



COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

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

Mark Your Calendar



May

- 2nd Agritourism and Local Government: Zoning 101 **PG 12**
- 9th Liability and Insurance for Agritourism **PG 12**
- 14th Workshop on Preparing Wills & Trusts **PG 12**
- 21st Workshop on the credit system and Credit Report **PG 12**

June

- 3rd Membership Monday **PG 12**
- 13/18th Summer Ag Institute **PG 6**
- 15th Spring Photo Contest Deadline **PG 12**

July

- 16/24th Summer Ag Institute **PG 6**
- 19th An Evening for Ag Education Gala **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



In April, the Cook County Farm Bureau Board appointed a new board member to serve on the board of directors. What is the name of that individual?

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)

April Winner: Eduardo Hernandez

Question: What is the Master Gardener Help Desk Hot Topic this upcoming season?

Answer: Cicadas

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Spring Inquiries

Linda S emailed:

"Just wondering if you can tell me what this weed is called?"



U of I Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Response:

You have *Lamium purpureum*, commonly referred to as Purple Dead Nettle. Here are some good resources with further information on this plant:

- www.canr.msu.edu/news/purple_deadnettle_and_henbit_two_common_garden_spring_weeds
- www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/pp_deadnettle.htm
- extension.psu.edu/lawn-and-turfgrass-weeds-dead-nettle

Benjamin N from Chicago emailed:

"What is the best type of garlic to grow in the Chicago area on a half-acre garden, as well as what type of garlic is the most profitable to grow for sale?"

U of I Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Response:

Garlic is an excellent plant to grow. Here are some informational articles and a video on growing garlic in Illinois:

- extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2019-09-17-how-grow-garlic
- extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/growing_garlic_infosheet.pdf

This information is about commercially growing garlic in Washington state, but has some deeper info about cultural practices, dealing with weeds, diseases, etc. that may be good to consider:

<https://ipmdata.ipmcenters.org/documents/cropprofiles/WAGarlic.pdf>

Have a Question for a Master Gardener?

Email: Mastergardener@cookcfb.org or call the CCFB 708-354-3276 and we will forward the message on.



Master Gardener Teaches Local Students

During Ag Day North on April 17, University of Illinois Extension Cook County North Suburban Master Gardener Volunteer Celeste Shaw taught about edible plant parts to third grade students from LEARN Charter School, Campbell Campus in Chicago. During Ag Day North, approximately 230 students rotated through eight stations to learn about agriculture. More information about Cook County Farm Bureau's two Ag Day events can be found on **Page 10**.

Board Approves Strategy for Future Leadership Growth

A leadership development and growth plan called Future Forward was approved by the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors at their April Board of Directors meeting. The plan is an outline of a strategy to recruit,

train, engage, and develop a new crop of young agriculturalists and members with a focus on leadership and involvement through education, program participation, and training.

Strategy continues on Page 2

Check out the special "Discover Local" pullout section in the middle of this month's Co-Operator publication (**Pages 5 – 8**) for your local access to agricultural products, services and experiences.

We have designed it for you, the member, to pull out the 4 page insert to use and refer to throughout the spring, summer and fall!

Another benefit and service offered by your Cook County Farm Bureau to members!

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE...

Visit www.cookcfb.org

Cook County Area Growers Info

- Join the Illinois Urban Growers Network
- Chicago Issues Licenses for Urban Growers

Watch Fields Apart: Rooted Together 3-part Series

If you prefer to receive this publication exclusively in our electronic format, the e-Co-Operator, simply send us a request by contacting us by phone at 708-354-3276 or email us at fbcooperator@gmail.com.

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!

Strategy

Continued from Page 1

As the Illinois Farm Bureau expands its collegiate Farm Bureau chapters into northeastern Illinois, the Cook County Farm Bureau will be partnering with Illinois Farm Bureau to increase student support through agriculturally related scholarship opportunities. From this base, the organization will encourage students to grow through area training experiences, involvement in Young Leaders Team efforts, and Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation programming. Support of vocational and continuing education will broaden the outreach of the Future Forward efforts.

As Future Forward gains momentum, additional emphasis will be placed on Young Leader growth and Members in the Middle (members aged 35-50). In addition, leadership pathways and expanded involvement opportunities will be developed.

Cook County Farm Bureau has been extremely lucky with over a century of outstanding member involvement and leadership. The Board of Directors is keen on maintaining leadership excellence for tomorrow's Cook County Farm Bureau organization.

CCFB Board Appoints a New Board Member

At the April 10th Cook County Farm Bureau Board meeting, the board took action to appoint Mr. Blake Lanphier as a board member to fill the open director position on the Board of Directors.

Blake serves as the farm operations manager of Wagner Farm in Glenview where he has worked for the past eight years. At the farm, he manages livestock, crops, equipment and building maintenance, and the farm's full-time and part-time employees. He provides support and program assistance for the Glenview 4-H club, which is one of the largest in Cook County.

Blake has served the past three years as chair of the Young Leaders Team of the Cook County Farm Bureau. Blake is a 2020 graduate of the two-year agricultural educational leadership experience through the Illinois Ag Leadership Program. Blake grew up in southeast Iowa on a livestock, row crop, and vegetable farm. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences from Iowa State University. Blake is a Professional Member of the CCFB. He is married to Shannon and has a daughter, Emmalyne.



HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN APRIL

- ▶ **Provided numerous pounds of pollinator seed to Cook County Farm Bureau members wishing to expand their pollinator habitat.**
- ▶ **Held a soapmaking workshop where participants crafted their own natural soap and learned about the history of soap and soapmaking.**
- ▶ **Provided a Conceal and Carry Class for members to receive their Illinois concealed carry permit certification. The class consisted of a minimum of 16 hours of training and covering Illinois laws.**
- ▶ **Celebrated our CCFB members during Member Appreciation Week! We truly value and appreciate your support. Thank you!**
- ▶ **Hosted over 500 students at an Ag Day event where teachers, and chaperones visited learning stations to help them understand the importance of agriculture in IL including livestock, horticulture, and locally grown crops.**
- ▶ **Provided Farm Bureau members with virtual gatherings, highlighting member programs, member benefits, and the website during Membership Monday.**



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...

