



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

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. 9

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

September 2018

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

19th	Ag Outlook/Land lease	Page 1
22nd	12th Annual CCFB Member Picnic	Page 12
22nd	Fall Planter Wrkshp at Schroeder's Greenhouse	Page 1
25th	On the Road Seminar	Page 9
27th	Build a Board night	Page 12
29th	18th Giant Pumpkin Contest Puckerville Farms	Page 12

OCTOBER

3rd	The Power of Plants/Teds Greenhouse	Page 6
6th	Shred Day	Page 12
25th	Wills & Trusts	Page 10

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov.17th Holiday Porch Pot at West End Florist & Garden Center!

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® Presents

Ag Outlook/Land Lease 2018

Meeting or Conference Call

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Times:

- 1:30 PM Meeting at Cook County Farm Bureau or
- 6:30 PM Phone Conference call

Investment: \$5 Members | \$10 Non-members

Presenter: Kevin Brooks, Farm Coach

Kevin Brooks is a farm consultant and farm manager who coaches landowners and farmers on topic pertaining to land stewardship. Farm Coach helps farmland owners and farmers better manager their farms. Farm Coach helps you conserve your soils, improve profits and provide assistance.

Topics to cover:

- Farm Economic Outlook
- Cash and Crop Share Rents - How much and what to expect
- How to choose a good farmer
- How to know if it's time for a change
- How to maintain your soil - What you need to know as owners
- Q & A and more

Pre-registration required by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, emailing membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or online by accessing your account at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau®

6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-3276

<http://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>

Question of the Month

What is the amount of reward offered by Illinois Farm Bureau for info leading to felony conviction of a person(s) committing theft, arson, or vandalism to a member's Ag production-related property?

☆*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)**

August winner is [Barbara Spellman](#).

Last Month's Question:

What Oak Lawn School taught an incubation lesson thanks to the Embryology Grant given by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation?

Answer: St. Germaine School

☆*Bonus*☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, Corny Calvin, was hanging out in the August issue of the Co-Operator was... page 4.

Planter Workshop Series Adds 2018 Dates

Cook County Farm Bureau® member businesses are excited to be hosting 2 new Planter Workshops. Members and guests are encouraged to register early to ensure a spot!

Fall Planter Workshop at Schroeder's Greenhouse & Ldscp

10800 Southwest Hwy | Worth, IL 60482

Saturday, September 22nd | 10 AM | Fee: \$25.00

Create a fall planter to display on your porch, patio or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil, and all plantings.

Holiday Porch Pot at West End Florist & Garden Center

3800 Old Glenview Rd | Evanston, IL 60201

Saturday, November 17th | 10 AM

Create a holiday planter to display on your porch, patio or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil and all plantings.

Prior Registration & Payment Required

Call the Farm Bureau at: 708-354-3276 or Register online at the Member Center: www.cookcfb.org

Class size is limited!

Q and A Time!

Q. Have you been growing a pumpkin this summer and found that it has grown rather large?

Q. Do you have a special pumpkin recipe that you and your family find delicious?

Q. Are you a beekeeper and marketer of local honey?

Q. Do your kids love decorating pumpkins?

Q. Do you enjoy a harvest day atmosphere and fun?

A. If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, mark your calendar for Saturday, September 29 for 9 AM to participate in the 18th annual Giant Pumpkin contest and related competitions at Puckerville Farm on Bell Rd., Lemont, IL. Details can be found on page 12!



Did You Make it to the Farm Crawl?



A great group of people headed out to area farms, greenhouses, garden centers and farm businesses during the August 18th Farm Crawl (including Owen Brandau). See page 11 for more details.

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

“Are farm businesses owned by corporations?”

*Answered by Karen Biernacki,
Cook County farmer*



Karen Biernacki, Cook County Farmer

Have you ever seen one of the hybrid signs next to a corn or soybean field? The “Agrigold” sign in the picture almost makes it look like Agrigold owns the field. Agrigold is an 80-year old company that concentrates on seed research, which begs the question of why a company owns a corn or soybean field in Illinois.

Agrigold and other seed companies don't own the fields, the local farmer does. The seed company is “showing off” their product to other farmers in hopes that in the next growing season the farmer will plant their seed. It's the same thing that a landscaping or roofing company might do when they place their company's sign outside of a house they've just completed.

In Illinois, over 94 percent of farms are family owned. At our family-owned

greenhouse, family members make long-term and short-term decisions. Also, like many other family-owned businesses, we employ non-family staff members who work closely with family members to assist customers, prepare plantings, and fill orders. Family-owned farms, like ours, are committed to the future.

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.



From the Farm Desk...

FARMLAND SALES TREND (FarmWeek) - The trend of fewer farm acres on the market continues in the Eastern Corn Belt states, according to the latest Farmers National Company report. Prices for good quality tillable acres remain steady in most areas, including Illinois. The report noted lower quality land is steady to slightly lower as there is less demand for those farms. Land sellers are predominantly trusts and beneficiaries. Very few sales from farm operator financial stress have been seen so far. Farmers and local investors buy most of the quality cropland that comes up for sale.

FARM INCOME SQUEEZE PRESSURES FARMLAND PRICES (FarmWeek) - Multiple years of lower farm income, higher interest rates, and higher real estate taxes are key contributors to a tightening market for farmland. Other factors include the type of quality of the farmland, field shape and size, and future commodity price projections.

ILLINOIS SPECIALTY GROWERS ASSOCIATION (ISGA) OFFER MEMBERSHIP UPDATED RESOURCES (FarmWeek) - The ISGA is enhancing its resources and focus to support and promote Illinois specialty crops including the premier of a new magazine, Illinois Specialty Growers News. The affiliated associations representing herbs, horticulture, and vegetable growers will also provide report updates in the magazine.

DICAMBA COMPLAINTS UP (FarmWeekNow.com) - The number of dicamba-related complaints is on the rise, according to Jean Payne, president of the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association. Payne said total pesticide-misuse complaints stand at more than 450, with the number of dicamba-specific complaints at more than 300. She said dicamba applications on ideal spraying days are even generating complaints.

FARM AID (Wall Street Journal) - The Trump administration has announced plans to extend \$12 billion in aid to farmers to offset damage and to ease the immediate financial stress farmers are feeling over retaliatory tariffs.

IFB OFFERS NEW PODCAST SERIES (FarmWeek) - Illinois Farm Bureau® members can view a new series of podcasts called “Back to our Grassroots” at www.ilfb.org/resources/podcasts. In the first episode, expert market analysts compare the current tariff situation with previous trade decisions, as well as their global impact. The podcasts are being created as a way for IFB to communicate with members on “hot” agricultural topics.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDS PURSUING ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLAN (FarmWeekNow) - The Illinois Farm Bureau's Health Care Working Group has recommended several items to the Board of Directors including that the organization explore the potential of partnering with other associations with self-employed people to create an association health plan that would provide health insurance for members. Cook County Farm Bureau and other counties in District 5 proposed a “sense of the delegate resolution” during the Illinois Farm Bureau 2017 annual meeting to explore ways to help Farm Bureau member families in the area of health insurance availability and expense.

DROUGHT OF '88 REACHES 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY (FarmWeek) - Three decades ago, crops shriveled in Illinois farm fields as many farmers began to emerge from one of the worst agricultural recessions in US history. The growing season began without much precipitation, while heat and dryness continued throughout the summer. President Reagan flew to southern Illinois on July 14, 1988 to view the damage firsthand and said, “I think it's a great tragedy as anyone can see. The heart of America desperately needs more rain... We can't make it rain, but we can help to ease the pain.” Congress ended up passing a multibillion-dollar drought relief bill which Reagan signed into law.

