

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES

FOR FAMILIES



April showers can bring May flowers and renewed growth throughout the soil including Illinois native plants such as Big Bluestem. Big bluestem was the most abundant grass on the prairies that once covered much of Illinois hence the state nickname of Illinois as "The Prairie State". The name big bluestem grass comes from the fact that this grass can grow to be very large , 3 to 10 feet and can bloom from June through September. Big bluestem grass grows in dense stands which keeps other grasses from getting any sun and growing. As a result, there are usually large areas covered only by big bluestem grass. This grass has very deep roots. This kept the wind that constantly blows on the prairie from blowing away the soil so when settlers plowed the big bluestem grass there was nothing to keep the soil from blowing away. That is how the dust bowl disaster in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas of the 1930s began.

http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/big_bluestem_grass.htm



Our state plant is the Big Blue Stem

Our state song also highlights the importance of the prairies to our great state!

Illinois

By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois,
O'er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois, Illinois,
Comes an echo on the breeze.
Rustling through the leafy trees,
and its mellow tones are these, Illinois, Illinois,
And its mellow tones are these, Illinois.
From a wilderness of prairies, Illinois, Illinois,
Straight thy way and never varies, Illinois, Illinois,
Till upon the inland sea,
Stands thy great commercial tree,
Turning all the world to thee, Illinois, Illinois. (An excerpt from the Illinois State Song)



Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. This year it will be celebrated on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.



Victory Gardens - Shortly after the United States was drawn into the Second World War, victory gardens began to reemerge. During World War I, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers were recruited into military service and farms were transformed into battlefields. As a result, the United States began to encourage Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported to our allies. Citizens were urged to utilize all idle land that was not already engaged in agricultural production—including school and company grounds, parks, backyards or any available vacant lot.

"Sow the seeds of victory" encouraged people to plant their own vegetables as part of the war garden movement (as it was originally known) was spread by word of mouth through numerous women's clubs, civic associations and chambers of commerce, which actively encouraged participation in the campaign. Amateur gardeners were provided with instruction pamphlets on how, when and where to sow, and were offered suggestions as to the best crops to plant, along with tips on preventing disease and insect infestations. The endeavor was so well received that the government turned its attention to distributing canning and drying manuals to help people preserve their surplus crops.



Eleanor Roosevelt even planted a victory garden on the White House lawn. Some of the most popular produce grown included beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, turnips, squash and Swiss chard.



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: membershiplinda@cookcfb.org

May Word Search

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

Armed Forces

Cabbage

Patriotic

President

Song

Turnips

Beets

Kohlrabi

Peas

Produce

Squash

Big Blue Stem

Lettuce

Prairie

Roosevelt

Tomatoes

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___Beggar's Pizza GC ___HRI GC ___3 Movie Tix

(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)



Roger Lemke

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!