- Our 154 active volunteers who provide skills, knowledge, wisdom, enthusiasm, and leadership to the organization. The Cook County Farm Bureau donated \$10 per active volunteer (\$1,540) to the Greater Chicago Food Depository during April's Volunteer Appreciation Week in recognition of our volunteers' efforts.
- Foundation scholarship recipient Leah Sheehan for introducing herself to the Board of Directors to discuss her agricultural career aspirations.
- Members Charles A. Cinert, Juanita Lewen, Roy Olson, Scott Henderson, and Janet Lence for sending us notes this past month about how much they appreciate receiving and reading various parts of the Co-Operator publication.
- The hundreds of members that participated in the Cook County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Week held April 22-26. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.
- Soapy Roads of Lombard for providing our members with a beginner workshop for natural soapmaking where they taught about eco-friendly, handcrafted soaps and helped them craft their own beautiful soap.
- The many volunteers and Chicago High School for Ag Sciences students for serving as presenters, group leaders and educational assistants at our April 3 and April 17th Ag Days where we hosted over 500 elementary students. Thank you to The Children's Farm in Palos Park and Wagner Farm in Glenview for hosting the successful events!
- Young Leader Chairman, Blake Lanphier, for agreeing to an appointment to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors to fill an open seat on the board.
- 2 Bobs...Retiring COUNTRY Financial agents Bob Deenik (46 years) and Bob Smith (44 years) for the decades of serving the financial needs of members.



Deenik and Smith (L) hold up an issue of the Co-Operator from the year they were hired.

Co-Operator

Published Monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

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Downwind

by **BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER**

“Some Observations About Observations”

Each year, there are certain days that have been identified as important to recognize and reflect upon... to observe. I feel like the observation days on the calendar are getting crowded, but I selected a few recent observation days to add my two cents.

April 22, Earth Day...

I was taught growing up to respect the soil, water, plants, and animals. Caring

for these element of the earth is the role of the farmer and in exchange, the farmer relies upon nature to do its “Spring Rebirth” miracle. We trust life miracles to occur every year. Every day is Earth Day on the farm.

April 25, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day...

This annual event encourages parents to take their

children to work with them for a day to help children explore the joys parents find in being part of the workforce. After seeing how much fun parents have at their offices or on worksites for a day, children will be inspired to seek a productive work career. I could be wrong. Kids with parents that work from home call the day a “snow day”.

My daughters and sons are now taxpaying adults. However, when they were youngsters, they had NO interest in coming to my office to watch me push a pencil, attend meetings, and drink coffee (no matter how much I tried to make it sound exciting). They were a bit more willing to go to entertaining Farm Bureau sponsored activities ...the giant pumpkin contest, farm tours, member appreciation days, ball games, and especially those out-of-town trips that included hotels with pools.

My father, the Farmer, was ahead of his time when he invented “take your kid to work days” back in the 1960s

and 70s. His “take your kid to work” program was practiced on me. In his shadow, I learned the joys and thrills of feeding pigs, cleaning manure of barn, shoveling grain, lugging bales of straw for bedding, and performing other farm chores.

His program worked so well that he created “take your kid to work week” followed by “take your kid to work month”. He allowed my sisters and brothers to celebrate as well.

As a special part of the event, the Farmer provided lunch through this great chef named Mom for meat and potatoes. This became my favorite part of “take your kid to work day”. During the heavy busy season of planting and harvesting, the great chef named Mom would deliver and serve dinner on the tailgate of the pickup out in the farm fields (little-known fact: ...the great chef named Mom invented Uber Eats).

This year’s Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work® Day event had the theme, “Inspire 2 Aspire,” instilling a mindset that children can choose their own future. This theme resonated with me in my youth as I was inspired to not seek to become a pig, sheep, or goat farmer. I was, however, inspired to earn a regular paycheck. Fortunately, I was also inspired to work with farmers during my entire career.

The Farmer’s “Take your Child to work program” taught me the value of hard

work, productivity, satisfaction in a job well done, the value of free time, responsibility, lifecycles of plants and animals, and the beauty of our green earth.

May 12, Mother’s Day...

I have some mothers in my life that deserve to be “observed”!

When you see a quality farm operation, you typically find involved, strong women.

My mother has partnered with my father for so many decades for a successful family and farm. Our family would have been lost and the farm ineffective without the strong backbone and kind heart my mother provides.

Farms do not hold the monopoly on strong, effective women.

My mother-in-law, Pat, is not from the farm but has farm values and strength to her core... kind, supportive, independent, generous. As the devoted family matriarch, I am so appreciative of her.

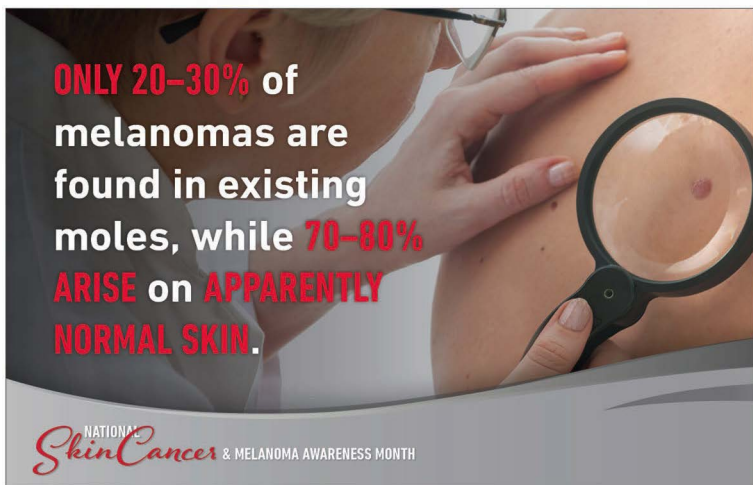
And speaking of strong and devoted women!

My wife is a great mother, partner, and friend. She may not originate from the farm, but she possesses a huge heart for agriculture and is the soul of our Farm Bureau, farm-loving life, and home.

A Happy Mother’s Day shoutout to all of our Farm Bureau family mothers!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org

May brings two important “Awareness Months” that connect with the farm...



Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Skin cancer is always a concern in the farm community with the many hours spent by farmers in the sun with skin exposed. Please cover up, apply sunscreen and visit your doctor regularly for skin checks for early detection.