About From the Farm Desk: There are a lot of farm related news items that cross the Editor's desk to share with area farmers and farm supporters. This collection of news briefs is gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep farmer members and leaders up to date. The articles are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions.

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...

Kendall Wright, Charlotte Sellers and Bob Resch for volunteering to assist the Ag Literacy Department in putting together the mailing that goes out to 2,500 Cook County teachers as we gear up for the AITC programming for the 2018-19 school year.

Kirsten Raver, our summer intern, for your support and hard work this summer on various agriculture literacy projects and programs as a part of our Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Internship Program. You will make a great teacher!

Sandi Bultheis, FB Member and Treasurer of the Flag Creek Historical Society, for connecting with us on their collection of farm history and memorabilia as we prepare for the 100-year anniversary of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Mike Rauch for loaning to the Farm Bureau the use of a logoed flag of Farm Bureau, FS and Country Companies that his grandfather used to mount to a wagon for trips across town.

Fairway Farms/Coghill Golf Club and Angelica Carmen for helping the Commodities/Marketing Team gain insight and knowledge on the process needed to help members put together farm-to-table dinner events.

The Farm Bureau members with farm stands and farm related businesses that opened their doors for members and the general public for the August 18 Farm Crawl.

Thanks Appreciative Gratitude

Gracias **THANK YOU** *Gratified*

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager
“Man versus Nature” Part 2

In July, I wrote a column titled “Man versus Nature” which contained a quick overview of the long, losing battles that I continually seem to have with varmints, invasive plants and weather. Unfortunately, the time is right for a part 2.

During the first weekend of August, our home’s air conditioning system stopped functioning. (Another column should be “man versus mechanicals”) How does one usually discover the failure of the air conditioner? It gets hot and humid outside, followed becoming really hot and humid inside, followed by irritated family members expressing strong opinions. I became acutely aware of the air conditioning failure after receiving some strong opinions...

While at church, we shared our air conditioning misfortune to a fellow parishioner who just so happens to be a heating and air conditioning contractor (Strategic conversations in church are important). He indicated that he would stop by in the afternoon to take a look. Score!

While waiting for him at the house, my wife and I decided to do a quick landscape cleanup and tidy the outside area surrounding the AC condenser unit. I began pulling weeds and clumps of grass in an effort to create an illusion that we do take care of the place. My wife grabbed a rake to remove piles of leaves that had windrowed around the condenser and along the foundation of the house.

I was bent over, grunting to pull an especially large weed, when my wife began to scream. Pivoting, I saw her flailing her arms as her sunglasses went flying into a pile of leaves. Did a squirrel jump on her head? The back of my head began to burn with pain and I realized we were being stung by a swarm of angry bees. My wife had raked the cap off a hive of ground bees.

Being averse to pain, I suggested to my wife by yelling that we “RUN!” We flailed around the corner of the house, across the patio and dove into the kitchen. Were we safe? Not quite. A number of bees were tangled in my wife’s hair (which I heard is unsettling).

After dealing with the unwanted “guests” in the house, we took a few minutes to settle our heart rates, count our stings (7-8 on the back of my head and 12-15 in various locations on my wife’s body), and begin a quick treatment. I was keenly aware that the AC contractor was due in less than an hour and now we had an angry swarm of bees guarding the air conditioning unit.

I need to interrupt my story to emphasize that I am a supporter of bees. I have written several times in this space about their great busy-ness, pollination skills and ability to produce sweet treats. I very much like their products. We have many Farm Bureau members that are very active in bee and honey production. We annually hold a local honey contest for area beekeepers (September 29, 2018 is the next one). My wonderful mom is a beekeeper. My sister is writing a beekeeping book for second graders. Do you get the picture? Bees are awesome! However, I was in a dark place and full of negativity toward bees...Kill, crush, destroy.

Time to Hunt. And when I say “hunt,” I mean put on heavy clothing, hide around the corner of the house and shoot bug spray onto the nest while being prepared to run at the first sign of more pain.

I hiked on jeans (without holes) tucking the pant legs into my heavy muck boots, donned a heavy flannel and pulled out leather gloves and a straw hat. I dug through the camping supplies for mosquito netting to go over the hat to cover my head, face and neck – makeshift beekeeper’s garb. I then spent a nerve-racking half an hour trying to take back our property while the bees attempted to defend theirs. I was divebombed from every angle.

As a bee lover, I felt no pride finally winning this battle. I did finally feel secure that our AC contractor could safely work on the unit. Twenty minutes later, after replacing a couple parts, he had the system up and running! A welcome, anticlimactic finish!

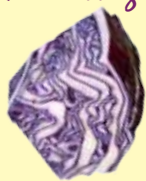
I always try to learn something from my many life experiences...

1. Beekeepers don’t get paid enough...\$199.99 for an 8-ounce bottle of honey is about right.
2. A tidy, weed and leaf free home is greatly over – rated.
3. People who intentionally seek bee sting therapy to address arthritis and Alzheimer’s are...@&\$%!
4. Running like a scared chicken from pain is a great solution to many of life’s problems.
5. When my wife screams, always pay attention. Always.

I frequently say, “Thank you, farmers from growing great products so I don’t have to!” Now, I will add, “Thank you Cook County Beekeepers for all you do and endure!”
 Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

Recipe of the Month: *Scott's Favorite Red Cabbage Slaw*

- ½ head red cabbage
- ½ c plus 2 T red wine vinegar
- 3 T sugar
- 1 t seasoned salt
- ¼ t onion powder
- ½ c vegetable oil
- 4 t salt
- 1 t black pepper



Shred cabbage. Combine oil, vinegar, salt, sugar, seasoned salt, pepper and onion powder. Mix well with whisk then pour over cabbage. Let stand at room temp for a few hours or overnight in fridge to allow flavors to mellow and slaw to reach a deep, red color. Stir occasionally.

Recipe reprinted with permission from member Gina McDonald 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.

Fall Tree and Fish Sale

The Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the fall Tree and Fish Sale.

Order forms are available on the District Website <https://will-scookswcd.org> and can be picked up at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District office during business hours. U.S. Mail, email and fax copies can also be requested by calling 815-462-3106 x 3.

The District has a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and trees available this fall. Stock ranges in size from 8 inches to 6-foot linear stock, and one, two and three gallon potted stock.

Fish varieties for sale include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Hybrid Sunfish, Fathead Minnows, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Triploid Grass Carp and Albino Catfish (new).

Grass Carp must be ordered by Friday, September 21st. All other orders must be received by Monday, October 1st. Orders are pre-paid only.

Tree orders will be available for pickup on Friday, October 5th, 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 6th, 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 am at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox.

Fish stock will be available for pickup on Saturday, October 6th, 7 a.m. only, at the above location.

For more information on the sale, call 815-462-3106 ext. 3 or email info@will-scookswcd.org.

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0418-589HO

Farm Bureau Members Support Area Non-Profits

Great things happen when people and organizations work together. For the past 18 years, Cook County Farm Bureau® has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana to celebrate Food Checkout Day and the healthy and nutritious food local farmers grow and raise. Since 2001, Farm Bureau members and partner organizations, including COUNTRY Financial representatives and clients have donated nearly 100,000 pounds of non-perishable food items and have donated over \$140,000. Local students and businesses partnered with the Farm Bureau to raise donations. Students donated over 47,750 pounds of food and almost 1,500 pounds of pop tabs. Even Farm Bureau staff was able to assist by preparing lunch for the families calling the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola and Oak Lawn their temporary “home” while their child is receiving treatment.

