOCATION:
Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Rd Countryside 60525

FEE: \$75.00 for members of CCFB or CDDBA. \$100.00 for non-members; ask how to join!

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276; For additional information, email Debbie at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

2023 Foundation Scholarships

NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation has opened the 25th Annual “Farm and Food” Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Foundation offers college students who are pursuing an ag-related career the opportunity to start or continue their higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided six scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000 each.

The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 15, 2023. Late applications will not be considered. Applications can be submitted electronically.
- All applicants (Applying for the “Farm and Food” Ag Scholarship program only) must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year.
- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.
- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agricultural related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food, fuel, or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

In addition to the “Farm and Food” Foundation Scholarship, there are two other scholarship opportunities:

CONSERV FS Scholarship: This scholarship does not require a CCFB membership, however the applicant must be an FFA member in a Cook County high school FFA program or be attending a Cook County high school that offers ag-related classes and the applicant must be taking classes within the curriculum. Value: \$1,000

Stuenkel Family Scholarship: A CCFB membership is required, however, there is no waiting period. Applicants can be a previous recipient of a CCFB Foundation scholarship. Applicants must be a high school graduate or be graduating in 2023. This scholarship has



PLANT SCIENCES



ANIMAL SCIENCES



AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

been designed for members pursuing higher education with a focus on an ag-related career in the areas of technology, education, leadership development, and/or mental health. Value: TBD

What is an Agricultural Career? Farming, of course, but there is so much more! Jobs in agriculture include plant sciences, animal sciences, agricultural mechanics, agricultural business, environmental services, food science, and natural resources.

For more information or to complete an application online, please visit www.cookcfb.org/foundation or contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation by phone at 708-354-3276.

Have a tough-to-buy-for relative or friend on your holiday shopping list?

Consider purchasing a Cook County Farm Bureau membership and check the box!

A membership features:

- Agricultural fun
- Farming information
- Agriculture literacy and school connections
- Great discounts, benefits, and services
- Virtual and in-person programs and activities **and much more!**

All for the low price of \$20 (Associate member) and \$45 for the farmer/ agriculture professional!

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or go to the member center at www.cookcfb.org.

Happy Holidays

From our family to yours the Cook County Farm Bureau would like to wish you a warm and safe Holiday!



CCFB Board of Directors
Standing left to right: Mike Rauch, Todd Price, Jim Bloomstrand, Roger Freeman, Mark Yunker, and Pat Horcher
Sitting left to right: Dan Biernacki, Gerry Kopping (Vice-President), Janet McCabe (President), Ruth Zeldenrust (Secretary/Treasurer), Jim Gutzmer, and Greg Stack