Mental Health Awareness Month

Since 1949, Mental Health America, its affiliates and others have observed May as Mental Health Month. The theme for this year’s Mental Health Month is look around, look within. It seems that everyone personally knows someone impacted by suicide and mental health related issues. Due to the economic pressures and the nature of the farm lifestyle, mental health has become a big concern. And we are not trying to hide it out of sight and out of mind. If you are suffering, help is at your fingertips. Please seek help for you, your family and your friend’s sake. Call 1-833-FARM-SOS

Recipe of the Month



Sweet Potato Quinoa Cake

James Harvatt of Wildflower Culinary
Honey Bee Gardens Farm to Table Contributor

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c uncooked red quinoa
- 2 sweet potatoes, small dice
- 1 green pepper, small dice
- 1/2 yellow onion, small dice
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 2 eggs
- 1 c breadcrumbs
- 1 t cumin
- 1 t chili powder

DIRECTIONS:

Cook quinoa until little tails sprout. Peel and dice sweet potatoes. Toss in oil, salt, and pepper and roast. Sauté bell pepper, onion, and garlic until soft. Combine all ingredients in bowl except for breadcrumbs. Slowly add breadcrumbs until the mix comes together; mix should hold its shape. Form into patties. Chill then pan sear and finish in oven for about 4 minutes.

For more fresh recipes from our collections, go to: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/community/recipes>

Spring 2024 Recipe Collection is here!

To receive a copy of the 2024 Recipe Collection Booklet, email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call: 708-354-3276.



AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



What is CINCO DE MAYO?

“Cinco de Mayo” is May 5 The holiday celebrates Mexico’s victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Although Mexico’s soldiers were outnumbered, they beat the French army. Puebla, located in east-central Mexico, is Mexico’s fourth-largest city. Cinco de Mayo is a popular holiday in the United States and is not as popular in Mexico. It should not be confused with Mexico’s Independence Day, which is September 16.

TACOS & AGRICULTURE

Did you know that every part of the taco is related to agriculture? Taco’s agricultural connections include corn and flour tortillas, protein, such as meat or fish, beans and rice, and toppings, including cilantro, onion, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, pineapple, and the dairy for cheese and sour cream.



Refried Beans:

Refried beans are pinto beans cooked and mashed in a pan (pan-fried) with lard or oil and salt and seasonings. Despite its name, refried beans are only cooked once. The name refers to the beans being well-cooked. The dish’s name in Spanish is “frijoles refritos,” and “re” means “very,” not “again,” so the beans are “very fried,” not “refried.”



Corn Tortilla:

A thin flatbread made from dried corn flour, also known as *masa harina*. The corn flour is made from dried corn kernels that are cooked and soaked in a calcium hydroxide (lime) solution, a process called nixtamalization.

Flour Tortilla:

A thin flatbread made from wheat flour

LEARN SOME Spanish

ENGLISH

SPANISH

agriculture	agricultura
farm	granja
family	familia
friends	amigos
meal	comida
dish	plato
food	alimento
party	fiesta

Types of Tacos:

Pollo = chicken	Cochinita Pibil = slow-roasted pork
Al pastor = pork shoulder roasted on a vertical spit	Birria = goat
Buche = pork belly	Carne asada = grilled steak (beef)
Carnitas = tender pulled pork	Barbacoa = slowly-cooked beef, goat, or lamb
Chorizo = pork sausage	Pescado = fish
	Camaron = shrimp

May Word Search

Last Month’s Winner:
Keith Schipits

Beans	M	L	U	D	L	V	S	Q	S	O	N	B	M	C	H
Cilantro	E	C	I	R	A	E	H	J	F	Y	E	Y	E	P	X
Corn	X	F	I	J	G	B	N	E	V	A	U	S	T	R	F
Dairy	I	D	P	Z	R	T	Q	R	N	C	X	W	F	W	Z
Flour	C	D	A	I	R	Y	O	S	E	R	T	H	R	N	E
Holiday	O	Y	G	C	W	R	H	R	Y	K	P	F	B	I	O
Kernel	E	D	P	W	F	O	U	Q	T	N	R	O	C	E	S
Lime	T	S	L	C	L	A	K	O	M	I	H	X	T	T	P
Meal	N	W	T	I	X	E	B	E	L	E	L	G	N	O	A
Mexico	T	L	D	C	W	G	F	H	M	F	N	L	H	R	N
Protein	C	A	V	M	Y	O	A	I	P	I	V	S	A	P	I
Rice	Y	E	C	N	J	S	L	J	P	W	A	V	Y	G	S
Spanish	G	M	K	O	G	Z	C	P	P	N	W	R	K	O	H
Tacos	M	S	Z	M	S	S	O	C	I	L	A	N	T	R	O
Topping	N	D	V	P	M	T	A	O	R	U	T	V	E	T	X
Tortilla															

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
 Delta Sonic Car Wash (Choose one option only)

Located on front of paper

Choose Your Prize: May Word Search

Choices include a \$25 Beggar’s Pizza Gift Card, Delta Sonic Car Wash (Super Kiss Wash and *10-min Interior Cleaning) OR **3 AMC Movie Tickets

*Additional charge will apply when using Interior cleaning for Full-sized Vehicles

**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 2024 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!**

DISCOVER LOCAL



CO-OPERATOR PULL-OUT SECTION 2024

Greenhouses, Garden Centers, Farm Stands, Agritourism, Landscaping, Pumpkins, Flowers, U-pick, Herbs....



Join Cook County Farm Bureau® in supporting agricultural and member Ag businesses:

Big John's Farm Market
1754 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights
(708) 758-2711



Chicago St. Sunflower Co.
51 S. Grove Ave., Elgin
(630) 506-9875



Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot
2061 E 14th St., Lynwood
(708) 758-8500



Deer Creek Farms
360 E Glenwood-Dyer Rd., Glenwood
(708) 441-7751



Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center
40 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington
(847) 428-672



Harvest OG LLC
1243 Balmoral Ave., Calumet City
(708) 250-1620



50 Acre Barn Farm at Evergreen Park District
91st Rockwell Ave., Evergreen Park
(708) 422-1551



Brandau's Farmstand
10544 W. 191 St., Mokena
(708) 479-7575



Chicago Tomato Man
425 N. Park Rd., LaGrange Park
(708) 466-4700



Crete Garden Center & Nursery
1625 East Richton Rd., Crete
(708) 672-0900



Farm on Ogden/Chicago Botanic Garden
3555 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago
(847) 835-6807



Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch
42W813 Reinking Rd., Pingree Grove
(847) 464-5952



Herban Produce
2900 W. Van Buren St., Chicago
(708) 254-4016 / (773) 801-0853



Angelic Organics Farm and CSA
csa@angelicorganics.com



Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse
2785 E. Lincoln Hwy., Lynwood
(708) 758-1565



The Children's Farm at the Center
12700 Southwest Hwy, Palos Park
(708) 361-3650



Delair's Corn Stalk Farm
13901 Wolf Rd., Orland Park
(708) 785-9532



Garfield Produce Company
401 N. Trumbull Ave. Unit B, Chicago
(773) 703-1142



Gorman Fresh Produce
6607 West Bruns Rd., Monee
(708) 534-2375



Historic Wagner Farm
1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview
(847) 657-1506



**GREENHOUSES, GARDEN CENTERS, FARM STANDS,
AGRITOURISM, LANDSCAPING, PUMPKINS,
FLOWERS, U-PICK, HERBS CONTINUED....**



Honey Bee Gardens Farm
8405 Kearney Rd. Downers Grove
(630) 269-4345



Humble Harvest Family Farm
23950 S. 88th Ave., Frankfort
(708) 420-4151



Horchers Farm & Country Flower Shop
910 McHenry Rd., Wheeling
(847) 541-3276



Just Picked Farm Stand
8200 171st St., Tinley Park
(708) 927-9038



Kakadoodle Farm
<https://kakadoodle.com/>



Kolze's Corner Gardens
12717 Rt. 176, Woodstock
(815) 338-1475



M & D Farms
14946 Bell Rd., Homer Glen
(708) 935-1715



Melka Landscaping and Garden Center
11606 179th St., Mokena
(708) 349-6989



Puckerville Farms
13332 Bell Rd., Lemont
(708) 508-0906



Ray's Quality Greenhouse
117 E. 231st St., Steger
(312) 608-7042



Santa Fe Landscaping & Nursery Inc
3450 W. Crete Monee Rd., Monee
(708) 534-3600



**Schroeder's Home Landscape
& Drainage Supply**
10800 Southwest Hwy., Worth
(708) 448-1144



Smits Farms
3437 E. Sauk Trail, Chicago Hts
(708) 758-1244



Ted's Greenhouse
16930 S. 84th Ave., Tinley Park
(708) 532-3575



Van Kalker Farms & Greenhouse
1808 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Hts
(708) 758-1732



VanderGriends Farm Stand
2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd., Lansing
(708) 474-1255



We Sow We Grow
11959 S. Union Ave., Chicago
(312) 522-5159



West End Florist & Garden Center
3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston
(847) 251-1943



Zeldenrust Farm Market
Palos Hts and Homewood Farmers Markets
(708) 758-5058



- Agritourism	- CSA	- Eggs	- Equine	- Flowers/Plants	- Feed	- Farm Stand	- Hay/Straw
- Herbs	- Honey	- Landscape	- Livestock	- Produce	- Pumpkins	- U-Pick	



BEES AND HONEY

Brad's Bees & Honey
1525 Dale Drive, Elgin
(813) 957-0649



Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association
cookdupagebeekeepers.com



The Hive: Chicago Beekeeping Supply Store
1701 S. Clinton Ave. Floor 2, Chicago
(312) 995-9508



IL Bee Rescue
(630) 926-0273



Moraine Valley Honey Farm
(630) 816-0738



S & S Apiaries
24222 S Center Rd., Frankfort
(815) 464-1566



Simrayh Apiaries
(630) 546-0497



Sunny Day's Honey
(630) 516-3676



Zee's Bees at Zeldenrust Farms
1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Hts
(708) 758-5058



LIVESTOCK, EQUINE, HAY/STRAW, AND FEED

9 Acres Equestrian Center
12211 S. La Grange Road #1149 Palos Park
(708) 361-7977



The Feed Store
5408 S Harlem Ave., Summit, IL
(708) 458-1327



Forest View Farms
16717 S Lockwood, Tinley Park
(708) 560-0306



Kopping Farms
12300 115th St., Lemont
(630) 257-7271



Ludwig's Feed Store
13205 131st St., Lemont
(630) 257-3097



Janet McCabe
8420 W. 135 St., Orland Park
(708) 259-7319



Mike Rauch
18330 67th Ct., Tinley Park
(708) 269-6961



Sarah's Pony Rides
8220 S. Keen Ave., Willow Springs
(630) 802-1316



Mark Yunker
24400 S Scheer Rd., Frankfort
(708) 309-2622



VALUE ADDED

Crop Protectants

Conserv FS
1110 McConnell Rd., Woodstock
(815) 334-5950

Conserv FS
7851 183rd St., Tinley Park
(708) 532-4723

Composting
Teegen Compost Services
(847) 565-9231

Distillery/Brewery
Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.
11504 Keslinger Rd., DeKalb
(844) 494-4753

Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery
1035 Sterling Ave, Flossmoor
(708) 957-2739

Florists

Kiko's Flower Shop
650 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge
(847) 696-4226

West End Florist
3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston
(847) 251-1943

Food Specialty Growers

Gibby's Gourmet Mushrooms, Llc
10347 Oxford Ave. Chicago Ridge
(708) 912-0991 or (708) 307-3732

Galena Garlic Company
311 S Main St., Galena
(815) 777-9625

Galena Garlic Company
318 W State St., Geneva
(855) 464-2754

Solar

TrackerSled
330 South Lombard Ave., Oak Park
(773) 960-4441



SHOP LOCAL

Our Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Join and register your business today. Whether you are a farmer looking to reach new customers or a consumer

looking for fresh produce, local dairy, or a brewery in your area – our Shop Local directory is a MUST-HAVE resource!

Visit us at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local> or contact us at ccfb@cookcfb.org for additional details.

Not a part of the directory – Register Your Local Food or Farm Business today at <https://foodmarketmaker.com/registration>.



SOIL TESTING KITS

Cook County Farm Bureau offers both members and non-members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth’s store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs, and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables or crops.

Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous, and other key elements to begin the soil improvement process. Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as well as mailing information, included in the test kit. Members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

- 1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$28
- 2 sample kit: \$36
- 3 sample kit: \$55
- 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$55
- 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$46

Non-member pricing also available. Costs are subject to change. To order, call 708-354-3276, using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

We always run the risk of leaving a CCFB member business off a list like this and that is certainly not our intention.