Farm Bureau has also donated over \$1,500 to Cook County food pantries through Farm Bureau’s Grocery Giveaway program. Pantries receiving donations through this program include: Worth Township Food Pantry, Alsip; Together We Cope Food Pantry, Tinley Park; Hines VA Food Pantry, Hines; Tinley Park Food Pantry, Tinley Park; Hillside Food Pantry, Evanston; St. Clements Food Pantry, Harvey; and Rich Township Food Pantry, Richton Park. In addition, fresh meat has been donated to the Ronald McDonald Houses and the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. The animals were purchased by the Farm Bureau from Cook County 4-H members at the Lake County Fair 4-H animal auction.



Cook County Farm Bureau® is proud to have supported Cook County 4H members at this year’s Lake County 4H animal auction. The meat will be donated to a local food pantry and the Chicagoland Ronald McDonald House Charities®.

Through Farm Bureau’s urban garden grant program, over \$10,500 has been donated to Cook County urban farms to support the continuation and expansion of local urban farms. Farm Bureau’s school garden grant program supports local elementary, middle and high schools that are interested in creating a classroom container garden.



Farm Bureau’s Young Professional group along with CCFB leaders and volunteers prepared almost 26,000 servings of food for families in need through the Feed My Starving Children organization.

Farm Bureau’s young professionals have an outstanding history of donating to the community. In addition to donating their time at the Greater Chicagoland Food Depository to bag over 10,400 pounds of apples, they also prepared almost 26,000 servings of food for Feed My Starving Children.

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 ...

Pat Horcher

- Pat Horcher has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 1994.
- He and his family own Horcher’s Country Flowers in Wheeling where they grow annuals, perennials, and vegetables in greenhouses and on the family homestead.
- Horcher is the Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Political Action Committee, and serves as an ACTIVATOR Trustee.
- Horcher has been married to his wife Stacey for 25yrs .
- Horcher has two adult children Asher 23 and Patrick 21 and thinking of them still makes him smile.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?
Fishing in the creek when I was young. Then taking my son to fish in the creek.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
Oreos, I prefer the vanilla regular stuff. As far as how I dunk I hold two together at the top so they separate a little allowing the milk to evenly saturate the cookies. Then pop both in my mouth at once. The first two can be swallowed about as fast as the next two are done dunking.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO CONTROL YOUR CALORIES?
Share the Oreo cookies with the dogs.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?
Chickens

IF YOU CAN BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?
A Young Farmer

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE CCFB?
It’s a group of good people working to protect and promote an honorable profession.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?
Used to like the Steer Barn

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?
Allis Chalmers G

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?
Our job is to provide reliable answers to agricultural questions. Our information can always be checked and verified and is generally available to anyone who asks any agricultural question from livestock to row crops to potted plants. At a minimum your membership helps us provide those services.

The Farm Dinner at Fairway Farms in Lemont was Nothing Short of MAGICAL!



Thank you to the amazing Angelica Carmen whose vision and hard work created an evening that was farm-to-table delicious with the help of her staff, Fabian, Evan and Kayla! Thank you to the owners and staff at Cog Hill Golf Club, the terrific chefs Ricardo & Jose, and all of the crew at Cog Hill who worked so hard to make the evening

a success, as well as the families, friends and volunteers of CCFB & Angelica - thank you for your hard work and sweat! Lastly, thank you to all the members and guests who attended; your presence is the reason we all worked so hard to put on a dinner you won’t soon forget! Check out all the photos online and on Facebook!

September Means Fresh Peaches



Cultivated since at least 1000 BC, the peach originated in China. The ancient Chinese considered the peach a symbol of longevity and immortality.

A large peach has fewer than 70 calories and contains 3 grams of fiber. It’s also a good source of vitamins A and C.

Peaches are part of the Rose family, along with plums, apricots, and almonds.

Peaches came to America with Spanish explorers in the 16th century, traveling to the American Southwest, and again later with early English settlers to Jamestown.

Peaches are called “stone fruit” because of the hard pits surrounding their seeds.

The life of a peach tree is about 15 years, and for the first two years, they do not bear fruit.

Peaches are the third most popular fruit grown in America.

Florida was the home of the first peach orchard in North America, established in 1565.

Peaches are grown in southern Illinois where the growing season is longer, and temperatures are warmer.

Nectarines are an identical species to peaches, not a cross of peaches and plums as some might think. A single gene difference makes their skin smooth where a peach’s skin is always fuzzy.

*From the Illinois Agriculture in the ClassroomSM 2018-19 Calendar for Teachers

“From the Country”

Protect Your Family’s Future With Life Insurance



Jack Smith, Country Financial Agency Manager Chicago Northwest

Do you know if your family would have the financial resources to maintain their standard of living if something happened to you? According to the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association, approximately 56 percent of Americans lack individual life insurance coverage and 30 percent have no life insurance protection whatsoever.¹

The very thought of premature death may make you worry about the changes your family would need to make if your income were no longer available. A good way to protect your family’s future is with life insurance.

Why do I need life insurance?

Life insurance provides protection from financial loss if you or a family member dies prematurely. Each situation is different, but life insurance is commonly used for final expenses, taking care of dependents and continuing business activities. Final expenses may include an illness, burial expenses, legal fees or outstanding debts.

Life insurance is especially helpful if your family

exists on a single income. Life insurance helps families maintain their current lifestyles. Mortgages, college education and your spouse’s retirement are all costs that may be paid for by life insurance. Also, if you own a business, life insurance can help ensure your family or business partners will not be left with outstanding debts.

How much coverage do I need?

Although coverage amounts vary from person to person, most financial planners agree you should have at least five to seven times your annual salary in life insurance. It’s best to invest in life insurance early because the older you get, the more expensive life insurance gets.

Some employers provide group life insurance, but no one should rely solely on this type of coverage. Employee group life insurance protects you while you are an employee, but may disappear if you lose or leave your job.

What are the types of life insurance?

There are two main types of life insurance protection: term and permanent life insurance. Term life insurance provides protection for a specific period of time and is used to fill a temporary need, such as covering a mortgage or sending a child to college.

Term insurance typically offers the greatest amount of

coverage for the lowest initial premium and may be a good choice for families on a tight budget.

Permanent life insurance offers lifelong protection and allows you to accumulate cash value and equity. This type of coverage is used to fill long-term needs, such as income replacement. Unlike term life insurance, you might have the option to stop making payments in later years.

Start thinking about life insurance

Life insurance is too valuable to ignore. If you do not currently have life insurance, don’t wait to protect your family’s future. If you currently have life insurance, re-evaluate your needs. Examining your life insurance needs every few years is a good idea because changes and events in your life may alter the amount of coverage you need. To help you decide what life insurance policy is right for you, contact a COUNTRY Financial representative for an insurance and financial review.

Jack may be reached at jack.smith@countryfinancial.com.

¹ Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association – Ownership of Individual Life Insurance Falls to 50-Year Low 2010.

Policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

Team Members Visit the Community Garden Grant Recipients



CCFB Commodities/Marketing Team members, Dan & Karen Biernacki, along with Greg Stack of Ted’s Greenhouse visited Growing Solutions Community Garden, a CCFB Community Garden Grant recipient. Dan and Karen also visited grant recipient Roots & Rays Community Garden (upper right). Garden coordinators (Heather, top left and Carolina, top right) used funds to make plantings, seed, and garden supply purchases at member business Ted’s Greenhouse in Tinley Park and Schroeder’s Garden Center & Landscaping Supply in Worth. Both gardens are in Chicago.



CCFB Commodities/Marketing Team member Sheri Latash visited SRB Community Garden in Chicago. Garden coordinator Peggy used her funds to purchase plantings, flowers, and supplies from West End Garden Center in Evanston.

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Your South Holland Agency

 Jeff Orman Agency Manager 708-560-7777	 Andrew Carrell South Holland 708-596-3999	 Jim Verduin South Holland 708-596-0008	 Randall Cox Matteson 708-679-1870	 Elliot Day Matteson 708-679-1870
 Gary Molenhouse Matteson 708-679-1870	 Pat Hickey Worth 708-361-4081	 Tim Winters Worth 708-480-5094	 Josh Van Namen Worth 708-361-3925	 Jim Pathemore Orland Park 708-745-5151
 Tim Perchinski Steger 708-754-7300	 Bob Smith Homewood 708-798-4844	 Paul Turay Mokena 708-478-0423	 John VanGennep Mokena 708-478-5500	 Bob Deenik Lansing 708-474-5600
 Tim Van Zuidam St. John, IN 219-365-1781	 Mike Cerf Oak Forest 708-560-7777	 Charmaine Toney-Adkins Oak Forest 708-381-4010	 Mike Burton Oak Forest 708-560-7777	

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Helping you protect what matters most

0518-517HO



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: School Lunches By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

Hard to believe, but September has arrived and school either has or is about to begin again. Whether it's a brown paper bag or a reusable bag or box, students of all ages are beginning the process of "packing their lunches" for school. Well, maybe it isn't the students, but that perfect Mom or Dad.

As my assistant, Jill, and I were reminiscing about making those lunches, she shared how much love went into each bag. Now my kids may not have felt that same love, but they knew two PB&J's would hold them over until after school. I attempted carrots, strawberries and more and know 2 out of the 3 probably traded the healthy items.

But that was then, and this is now. How things are changing! How would our kids have felt if the lunch Jill and I made was labeled as a "smart" or "wholesome" lunch? How would they have felt if it contained fresh prepared salmon and hot rice? Or perhaps an item from a local restaurant appeared as their lunch according to their specification?

"No way", I thought, until I caught

up on a new business model that enables parents to order their child specific restaurant menu items to be delivered to the school, labeled for their child and ready to eat. "Amazing," I said and reread it to make sure I wasn't imagining it. Yes, making lunches gets old for whoever does it, but it just seems as much a part of growing up as getting your driver's license. What to make for dinner or lunch was the question of the day.

So, I'm not sure what to think of this but my initial thought is, "Really!" As we get more and more removed from where our food comes from, this is yet another way not to work with food. Kind of like not preparing any family dinners together but getting fast food. Where is the love? Where is the personal touch?

Perhaps I'm bitter as I recall many years ago telling my husband I had a great business idea. We could get people's shopping lists and go to the grocery store for them and deliver their food back to them. He thought I was crazy and said, "Sure and how would we ever make any money doing that?" Maybe I should have thought of customized school lunch delivery.

Diane can be reached at aitic@cookcfb.org.

Grants for Teachers Available

Calling all teachers who could use some funding to start off the school year!

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® and Illinois Ag in the Classroom offer several grants for educators. Don't miss these opportunities to incorporate agriculture into your K-12 curriculum.



Food Science Grant: The Food Science Grant was developed by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation to promote the usage of high quality agricultural products that are locally produced. The purpose of this program is to offer \$300 grants for teachers to purchase dairy, meat and vegetable products for use in their classroom programming/ curriculum.

Grants are offered to Cook County Middle and High Schools that have a food science, culinary arts, engineering, life skills, or other closely related class or club. Visit <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>. (10/15/18 deadline)



Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is offering a variety of special topic and book grants of up to \$300 to Pre-School through High School teachers across the state of Illinois to fund projects promoting agricultural literacy in the classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to add many new books to your classroom!

Projects should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of curricular areas. Priority for grants will be given to those that contain materials for use over multiple school years. Visit www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/Grants.html for applications. (10/01/18 deadline)

Thank You, Kirsten



Diane and Kirsten

I'd like to express my gratitude to my summer intern Kirsten Raver for her execution of our summer programs. She is going to make an outstanding teacher and role model for the next generation. She has maturity beyond her years and gave 110% to make our summer a success. We'll always remember the fun we had sharing ag facts through the Breakout Box events at local libraries. While some families were ready to quit when faced with an envelope of what they thought were meaningless clues, they hung in there and became fiercely competitive while munching on popcorn, our state snack. In between those sessions, Kirsten was able to connect with the youth of our county through our partnership with local libraries and with the Cook County Sheriff's summer leadership and youth camps. Last, but not least, was our Summer Ag Institute program which Kirsten made happen with professional leadership and communication with teachers. Our best wishes for a successful final year at University of Illinois... Diane Merrion

BRING AGRICULTURE TO YOUR SCHOOL
COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
AG IN THE CLASSROOM

<p><i>We come to your classroom for FREE!!</i></p> <p>Call: 708-354-3276 Email: aitic2@cookcfb.org</p>	<p>PART ONE INTRO TO AGRICULTURE IN ILLINOIS</p> <p>The "In-School" Field Trip is offered to all 4th grade classes in Cook County. This free on hour program includes, Teaching students to recognize that agriculture provides our most basic necessities: food, fiber, energy and shelter.</p>	<p>PART TWO THERE'S 'AG' ON MY PLATE</p> <p>This follow-up to the Intro to Agriculture in Illinois program is designed to engage students in thoughtful discussion and activities connection what farmers produce to the USDA MyPlate®.</p>	<p>SPECIALTY PROGRAMS</p> <p><i>We realize that many educators are including agriculture into their curriculum and we will make every effort to deliver a customized program to classrooms beyond the 4th Grade level based on availability of presenters.</i></p>
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Would you like to teach your classroom where food and fiber come from?

Adopt a Classroom

If you are a Chicago area teacher, your students can correspond with an Illinois farmer through the Adopt a Classroom Program. From fall to spring your classroom will interact with your Farm Writer and gain valuable knowledge through the farmer's experience.

How does it work?

- 1 IAITC will "match" your classroom with an Illinois farmer through the Adopt a Classroom Program.
- 2 During the school year, the farmer will correspond with their classroom describing how food and fiber is grown in Illinois. They may also send samples of seeds, photos, farm magazines, etc. to help the students understand daily life. Some Farm Writers even visit their classroom!
- 3 In return, your classroom will write letters, emails, or even Skype with questions and comments.

*"Most of my children had no idea what a farm was like—they learned so much."
—A Chicago teacher*

*"I enjoyed writing my adopted classroom because they had so many questions. I sent them photos, cookies for Valentine's Day, and a stalk of beans, wheat heads, and ears of corn."
—A Farm Writer*

To participate in the Adopt a Classroom Program or for more information contact Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom at aitc@ilfb.org, or call (309)557-3334.

Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom™

Visit our website at www.agintheclassroom.org

Join the Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag in the Classroom as we explore

The power of Plants

Join us on October 3 as we look at the green and leafy world of plants while exploring subjects such as "And Grandma Called Them Slips", "Leaves: Form, Function and Fun", "Yo, Seeds Wake Up!", and "After Dinner Gardening".

Plants are an important part of our lives. We see them everywhere and they are responsible for many things we take for granted. Things like food, clothing and housing are some of the obvious things plants give us. So, how can you capture the natural enthusiasm and curiosity of children to teach them how important plants are and most of all, how much fun plants can be?

Join us for a Professional Development workshop where we'll explore the many possibilities of introducing plants to your students while at the same time enhancing your classroom curriculum. This fast paced, hands on workshop will be tailored toward those teaching in the primary grades (although material can be tailored to higher grades).