We continue to update the “Buy Local” area of our website and encourage any member who wants to be added to the database to contact the office at (708) 354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org.

For more gardening resources and connections, go to bit.ly/49lmi0c.

Visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses, Garden Centers, and Farms for all your outdoor needs!

Any business has the right to refuse Farm Fresh Funds from being used.

Product availability may vary by location

For more information about the Cook County Farm Bureau, scan the QR code below.



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

6438 Joliet Rd. Ste. 101 Countryside, IL 60525 (708) 354-3276 ccfb@cookcfb.org

Visit our website at www.cookcfb.org
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

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



Bona Heinsohn

For the past two years, Midwest Horse Fair has marked the beginning of our rodeo season. Just over three years ago, this wild ball of energy decorated with a thick mane and kinky tail entered our lives one Thursday evening. Our veterinarian called him "old fashion." I prefer to call him "thick."

Pizzazz Me Only "Makoa" is technically a registered American Paint Horse. He's the grandson of By Invitation Only, the American Quarter Horse Association's all-time leading sire of point earners. And a great grandson of Zippo Pine Bar, one of the most prolific pleasure horse sires in history. Most paint horses are flashy. Eye catching. And colorful. Makoa is solid. A light

chestnut complete with a paint brush splash of white on his left side and three uneven socks.

This ball of mane and tail is the younger brother no one asked for. He lives in a cloud of mischief. He opens gates. Almost cleanly soars over fences. Runs from falling leaves. And tears through the pasture until coming to a sliding stop just in time to avoid touching the electric fence. A space cadet.

Over 19 months ago his older, grumpier brother was sentenced to stall rest for a suspensory ligament tear. After therapy, a secondary tear, extensive rehab, and an unrelated neck injury, the red dragon was released and returned to both the pasture and the arena for our final drill performance of 2023. Despite his fire breathing personality, he again

safely carried my blue-eyed girl just as he had carried me for so many years before.

Jesses Lark League "Mahalo" is an appendix and descendent of Rugged Lark, a legend in the equine industry and an inductee into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. This copper red dragon would have no emotion without his cranky ears and his whipping tail bag. But don't think for a minute that he doesn't enjoy his job. Even though he's one of the oldest and one of the originals of the team he remains a go-to when you need an experienced mount. Just don't ask him to go through water.

This duo along with six of their closest friends will grace the Blain's Farm and Fleet Coliseum and Macksteel Arena at the largest horse fair in America. Together they'll play leapfrog. Dart

through a horse sized gap into a large circle. Race down the rail. Pinwheel before spinning off into intertwining circles. One-armed pinwheel. Mini-sweep next to each other. And diagonal across the arena. All before racing out the arena gate.

Unlike last year, my blue-eyed girl won't be watching from the gate. She won't be ground crew. And she won't just be there to help out. Instead, she'll wear her red hat. Her chaps. And red glitter. She'll line up. Race through the alley. And run a pen. All before racing out the arena just to turn back and give it one last look.

As we prepare for America's largest horse fair, it's the right moment to be proud of how far we've come.

Bona can be reached at
Bona@cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Established 2024 County Legislative Priorities

Cook County Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Committee members approved the 2024 county legislative priorities. Priorities are provided below:

We will work to ensure that farmland in Cook County is assessed in a fair and reasonable manner. Additionally, we will work with the Cook County Assessor's Office to further streamline the farmland affidavit process.

We will work with the forest preserve district to ensure that hay and row crop farming opportunities remain available to local farmers interested in pursuing rental agreements with the district. If requested, Farm Bureau will provide assistance with advertising available parcels, the rental process, paperwork, and deadlines.

We will work to ensure that urban agriculture, which encompasses a wide range of activities involving the raising, cultivation, processing, marketing, and distribution of food in urban and

suburban settings, remain permissible under municipal and county ordinances.

Farm Bureau will actively work to implement Farm Bureau's policies on urban agriculture and food access. Farm Bureau policies are developed and proposed by members through a grassroots process.

We will work with the Cook County Department of Building and Zoning regarding local farms, farm buildings, and the farm exemption process in unincorporated Cook County.

We will actively work to ensure that modern farming practices are not deemed a nuisance under Cook County ordinances.

We will actively work to build relationships with Cook County elected officials and their staffs.

Members with questions, input, or concerns are encouraged to reach out to Bona Heinsohn at bona@cookcfb.org.



Members Discuss Nutrient Loss During Recent Program

Northeastern Illinois Farm Bureau members discussed environmental issues during a recent Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Field Day in Will County, hosted by the Will County Farm Bureau. In addition to receiving a broad overview of nutrient loss reduction strategies, participants learned more about rainfall/drought events in Illinois as well as steps that companies are taking or considering related to environmental initiatives. Pictured is Dr. Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist.

Farm Bureau Preparing Policy for Summer Resolutions Committee Meeting

Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders are reviewing a handful of pertinent issues in agriculture following the results of the February micro-View-point Survey.

Government Debt

According to data from the Cook County Treasurer, Cook County residents experienced their 29th consecutive annual property tax increase. After adjusting for inflation, the property tax burden has grown by 37.9% over that time.

Generally, higher local government debt leads to higher tax levies, the amount of money local governments seek through property tax collections. Examples of this include since 2016 the City of Chicago property taxes have more than doubled, to \$1.73 billion, in large part to ramp up the city's pension contributions.

Farm Bureau leaders are considering policy opposing local govern-

ments incurring new debt if the unit of local government's unfunded pension liability is above 40% of its total debt.

Regenerative agriculture

No single legal or regulatory definition of the term 'regenerative agriculture' exists nor has a widely accepted definition emerged from within the agricultural industry. The absence of clarity around the term 'regenerative agriculture' creates challenges for researchers who seek to study practices and strategies. Farm Bureau leaders are considering policy that would broadly define regenerative agriculture.

In general, the policy would provide that Farm Bureau supports regenerative agriculture referring to maintaining the health of soil by rebuilding organic soil matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. As farmers consider regenerative agriculture, they should have access

to a variety of practices including minimal tillage, diversified crop rotation, cover crops, green manure, precision application of biological and chemical inputs, and natural fertilizers, including compost and inoculants that would qualify as 'regenerative agriculture'.