In addition to discussing and demonstrating various activities, there will be teacher resource materials provided that can be taken back to your school and shared with other staff interested in getting kids "hooked on plants"

WHEN: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 4:30-6:30 pm
WHERE: Ted's Greenhouse
16930 84th Ave
Tinley Park 60487

Call 708-354-3276 or email AITC2@cookcfb.org to register

"Agriculture in the Classroom" Presenter Opportunity

The Cook County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program is looking to add a contract Presenter to our AITC Program which has been serving classrooms in our county for over 30 years. This presenter will serve schools in either the city or northern suburbs, depending upon their location.

Our Contracted Presenters typically have classroom experience, excellent presentation and communication skills, and the desire to work with elementary school students and educators. Knowledge of agriculture and farming has proven to be important.

This is a part-time, independent contractor position. Presentations vary each week, between the months of September–May and offer great flexibility. Individuals interested should email Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator, at aitc@cookcfb.org. No phone calls please.

Agriculture Adventures For Families



We are now experiencing the bounty of fruits and vegetables from our summer gardens and local farm stands. Some of us have so much we can't possibly eat all that ripens each day. September is **Hunger Action Month**, a month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. Your family can help by donating produce from your garden to a local food pantry (call ahead to ask about drop-off days) or to your neighbors who may not have a garden. Here are other options to avoid wasting garden produce:



Canning

There are several methods used to can produce including water bath canning and pressure canning. For a quick overview of both methods, visit www.freshpreserving.com/canning-101-getting-started.html. Canning produce is very popular again with the rise in home and urban gardening, but it originated back in the time when Napoleon was emperor. His military was powerful but hungry and Nicolas Appert, a young chef from the region of Champagne, began experimenting with food preservation. His early techniques had him putting food into champagne bottles that were corked and sealed. He later progressed from using champagne bottles to wide-necked glass containers. In 1803 his preserved foods (which included vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy and fish) were sent out for sea trials with the French navy. By 1804, his factory had begun to experiment with meat packed in tin cans, which he soldered shut and then observed for months for signs of swelling. Those that didn't swell were deemed safe for sale and long-term storage. Appert's process involved placing food inside glass jars, that were then corked, much like wine, and sealed off with a wax seal. The jars were wrapped in canvas and then boiled. He submitted his invention to the French government and was announced the winner in January of 1810, some 15 years after he first began experimenting.

Cold Pickling

Pickling is best done with super-fresh vegetables. Almost any vegetable can be pickled, and the shape you choose to pickle in is entirely up to you. For example, carrots can be peeled and sliced into matchsticks or coins. Cherry tomatoes are best preserved whole. The process is quite simple as it is basically a brining process. Examples can be seen by visiting: <https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-quick-pickle-any-vegetable-233882>

Arts and Crafts

If all else fails and you just can't eat another pepper or ear of corn, grab the paint and start making a craft with kids. Utilize corn cobs as paint brushes; use celery hearts, peppers and apples as stamps; or paint with wet soil. These are just some of the thousands of uses for your end of the season home garden.

Try these crafty corn ideas!!

www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Food/cornprints/cornprints.html
www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Food/cornprintsapron/cornprintsapron.html

Baking & Freezing

Grab your favorite recipe that uses berries, zucchini and whatever else is growing in your garden and freeze breads, cakes, pies and more for use as gifts during the upcoming holidays.

Use some of your garden favorites to make Garlic Dill Pickles, Pumpkin Pecan Cake, or Fresh Garden Tomato Marinade. Find these recipes in our CCFB 2018 Recipe Collection or visit www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

Things to Do

- Compost
- Rake
- Make Garlic Dill Pickles
- Local Pantry Drop Off
- Buy glass jars

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!

September Word Search

Fruit	Crafts
Vegetables	Canning
Gardens	Pickling
Farm Stand	Baking
Feeding	Freezing
America	September
Nationwide	Canvas
Hunger	Art

Name: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Membership #: _____
 (Membership # is located on front of paper)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Last month's word search winner is

Candice Conner

Congratulations!!!!



Friends Celebrate a Century of Farm Bureau Impact

Farmer Dale delighted passengers with rides in his 1919 Ford Model T on that pleasant summer evening at the fairgrounds. The ride from yesteryear stirred thoughts about how the automobile dramatically changed life. Those thoughts continued under a nearby tent, where tractors from every decade of the last century sat on display. The earliest models replaced horses in a dramatic shift for farm life and food production.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of our county Farm Bureau, local leaders hosted a “Night Off The Farm,” a well-planned event that gathered Farm Bureau friends at the fairgrounds to celebrate the accomplishments of our county organization since its start in 1918. We connected with old friends, saw photos from our Young Farmer days and enjoyed a well-seasoned ribeye and pork chop dinner with potato salad so yummy that our 10-year-old returned for seconds.

Attendees browsed old Farm Bureau photos. We talked about our fondest memories and how big our Young Farmers babies were getting. At least four generations gathered in that banquet building with stories from sometime in Farm Bureau history when – just as now – unifying our voices through a single organization impacted the economic well-being of agriculture. Farm Bureau gives us a forum to share concerns, present solutions, and unite for the common good of agriculture. It presents us the settings to network, learn and gather information that improve our business, our livelihood, our care of the environment, and our well-being.

In the tractor tent, yard signs identified the decade each antique tractor represented. My daughter quizzically studied the pull-type combine, an early precursor to the only combine she knows – one that’s cabbed, self-propelled, and satellite- or sensor-guided. Statistics on display showed the change in corn, gasoline and tractor prices. Brief written histories by decade highlighted anything from war’s impact on the farm to significant county awards. The signs mentioned the names of some of the most notable and respected public figures and agricultural leaders who served our county Farm Bureau and beyond. Yet, we know even more Farm Bureau members who use their leadership and service to make quiet differences in their rural communities to enrich farm family life.

In Farm Bureau fashion, a committee worked on details of this event more than a year in advance. They created a special celebration that concluded with an impressive, up-close firework display. As guests left, they took home gifts, including a potted evergreen tree to plant on the farm in honor of the 100th anniversary. May it also salute Farm Bureau’s future growth and impact.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from west-central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.

Family Food Bytes

PORK DONATIONS MARK CHRISTMAS IN JULY (FarmWeek) - Nine regional Illinois food banks (including the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the Northern Illinois Food Bank) received more than 4,000 pounds of ground pork – a Christmas in July donation as part of the Pork Power: Partnering to Fight Hunger in Illinois campaign. Sponsored by the Illinois Pork Producers Association along with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board and the Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Program, the campaign has supplied nearly 570,000 pounds of pork to Illinois families since its inception in 2008.

FORECASTED FLAT TO LOWER PRODUCE PRICES (FarmWeek) - Retail prices for fresh fruits and vegetables are expected to remain steady for the rest of 2018 and into 2019, according to a USDA report. In July’s food price report, USDA reported fresh vegetable prices fell .2% from May to June, and were slightly lower than in June 2017. Retail fresh vegetable prices are expected to remain steady throughout the rest of the year. USDA forecasts fresh fruit prices to grow slightly during the rest of the year.

IN DEMAND (Bloomberg) – The job search site Indeed.com reports that job postings for DNA scientists surged 64 percent over the last two years. Those in the field are manipulating DNA to improve animal welfare, create better crops, and treat human disease.

FOOD POISONING NUMBERS RISE (Herald & Review) – A foodborne illness that has sickened people in several Midwestern states has caused symptoms in at least 266 people in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Public Health says about one-third of them reported eating salads at McDonald’s restaurants in the days before becoming ill.

CALLING ALL (WOULD-BE) VOTERS (Illinois News Network) – Illinois’ State Board of Elections is gearing up to spend more than a quarter-million dollars on a required voter outreach program. The state must try to reach people who are eligible to vote but who aren’t registered.