Food labeling

In the United States, more than one-third of food goes to waste annually. This waste is the single largest category of material sent to municipal landfills. Date labels contribute to this problem as they can be confusing to consumers and prompt consumers to throw out food that is still safe to eat. A 2016 Harvard study found that more than 80% of consumers throw away food that is at or near the "date" label at least some of the time.

Standardizing the language on food labels would reduce confusion and improve understanding among con-

sumers. With the exception of baby formula, date labels on food are not federally regulated or standardized.

Consumers are bombarded with all types of expiration date formats, up to 50 different phrases nationwide. Each term can be used to mean different things by different brands, and some expiration dates have no phrase next to them at all.

The draft food labeling policy would support the promotion of nutritional information on food labels; science-based labeling of foods, fibers, and other agricultural products; and science-based labeling policies while also providing labeling requirements for honey, products of the U.S., and protein sources.

The Governmental Affairs Committee is reviewing the issues and draft policies before the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors determines whether or not to forward the policies on to the Resolutions Committee for their meeting in July.

Planting Seeds

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



Katrina J.E. Milton

Some people have a favorite day of the year; this year, I had two favorite days: Ag Day North and Ag Day South.

Ag Day South was held April 3 at The Children's Farm in Palos Park. Ag Day North was

held April 17 at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview. During the two events, more than 500 third grade students in total rotated in 15-minute intervals around stations to learn about agriculture. They learned that a queen bee lays 12,000 eggs a day, a horse's age can be determined by its teeth, pigs are smart and clean animals, and the color of a chicken's egg is due to the chicken's breed.

I would have loved to have attended an Ag Day event as a third grade student, because I would have loved to interact with the farm animals. In second grade, I

remember reading "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White and crying for days at the ending. I loved all books about animals at that age, including "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary, "Poppy" by Avi, "The Yearling" by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, "Rascal" by Sterling North, "Where the Red Fern Grows" by Wilson Rawls, and "Old Yeller" by Fred Gipson. I also loved the science-fiction series "Animorphs" by K. A. Applegate, a book series about children who have the ability to shapeshift into animals.

I think what makes Ag Day unique is that it brings the farm to life for children who have only read about farms before in books or seen them in movies. Children have the opportunity to hold a chicken, pet a sheep, stand next to a horse, and see beekeeping equipment up close. I loved seeing the children's excitement as they ran to see a live chicken for the first time, as they felt the greasy lanolin

on sheep's wool, as they stood in awe at the overwhelmingly tall height of a horse, and as raised their hands to answer questions about how honey is made.

All of those experiences – and thousands more – could not have happened without a trip to a farm. Many adults have lived their lives without seeing a chicken or cow up close, yet they often eat chicken nuggets and hamburgers. Many adults don't know that tomatoes are a fruit or that carrots are a carrot plant's roots.

Ag Day is my favorite day of the year, not because I'm able to spend time with farm animals or learn new facts about agriculture. Ag Day is my favorite day of the year because I'm able to share that knowledge with children, and I have the opportunity to see them excited and eager to

learn. I am reminded for a few hours the wonder and magic of childhood. I can only imagine the happy cacophony of chitter-chattering of the students on their bus ride back to school, sharing what they saw and learned with one another. Ag Day is my favorite day of the year because I get to share the experience and all of the fun and excitement of agriculture with youth, and hopefully it will be a lifelong fun and exciting memory for them as well. I'm already looking forward to next year's events!

Katrina can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



Ag Day North and South Events Held in Cook County

Two Ag Day events were held in Cook County in April for third grade students.

Ag Day South was held April 3 at The Children's Farm in Palos Park. Approximately 290 students attended the event from five elementary schools. At the farm, the students were able to learn about chickens, cows, sheep, pigs, and horses. Ag Literacy Team Chair Greg Stack taught the students about plant science and horticulture. Pete Soltesz, president of Cook-DuPage Beekeepers' Association, taught about bees, pollination, and honey production. University of Illinois Extension Cook County South Suburban Master Gardener Volunteers, led by Nancy Kreith, taught about worms and vermicomposting, and students were able to look through microscopes and touch red wiggler worms. Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Assistant Jill Drover helped throughout the day.

Ag Day North was held April 17 at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview. Approximately 230 students attended the event from four elementary schools. At the farm, the students were able to learn about cows, sheep, pigs, and horses. AITC Kathy Lesser taught about nutrition and AITC Presenter Betsy Yager taught about chickens. Special Education Consultant Vivian Palicki and Pete Soltesz, president of Cook-DuPage Beekeepers' Association, taught about bees, pollination, and honey production. University of Illinois Extension Cook County North Suburban Master Gardener Volunteers taught about plants and horticulture. Cook County Farm Bureau Manager Bob Rohrer and Ag Literacy Team Member Linda Bosy helped throughout the day.

Students from the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences were group leaders that directed third grade students to and from stations at both Ag Days.

Students from Lyons Township High School helped assemble the goodie bags each of the students received after attending Ag Day. The goodie bags included an informational booklet from Illinois Soybean Association, an activity book from Illinois Beef Association, stickers from Illinois Corn Growers Association and Midwest Dairy, a pig eraser from Illinois Pork Producers Association, a farm animal pencil and soy crayons from the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation, and other fun ag educational items.

Thank you to both The Children's Farm and Historic Wagner Farm for hosting the Ag Day events and for providing staff to lead stations. Both events were "ag-mazing" and would not have been possible without the help of volunteers and staff.



AG DAY NORTH

Special Education Consultant Vivian Palicki, along with Illinois Bee Rescue, taught about bees, pollination, and honey production at Ag Day North, held April 17 at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview.



AG DAY SOUTH

Ag Literacy Team Chair Greg Stack teaches students about plant science and horticulture during Ag Day South, held April 3 at The Children's Farm in Palos Park.

Summer Ag INSTITUTE

Educators can earn up to 32 PDCH with Cook County Farm Bureau's 2024 Summer Ag Institute (SAI).

This year's SAI theme is "Full STEAM Ahead with Agriculture," focusing on the many ways to incorporate ag into your curriculum through a variety of topics.

SAI will be held over four days this summer: June 13, June 18, July 16, and July 24.

June 13 and July 24 will be held at the Cook County Farm Bureau. June 18 and July 16 will be held at destination locations. A full itinerary can be found on the CCFB website. To register to attend, visit:

bit.ly/SAI2024Application.

Cost is \$30 per day/\$25 per day if a CCFB member or \$100 all days/\$80 all days if a CCFB member. Scholarships are available.

For more information about 2024 SAI, email Katrina at aitc@cookcfb.org.

At The Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers



Finding a Fit with Food, Fiber, Fuel Match passions, interests with agriculture career

The agriculture industry employs more citizens than any other industry in the United States at 22 million people across more than 250 career areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Commonly unrealized, greater than 90% of jobs in the agriculture and food sector are not farming. The industry employs engineers, plant breeders, foresters, veterinarians, agriscience teachers, food scientists, climate specialists and hundreds more professions. In fact, too many choices made our high school senior struggle to decide on a particular career field in agriculture. She enjoys almost every aspect of the industry, but finally leaned on her fascination with plants and her FFA experiences with soils to select a double-major in agronomy and horticulture.

Too often, agriculture is overlooked for satisfying and successful careers, and no farm background is required. I remember my conversation with a Chicago high school sophomore from the south side of the city, who hadn't considered agriculture as a career path until attending a conference for minorities in agriculture. He developed an interest in agricultural technology through MANRRS, or Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Illinois Farm Bureau actively supports this traditionally collegiate organization, which has experienced a rebirth at the high school level. It brings exposure to agricultural careers for students as young as 7th grade largely in schools that lack an agricultural education department. Schools can develop local chapters,

which deliver career awareness and opportunities for personal and leadership development through resume building, public speaking, agriscience research, essay contests and training in workplace skills.

Just last year, the Illinois Farm Bureau supported the launch of Agnitor, a digital platform designed to connect agriculture professionals to classrooms for virtual conversations about careers. The mechanically minded may like a profession as an agriculture engineer or diesel technician. Techy teens might take interest in high-tech livestock barns or agricultural application drones. Students who enjoy biochemistry should consider agronomy or biofuels. We need graphic designers for jobs in ag marketing, writers as ag journalists, and researchers to keep agriculture cutting edge.

The job demand in agriculture outpaces the available college graduates. More than 59,000 job openings will be available – per year – in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and related industries through at least 2025, according to the 2020-2025 Employment Opportunities Report by the USDA and Purdue University. Good news for college graduates: The nation's largest employer is looking for applicants.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.

CLASSIFIED ADS

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/stay-updated/classified-ads. 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

17 ft Old Town canoe, oltenar composite construction, camper model, 600 lb capacity, in good shape with oars, etc. Have title all clear. Asking \$250. **Call Mike 708-563-1707.** Summit, IL.

Classic limited edition 2002 Jaguar XKR100 supercharged with every available option. Pristine condition. 17,000 original miles. Will send pictures by phone. **If interested contact Jim 773-581-4400.**

Grasshopper Quik-D-Tatch vacuum grasscatcher with Model 15 Lever Actuated Hopper, 618 Mount Kit, and Model 948/52 Vacuum and Drive Assembly. Must pick up. \$1,700 OBO. Pictures can be emailed upon request. **Call 708-349-0627.**

Erte Courvoisier Cognac Collection. Will send pictures by phone. **If interested call Jim 773-581-4400.**

Paisley yellowish beige couch (88" length). \$25 or offer. Antique drop-leaf dining table and antique dining chairs. Call for specifications or to make offer. Must sell. **Call Al 630-308-4567 Lemont area.** Pictures available online.

18 position ladder, 16 ft, asking \$200. **Call 708-654-2010.** Picture available online.

4ft. rounded nail table with light. 4 slide drawers and 4 shelves. Like new, black marbled formica. Asking \$250.00. **Call 708-654-2010.** Picture available online.

Wood shavings for animal bedding. \$5.00 per bag. **Call Jim at 708-825-7202 and please leave a message.**

Sears X-CARGO rooftop hardshell cargo carrier with snail logo! Like new \$100. **Call Ronald 773-229-9123.**

5-piece white wrought iron patio set. 4 chairs with new cushions. 42" table. Vintage quality. Like new. \$300. **Call Ronald 773-229-9123.**

FREE Large tall glass and mirror front cabinet with shelves. 6'5" tall, 32.5" wide, 19" deep. Need two people to move it and large vehicle to take it. Located near CCFB office on ground level of my home. **Call 708-805-0675. No texting.** Picture available online.

FOR RENT

3 bedroom 3 bath townhome. Located in Streamwood. Fantastic location. Attached 2 car garage. Lots of space, fireplace, pretty water and tree views...too much to list. **Call Dave at 312-951-6412 to schedule a private viewing.** Pictures available online.

Vacation Villas at Fantasy World II Resort in Kissimmee, Florida, \$125 per night. Full kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, sleeps four. No presentation is required. **Call Ms. Day at 708-347-9369.**

WANTED

Wanting to buy your H/O and N scale electric trains; and H/O scale slot cars and tracks. I buy large and small collections. Turn those unwanted items into cash. **Give me a call at 630-272-4433 Ron.**

Wanted to buy vintage sports cards and memorabilia. **Call or text John 773-213-4024**

Summer Fun is Right Around the Corner

Take advantage and save with these Farm Bureau member discounts to amuse the entire family!

RAGING WAVES WATERPARK – purchase from the CCFB Office

General Admission Single Day Ticket: \$27.00 CCFB member price (regularly \$54.99); ages two and under are free. Limited supply of tickets, while supplies last. Call CCFB to order at 708-354-3276 or stop by the office. Single day ticket valid June 1st – September 2nd 2024.

DOLLYWOOD – online purchase through the Member Benefits Platform / Abenity App

Dollywood theme park and Dollywood's Splash Country, online discount ticket

purchase program, member prices include tax. Ticket pricing and member purchase through the Abenity App only. Park details found at www.dollywood.com.

HOLIDAY WORLD – online purchase through the Member Benefits Platform / Abenity App

Members will receive exclusive discounts when you purchase Admission Tickets and Season Passes from the Fun Club. These discounts offer significant savings not available at the gate or elsewhere on our website. Simply log on to Link and enter your exclusive username and password. If you don't have your IFB corporate password/username, contact us at 708-354-3276 or 309-557-2689, or online at the member Abenity App.

SIX FLAGS, Gurnee – online purchase Member Benefits Platform / Abenity App

Members save up to 56% off gate prices with E-Tickets to Six Flags Parks Nationwide. Discount member ticket price SOLD online via Member Benefits Platform / Abenity App only.