GONE VEGAN? NOPE. – According to a recent Gallup poll, few Americans follow vegetarian or vegan diets, despite long-running campaigns from animal rights activists. Fewer than one in 10 Americans adhere to such diets, with 5 percent in the U.S. identifying as vegetarian and just 3 percent identifying as vegan. Those numbers are little changed in recent years.

MOST AMERICANS GO FOR LOCALLY GROWN – According to a recent Gallup poll, nearly 75 percent of Americans say they actively try to include locally grown foods in their diets. However, the organic distinction, often promoted on locally grown foods, appears to matter less to Americans with 47 percent saying they don’t think much about whether to include them in their diet.

COWS CATCH CARJACKER (FOX News) – An alleged carjacking suspect almost got away from Florida police – until some local bovines got involved. Police said the driver and passenger in a stolen Subaru SUV fled on foot after the car crashed into a ditch. The passenger, who fled to a nearby pasture, was then chased and corralled by the curious cows who call the pasture home.

GOATS TAKE OVER NEIGHBORHOOD IN BOISE (The Washington Post) – Dozens of goats invaded a residential area on the western side of Boise, Idaho on August 3. The goats proceeded to move from yard to yard eating rosebushes, ivy and grass. It was reported that neighbors spilled out of their home to observe and most were amused, but not all. The goats came from a business called “We Rent Goats” which uses the goats to remove noxious weeds from fields, acreage, pastures, open spaces, ditches, ravines and embankments.

FOOD COMPANIES FORM ALLIANCE FOR POLICY ACTION (FarmWeek) – Danone North America, Mars, Nestlé USA, and Unilever recently created the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance. This new organization aims to accelerate the pace of change in the food industry. The alliance will prioritize five key areas: customer transparency, environment, food safety, nutrition, as well as people and communities. The organization will also focus on carbon emissions by trying to advance climate policies.

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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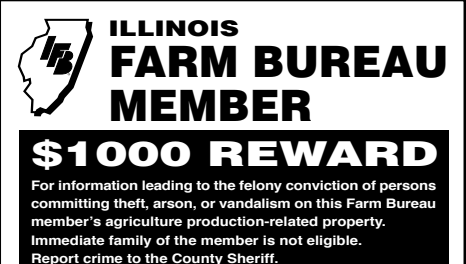
Ah, picture perfect...



Except for the thief hiding behind the barn.

Farm country “seems” crime-free, but the truth is that rural crimes are on the rise. That’s why Illinois Farm Bureau offers a **\$1000 reward** to anyone with information leading to the felony conviction of persons committing theft, arson, or vandalism to **ag production related property**.* As a member, you can benefit from this reward program. Ask your participating county Farm Bureau for a reward sticker or metal sign to post on your farm, and help stop crime in our country.

*Contact Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 for details.



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Farm Bureau Negotiates Changes to Cook County Zoning Code



Cook County Farm Bureau® Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations, Bona Heinsohn provided comments on the proposed changes pertaining to animals in the Zoning Ordinance. Farm Bureau worked closely with Commissioner Peter Silvestri and Building and Zoning Department staff regarding the revisions.

Farm Bureau actively engaged with Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Chairman of the Committee on Building and Zoning and the Building and Zoning Department to minimize the impact of zoning changes on Cook County agriculture.

The amendment provides:

- Reasonable requirements for apiaries located on smaller residential lots.
- Reasonable minimum lot sizes for individuals interested in keeping livestock or horses.
- 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 final draft of the

ordinance.

A subsequent draft provided that livestock and horses could only be kept on lots with a minimum area of five-acres and that an acre of space was required for each horse. 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 worked closely with Commissioner Silvestri and his staff and Building and Zoning staff to negotiate the changes. Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Farm Bureau Working on Eminent Domain Policy

Kelo v. New London is the landmark eminent domain case. After the Supreme Court's ruling, more than 20 states significantly changed their eminent domain laws to make eminent domain more difficult. The Supreme Court's case was ultimately over New London authorizing the use of eminent domain on a little pink house that overlooked the Thames River in 1997. The area was going to be revitalized after Pfizer invested in the area, but in 2009 the project fell through. The land where Kelo's "little pink house" once stood is now empty.

Farm Bureau members responding to the Viewpoint Survey believe that in situations when eminent domain is used to acquire property, but that property is not used and is resold, that the original owner should have the first right of purchase at the original price.

The proposed policy states that we support the original property owner having the first right of purchase, at the original purchase price, when the property acquired through eminent domain is resold.

Members interested in commenting on this issue are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

On-the-Road Seminar: Motor Vehicle Regulations for Cook County and Illinois Farmers and Farm-Businesses

Trucking regulations can be complicated, and farm exemptions compound that complexity. And it may seem like everyone has a different answer to your question. **Come join us at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25 at Ted's Greenhouse, 16930 S. 84th Avenue in Tinley Park to find out what you need to know. A light lunch will be available beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

CCFB is hosting a two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws specifically for farmers. We'll introduce you to new rules and remind you of the old rules that still apply, as well as help you identify means of relief. We'll also touch on regulations that apply to travel between states.

Trucking laws have been reshaped in recent years with more changes yet to come.

Rules affected include: farmer exemptions, Harvest Season Emergency permit, longer trucks on local roads, Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs), anhydrous ammonia nurse tank movements, and proof of citizenship requirements.

Presenting the seminar will be Kevin Rund and Kirby Wagner who specialize in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau®. And You'll also receive take-home materials covering these topics.

The seminar is free courtesy of Cook County Farm Bureau® and Illinois Farm Bureaus®. Advance registration is required. Please visit the Member Center or call 708-354-3276 to reserve your place at the On-the-Road Seminar.

Come join us and get your farm trucking questions answered.



Cook and Mercer County Farm Bureaus delivered sweetcorn for families at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, Self-Help Closet, and Schaumburg Barn in conjunction with Senator Laura Murphy and Representative Michelle Mussman. Senator Murphy is "adopted" by Mercer CFB through Farm Bureau's Adopt-a-Legislator® program.



Cook County Farm Bureau assisted with sweetcorn delivery to the Common Pantry in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago. The food pantry was selected by Senate President John Cullerton and the sweetcorn was donated and delivered by the Pike County Farm Bureau®.



By Bona Heinsohn, CCFB Director of Gov. Affairs and P.R.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Many years ago, I packed my heels, suits, and hopes and dreams and traveled to the lovely mecca of Springfield, Illinois. Along with 19 other recent college graduates we traversed the steps of the capitol to join the ranks of the Illinois Legislative Student Internship Program (ILSIP). Roughly, each caucus and the Legislative Research Unit received four bright-eyed and bushy-tailed naïve interns. And my oh my, we were naïve. We were in awe of the grandeur of the building. And we were convinced that each one of us could single-handedly change the face of Illinois government.

After a brief introduction and an even briefer tour, we were set loose. I remember arriving with my highlighted street map in hand

because the travel home the afternoon before took me an hour to traverse 10 or so miles not because of the traffic but because of Springfield's notoriously confusing one-way streets.

I spent nearly six years traversing the hallways of the capitol. During that time, I analyzed legislation; reviewed "BIMP" or budget implementation bills; coordinated communication efforts for caucus members; and ensured that floor operations ran smoothly. During my non-state time, I oversaw political messaging; ran Senate campaigns; exhausted volunteers; and brought home two highly competitive and expensive wins for the caucus.

While I didn't single handedly change Illinois government in those six years, I did learn the value of building relationships. Of building communication channels. And of

building a network.

My governmental affairs volunteers will tell you that I harp on the importance of building relationships. Of getting to know our Cook County legislators. Of getting to know our Cook County legislative staff.

Earlier this year, we called on our relationship with Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Chairman of the Zoning and Building Committee. Rather than sounding alarm bells and activating an action request regarding the proposed changes to the Zoning Code, we spoke with Commissioner Silvestri and his staff and explained our concerns. And early in the process we had numerous concerns- large lot size requirements for individuals with bee hives; large lot requirements for individuals with horses; and additional acre requirements for each additional horse.

Based on conversations with horse owners and riding stables, the lot size requirement and subsequent acre per horse could've eliminated most, if not all of Cook County's stables. However, at no point did it become necessary to issue an action request because Farm Bureau has a relationship with Commissioner Silvestri and his staff and we were able to negotiate a reasonable compromise.

While I'd love to bore readers with tales of Springfield craziness, the takeaway is the importance of building relationships with your legislators, county board members, and aldermen. Many times, issues can best be resolved through conversations and compromises rather than action requests, alarm bells, and sleepless nights.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.

Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts and Transferring Non-Titled Property

Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau

- When:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 6:30-9 p.m.
- Where:** Orland Park Country Financial
9731 W 165th St. Ste 36
Orland Park, IL 60467
- Cost:** **No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members**
\$10 per person for non-members
- To Register:** Call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276
Limited seating!

Speakers and Program Descriptions:

What You Need to Know About Preparing Wills and Trusts

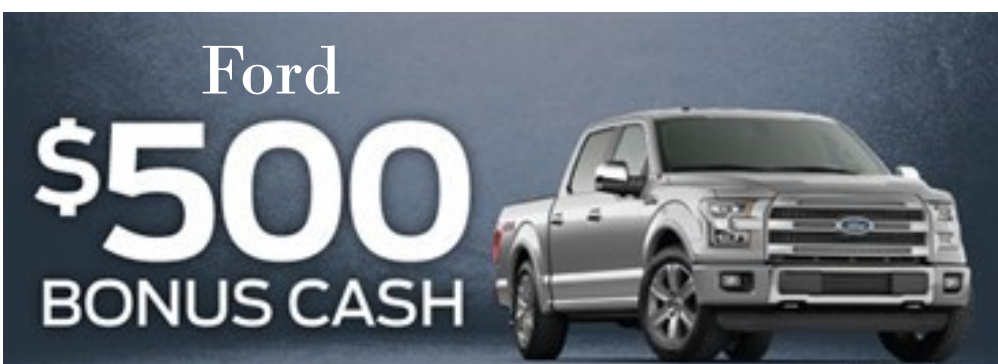
Presented by Thomas J. Olofsson, J.D., Estate Planning Attorney

Do you need to update your will? Do you know what to do prepare a will and a trust? Do you understand what probate court is? This program will provide the advantages and disadvantages of preparing a will and trust. The program will inform you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust. Also, tips will be shared on what to look for in choosing a lawyer and where to locate a lawyer for this task.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa's Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa's pocket watch, or even Grandma's pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue; deciding what you want to accomplish; deciding what the word "fair" means in your family; identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences; and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.



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.

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. 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.



Matt Whitsett

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Matt Whitsett has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. His office is located at 4306 N. Lincoln Ave., #2F in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-267-1584. Matt has been a Financial Representative since November 2009.



Sylwia Grochowska

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



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for June 2018. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Matt has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2005.



Mary Jane Alagheband

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Mary Jane Alagheband has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. Her office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste. 550 in Skokie, IL. Her phone number is 847-733-7956. Mary Jane has been a Financial Representative since December 2012.



John Doherty

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
John Doherty has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. His office is located at 10A W Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-9922. John has been a Financial Representative since May 1992.



Renata Bondarowicz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



Gwen Shaw

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Gwen Shaw has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. Her office is located at 820 E. 87th St., Ste 202 in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-487-0919. Gwen has been a Career Financial Representative since October 2014.



Robert Jones

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Robert Jones has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2018. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-846-7574. Robert has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



Mark Wright

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Mark Wright has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for July 2018. His office is located at 7601 W. 191st., in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is 708-403-2416. Mark has been a Financial Representative since February 2003.



Kevin Gardner

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for July 2018. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St., in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone is 708-425-2251. Kevin has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



Tim Perchinski

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Tim Perchinski has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for July 2018. His office is located at 29 East 34th St., in Steger, IL. His phone is 708-754-7300. Tim has been a Financial Representative since December 2002.



Charmaine Toney-Adkins

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Charmaine Toney-Adkins has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for July 2018. Her office is located at 4845 167th st, Unit 101 Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is 708-560-7777. Charmaine has been a Financial Representative since November 2017.

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 machine (RC800/RC850) cap.200 snacks,177 drinks each machine. \$3500 all 4. Call 630-665-9832 -leave message.

2006 2x3 SES Focus Hatchback Original owner, well maintained non-smoking car. Automatic, cold air, power moonroof, safety package, alloy wheels with good tires, new brakes. 170,000 highway miles. \$1100 Call Kurt at 708-546-6768

Bagger Assembly for John Deer riding mower,

very good condition, \$75.00. Call Ron at 630-310-7794.

1994 Cadillac Fleetwood 350 LTI triple black extra clean! Call Milan at 708-895-2713

Commercial brick building full basement with front/back entrance. Free standing ideal location near major highways and Arlington park train station. Call Rita at 847-259-9339.

Dekalb Home 2 Story-brick, Corner lot, Full basement, Double Garage, Living room, Dining room, Family room with fireplace, Kitchen with sun room, Fenced Yard. Call Rita for pricing at 847-259-9339.

Canning Jars (87pt), (41qt), (2-2qt), (38jelly) Canner/ rack & tongs, misc lids etc. \$50.00 or

better reasonable offer. Call Max at 847-358-4794.

Warehouse Equipment- De Walt radial arm saw #925, 2 Walker turner fl model drill presses, South bend table lathes (old manual), Hubert furnace #5dl 110V., Delta band saw, 2 Wheel fl. model 2-GE 3 Sp Stereo phonographs record changers end mills, Mill cutters, Drills, Taps, Reamers/ etc., Drill vices. Allen screws etc. Call Max at 847-358-4794 for pricing.

For Rent

Time Share- January 2019 3rd & 4th week in beautiful Marco Island Florida on beach facing Gulf of Mexico second floor suite 6. (no pets allowed) Call Rita at 847-259-9339

5 Star resort 3br/2ba Condo 2 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$80/night. Call Jonathon at 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com/218673

Wanted

Wanting to buy your electric trains and slot cars, turn those unwanted Trains and Slot Cars into cash! Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

Old balloon tire bicycle with tool or horn box, also front spring fork models, Schwinn, Ranger, Elgin, Silver king, JC Higgins, Monark etc. 20"inch banana seat bikes, pedal cars and motor bikes. Also, older hot wheel diecast cars matchbox, and slot cars. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

2018 Cook County Farm Bureau® Farm Crawl

As an organization, we are proud of the many diverse family farms, greenhouses, and agricultural businesses that can be found throughout Cook County's urban setting and the Farm Crawl provides an opportunity for people to discover the value these agricultural businesses provide. We thank the 23 member businesses that opened their doors to the

public to provide the chance to get to know you a little bit better: Big John's Farm Market, Brandau Farm Produce, Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse, Children's Farm at the Center, Crete Garden Center & Nursery, Deer Creek Farm, Fairway Farms at Cog Hill GC, Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center, Horcher Farms & Flower Shop, Kopping Farms,

Ludwig's Feed Store, M&D Farms, Melka Landscape & Garden Center, Puckerville Farms, Schroeder's Garden Center & Landscaping, Smits Farms, Ted's Greenhouse, The Feed Store, Van Kalker Farms, VanderGriends Farm Market, Wagner Farms, West End Florist & Garden Center, and Zeldenrust Farm Market.