MEDIEVAL TIMES – online purchase

Save 35% on adult admissions and 20% on child admission. There is a reduced processing fee of \$2 for each ticket purchased (the standard processing fee is \$5). Purchase tickets online: <https://drawbridge.medievaltimes.com/partner/CCFB>. (If you are asked to login or register on the Medieval Times ticketing page, simply refresh the page and you will be logged in.)

SANTA'S VILLAGE, Dundee – online purchase QR code/Link available soon!

Single Day Tickets: \$25.99 CCFB member price (per person/plus tax)

any day May 12th -October 27th. Retail value: \$36.99. Guests under 36 inches are FREE, Parking is FREE. Purchase tickets using link/QR Code available soon.

Check out your Member Benefits Discount/Abenity App for additional theme park options: Sign in or register using your Farm Bureau number at: <https://ilfb.abenity.com/>.

For the most up to date Cook County Farm Bureau ticket purchase info: call us at 708-354-3276, **Scan the QR code above, or go online: <https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-resources/member-benefits/profile/entertainment>**



TICKET PURCHASE INFO

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.

Agritourism Mini-Series Continues!

Join the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association for a series of webinars geared towards farmers in the Agritourism Industry and engage with experts in the field.



“Agritourism and Local Government; Zoning 101”

WHEN: Wednesday, May 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

“Are you protected? Liability and Insurance for Agritourism”

WHEN: Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: Scan the QR code or register online at: <https://web.cvent.com/event/1b206465-6c68-472d-85fa-e054b1ab64c7/regProcessStep1>



Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts and Transferring Non-Titled Property (Estate Planning and Trust Administration), Presented by Thomas J. Olofsson, J.D., Estate Planning Attorney

Do you need to update your will? Do you know what to do in preparing 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.



DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 **TIME:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

FEE: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members; \$10 for non-members

LOCATION: Zoom (link will be emailed to participants the evening before)

REGISTRATION: Call the CCFB at **708-354-3276**

Workshop on the Credit System and Improving the Accuracy of your Credit Report, Presented by Jim Droske, President of Illinois Credit Services

What is a credit score? Is it important and how can I improve it? This program will help understand the credit system and improve the health and accuracy of your credit reports. Credit expert witness, Jim Droske, will take you through the process of understanding credit reporting, credit scores, the credit disputing process, and how to get help!



DATE: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 **TIME:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FEE: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members; \$10 for non-members

LOCATION: Zoom Webinar (link to be emailed the day before)

REGISTRATION: Call the CCFB at **708-354-3276**

Membership Monday

Members and prospective members interested in learning more about the benefits and programs a CCFB membership provides? Then join us, virtually to hear from CCFB staff to highlight member programs, member benefits, website, and provide demonstrations to access membership benefit discounts via our Abenity App so members can take full advantage. An open Q&A session will follow short staff presentations.



DURATION: 30 minutes **COST:** Free

WHEN: Monday, June 3, 2024 choose between 2 times: 7:00 a.m. (CT) or 4:00 p.m. (CT)

HOW: Registration is required by emailing ccfb@cookcfb.org or call the Farm Bureau at **708-354-3276**. Zoom link will be emailed the week prior.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation

An Evening for Ag Education

GALA

PRESENTED BY



Agencies of Cook County

AND



Friday July 19, 2024

6:00 pm – 11:30 pm

Silver Lake Country Club

14700 S. 82nd Ave
Orland Park, IL 60462

\$125 pp (early bird pricing)

\$150 pp (after June 15, 2024)

Ticket includes complimentary parking, plated dinner, four-hour open bar, live entertainment by The Hat Guys

Save by purchasing a table of 8 for \$900 and bring your favorite family & friends to join the fun!!

Please join us and support the CCFB Foundation with an evening of dining, drinks, fellowship, and fun!



The Foundation is looking for quality donations for the Live and Silent auctions

that will be occurring during the Gala on July 19. For the donation form, please go to <https://bit.ly/4aFJeOX>.

Examples of items that are quite popular include...

For Live Action: sporting tickets, golf foursomes with package, farm to table dinner, cruises, vacation/trip packages, condos or timeshares in warm climates, concerts.

For Silent Action: themed baskets, autographed items, tickets, handcrafted items, kids activities, collectibles, farm memorabilia and tools.

We thank our many donors and supporters for helping to educate this next generation of agricultural leaders in their agricultural pursuits!

Foundation Gala Dinner and Split the Pot Raffle tickets for the 2024 Gala can be purchased by:

1. Check, money order or cash

- Make checks or money orders out to Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation
- Mail to: CCFB, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 (or stop by the office)

2. Online or over the phone by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or debit card)

- To purchase tickets online, visit: <https://cookcfb.org/foundation-/an-evening-for-ag-education>
- Call CCFB at 708-354-3276 Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. to pay over the phone. If after hours, leave voicemail with name/phone and we will contact you back the next business day.

Advanced Split the Pot Raffle Ticket Pricing

\$10 each | 6 for \$50 | 15 for \$100 – winner need not be present (we must have raffle ticket stub for inclusion in the drawing)

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501c (3) not-for-profit. Your gala ticket donation is partially deductible for federal income tax purposes equal to the total ticket price minus \$50 value for meal, beverage and entertainment.

Gala Sponsorship Opportunities

For sponsorship opportunities and price levels, please scan the QR Code or visit: <https://cookcfb.org/foundation-/an-evening-for-ag-education>



Cook County Farm Bureau Photo Contest: Spring Photos

Example Categories for Spring:

Planting Vegetables, Planting Flowers, Farmers' Markets



Prizes:

Each season will have three winners.

1st place: \$100 cash

2nd place: \$40 Farm Fresh Funds*

3rd place: \$25 Farm Fresh Funds*

**Farm Bureau Farm Fresh Funds are funds that can be redeemed at local farmstands, greenhouses and garden centers just as you would use cash.*

Get your camera and capture moments by showcasing your best photos depicting theme of **Agriculture in the Spring**. Send in your photos – selfies, pictures of others, landscapes, etc.

The deadline for Spring photos is June 15. The winning photos will be posted in the July Co-Operator.

All participating photos will be featured on our website and social media.

The contest is open to all members in good standing. Go to <https://bit.ly/43qdyDE> to submit entries.