Melka's Garden Center & Landscaping staff with crawler Rick Johnson



Courtney from Big John's Farm Market kept crawlers' attention with a cooking demo during crawl.



Hundreds crawled to taste the corn roast at Brandau's Farm

See the Cook County Farm Bureau website or Facebook page for more photos and highlights!

Cook County Farm Bureau® Volunteer of the Year Application Deadline Approaching

The Cook County Farm Bureau® (CCFB) Volunteer of the Year Award is an award that recognizes individuals from CCFB who have made a significant contribution to the organization through his or her dedication to, and support of, the accreditation process.

"We would like to recognize those individuals who give their time and talents to promote the goals of agriculture in the Cook County Farm Bureau."—Jim Bloomstrand, Chairman of the Member Relations Team

The program will run on an annual basis from September 1- August 31. All entries will be submitted to the CCFB Member Relations team to screen candidate forms. After the team screens the forms, they will be presented to the CCFB board for recipient approval and a winner will be selected.

Cook County Farm Bureau Volunteer of the Year Application

Criteria/qualifications

- Member of Cook County Farm Bureau
- Demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to agriculture
- Demonstrated willingness to promote agriculture
- Assisted Cook County Farm Bureau on a major effort
- Not necessarily a farmer
- Recruited new CCFB members

Eligibility

- CCFB Board and staff members are not eligible

Nominator Name _____

Nominee's Name _____

Please list the reasons why this person is being nominated (please be specific):

Entries must be submitted by October 1, 2018.



Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL
 Online 1-Day General tickets: \$* (ages 3 yrs & up)
 *\$8.99 processing fee per on-line order, plus tax
Tickets bought directly from Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$49.00**
 **Tickets bought over the phone/in person are slightly higher but there is no processing fee or tax.



Silver Dollar City, Stone City, MO
 Adult 1-Day: \$52.70, Child 1-Day (Ages 4-11): \$43.35
 Ages 3 and under are free.
 Tickets for Silver Dollar City are only available online.



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

For pricing and to order tickets online for Six Flags Gurnee, Silver Dollar City and Santa's Village visit cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

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

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

Holistic Riding Equestrian Therapy is hosting their 1st annual Country Western Costume Casino Fundraiser on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Kopping Farm in Lemont. Ticket and sponsorship information: call 630-878-8096, ext. 3; email: holisticriding19@gmail.com; online at www.tickettailor.com/events/holisticridingequestriantherapy. HRET "Empowering People with Special Needs through the Spirit of the Horse".

This article is for local farmstands, farm markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations that are hosting

farm-related activities, events, workshops and gatherings that will occur soon.

To promote your activity, email membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276 by the 15th of the month. Please include your name, the event date/time, a one-sentence description of the event, and how a reader can obtain further information in the email. We will edit submissions based on space allowances in the publication.

In addition, we will post farm, garden or livestock related photos on our social media platform if you forward those to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

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 earn \$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 as a delegate to the state annual meeting. This individual receives the publications FarmWeek, Partners and The Co-Operator. \$36.00 annually.
- **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 publications Farm Week, Partners and The Co-Operator. \$36.00 annually.

- **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. \$20.00 annually.

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.

Build a Board Night at the CCFB

We invite you to join us for a night of pallet painting at the CCFB *Build a Board Night on Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 7-9 pm!*

CCFB 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside IL 60525
708.354.3276

Choose from 4 designs with step by step guidance. No artistic experience required. Admission is \$30 for members (regularly \$40). Admission includes all painting supplies, snacks and soft drinks. Please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/build-a-board-at-ccfb-tickets-49233073448> to purchase tickets.

Choose from 4 designs...

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**.

Affiliated Country Financial reps or Staff members do not qualify. Valid only 6/1/2018 through 12/31/18.

18th Annual
Giant Pumpkin, Local Honey, Pumpkin Dessert, Carving & Youth Decorating Contest
Saturday, September 29, 2018, 9 AM - 11 AM
9:00 A.M. Registration/Check-In
Puckerville Farms - 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont

Giant Pumpkin Weigh In Contest:
Divisions: **Adult and Youth** (16 and younger)
Rules: Contest open to CCFB members and their dependents. One pumpkin **grown** per person may be entered into the contest.
Prizes: **Adult** 1st Place - \$250.00 Youth 1st Place - \$100.00
2nd Place - \$150.00 2nd Place - \$75.00
3rd Place - \$75.00 3rd Place - \$50.00

Homemade Pumpkin Dessert Contest:
Rules: Contest open to any CCFB member/dependents; open to all ages and must be present to win. Dessert will be judged by appearance, taste, and texture.
Prizes: 1st Place - \$100.00
2nd Place - \$50.00
3rd Place - \$25.00

Home Grown Honey Contest:
Rules: Contest open to CCFB or CDBA members/dependents and open to all ages. Honey judging criteria will be provided once registered, prior to contest.
Prizes: 1st Place - \$100.00 & ribbon
2nd Place - \$50.00 & ribbon
3rd Place - \$25.00 & ribbon

Jack-O-Lantern Decorating Contest:
Rules: The contest will begin at 10 a.m. and a ½ hour timeframe will be used for contestants to decorate a pumpkin. **Contest open to anyone 16yrs and younger** in 3 age categories. The individual must decorate his/her own pumpkin provided by CCFB.
Prizes: 1st Place, Runner up in each age group
Participation Prize: All entries receive a prize

Pumpkin Carving Contest 2nd year!
Division: **Ages 16 & up** members and their dependents
Rules: Pumpkin will be provided by CCFB; free hand carving only, no patterns allowed. Carvers will have 1 hour to carve using their own carving tools.
Prizes: 1st Place - \$100.00
2nd Place - \$50.00
3rd Place - \$25.00

Entry Fee: Free for Members, Non-members may enter by joining CCFB.
Rules: Contest open to any CCFB member & dependents. Check in by 9:15 am to be considered; must be present to win.
Judging: Members of the Commodities/Marketing Team will serve as judges. The decision of the judges is final.

CONTESTS Registration Form

Giant Pumpkin Adult Youth

Pumpkin Dessert (open to all ages)

Pumpkin Decorating:
 6 & under 7-11 12-16 years

Home Grown Honey (open to all ages)

Pumpkin Carving Contest (details online)

Name: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____
Farm Bureau Member Number: _____

Registration form online:
<http://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>
Mail, fax, or email entry form to:
Cook County Farm Bureau
Attn: Debbie Voltz
6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525
Fax: 708-579-6056
Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org
Register by phone at: 708.354.3276



Soil Test Kits on Sale

Soil testing takes the guess work out of soil improvement, growing plants, and fertilizer recommendations. Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau® at 708-354-3276 to purchase a kit today! You can purchase your kit by using a credit over the phone or mailing in a check. Upon payment, your soil test kit will be sent to you.

Pricing is as follows:

One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members)

Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members)

Lead testing is also available: \$37.00 for members, \$42.00 for non-members

Kit includes: soil sample bag(s), instructions on how to take a soil sample, questionnaire about your soil samples and a shipping box with a pre-paid UPS label. You will receive your test results and basic recommendations within three weeks (usually sooner).

Shred Day

Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a "Shred Day" on Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10 am to 12-noon at the Oak Forest Country Financial Building, located at 4845 W. 167th St. in Oak Forest.

Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like to be shredded **FREE OF CHARGE!** Please call the CCFB at 708.354.3276 to make a reservation.

Free for members!



LAST CHANCE--Tickets are limited!
12th Annual CCFB Picnic at Goebbert's Farm
Tickets are \$25
Saturday September 22, 2018 1pm-4pm
40 w. Higgins Rd. So Barrington, IL

Call our office at 708-354-3276 to charge your Visa, Mastercard or Discover.
Price includes food and activities