



# COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

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

## Mark Your Calendar



<b>June</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Membership Monday.....PG 12
13/18 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Ag Institute .....PG 6
15 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Photo Contest Deadline ..... PG 12
18 <sup>th</sup>	Lincoln Park Zoo Pollinator Event ..... pg 12
19 <sup>th</sup>	Brookfield Zoo Pollinator Event ..... pg 12
<b>July</b>	
16/24 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Ag Institute .....PG 6
19 <sup>th</sup>	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](http://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](http://www.cookcfb.org).

## Question of the Month



**The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Moving Ag Forward Scholarships are valued at "up to" what dollar level?**

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, fax your answer to 708-579-6056, or email to [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com) to enter the drawing for a \$25 gas card. (Please include name, FB number, and phone number)

### May Winner: Mari Kay Benes

**Question:** 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?

**Answer:** Blake Lanphier

Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation

## An Evening for Ag Education

### GALA

PRESENTED BY



Agencies of Cook County

AND



Kopping Farms  
Equestrian Center LLC

Friday July 19, 2024 • 6:00 pm – 11:30 pm

### Silver Lake Country Club

14700 S. 82nd Ave, Orland Park, IL 60462

## Purchase Now Before Early Bird Pricing Ends!!!

\$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!*

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 visit: <https://cookcfb.org/foundation-/an-evening-for-ag-education> or scan the QR Code.

## 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!

## SPONSORS OF THE 2024 GALA INCLUDE:



# 10 grilling safety tips

If you're firing up your grill this Independence Day, be sure to follow proper safety practices to avoid unwanted fire. On average, 10,200 home fires are started by a grill each year, with July being the peak month for incidents.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports around 64% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill, or smoker.

"Backyard barbecues are a popular way many celebrate during the 4th of July holiday weekend. It's important that you are prepared by cleaning your grills and making sure they are in proper working order, while also taking the proper precautions to keep your guests safe," said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera. "Burns not only could ruin a fun weekend, but they can also leave lasting impacts on people physically and mentally for the rest of their life."

In 2017-2021, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 11,421 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 5,763 structure fires and 5,659 outside or unclassified fires.

During the same time, an average of 22,155 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Nearly 47% of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal advises everyone to take these steps to help ensure a safe summer filled with everyone's favorite grilled foods:

1. Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors

2. The grill should be placed away from the home or deck railing, and out from under eaves of your home and overhanging tree branches
3. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area
4. Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the frills and in trays below the grill
5. Never leave your grill unattended
6. Always make sure gas grill lids are open before lighting it
7. Check the gas tank on your propane grills and hoses for leaks each time before using
8. If you smell gas while grilling, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department
9. Make sure charcoal grill coals are cool before disposing of them in a metal container
10. Always have a fire extinguisher, bucket of water or garden hose nearby or know where you can access one quickly

For those that are camping or building bonfires, make sure that they are at least 25 feet from anything that can burn and that they are allowed.

For more information about grilling please visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Grilling>.

## HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN MAY

- ▶ **Provided over 25 pounds of pollinator seed to Cook County Farm Bureau members wishing to expand their pollinator habitat. A second seed sale is planned for July.**
- ▶ **Engaged with Cook County legislators during an advocacy day in Springfield.**
- ▶ **Hosted a workshop on the credit system and improving the accuracy of your credit report.**
- ▶ **Created a Discover Local guide featuring local greenhouses, garden centers, farms, etc. for members to find all of their outdoor needs this spring and summer.**
- ▶ **Assisted members to access member benefits using the Akenity App platform.**



## 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...

- Jim Droske, President of Illinois Credit Services, for taking members through the process of understanding credit reporting, credit scores, and credit disputing during an online workshop.
- Extension County Director, Willene Buffett, and other Cook County U of I Extension staff for recent conversations to continue growing our strong working relationship with U of I Extension in the world of agriculture.
- Cook County Farm Bureau members Amy Hansmann; Natasha and Shomari Nichols from We Sow We Grow; and Michael and Ameila Howard, Edens Place Farms and Learning Center for attending the second Annual Black Farmers Lobby Day in Springfield.
- The Foundation Fundraising Committee and Board of Directors for working so hard on the Foundation Evening for Ag Education Gala coming up July 19 and to the sponsors, donors, and members who have purchased tickets!
- The Ag in the Classroom presenters, Barbara Bhojraj, Jim Bloomstrand, Michael Galassini, Wayne Kolweier, Sarah Koukol, Kathy Lesser, and Betsy Yeager, and Linda Schaeffer for all of their hard work and dedication to bring agricultural education to the students of Cook County schools during the 2023-2024 school year.
- The more than 100 students that participated in the 2024 Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's Bookmark contest. To view all contest entries, visit [bit.ly/2024BookmarkContestVideo](https://bit.ly/2024BookmarkContestVideo).

## Co-Operator

Published Monthly

### Cook County Farm Bureau

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# Downwind

by **BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER**

## “AM Radio”

AM radio helped shape the person I now call “Me”.

As a kid, I had this AM/FM radio in a brown, leather-ish carrying case, powered by a 9-volt battery. Truthfully, it was the Farmer’s radio but we, the kids, borrowed it from Dad 100% of the time. As the oldest kid (and a selfish bully), I had the self-appointed responsibility of selecting the proper radio station for quality sibling listening

On the farm in rural Western Illinois, also known as Forgottonia, that radio somehow pulled in invisible radio signals all the way from a mystical place called Chicago. The mystical place allegedly had throngs of people, a ruler identified as “the mayor”, and huge buildings that blocked out the sun.

We discovered these facts and much more from two AM radio stations, WLS and WGN, smack dab in the middle of that mystical place.

WLS provided us entertainment and fun mixed with wonder through rock ‘n’ roll and animal stories courtesy of Uncle Lar’ & Lil Tommy. WGN provided us entertainment and fun mixed with sorrow through the Cubs courtesy of Vince Lloyd and Lou Boudreau and the farm report through Orion Samuelson’s amazing baritone voice.

That transistor AM radio, tuned to WLS or WGN, traveled everywhere with us... riding our bikes, doing chores, walking beans, weeding the vegetable garden (or 4 acres of strawberries), and hiding out to avoid work behind the barn.



Dad and Mom frequently grew tired of the radio noise. I know this from shouts of “turn that down” or “shut that thing off”. The exception was when Orion Samuelson’s voice was on the radio. Then we heard shouts of, “Would you kids be quiet?”

From this AM radio, my young mind was soaking up (and becoming corrupted by) popular culture, crude humor, urban news, low farm commodity prices, and sub-par Cubs baseball.

My AM transistor radio days “took an 8-year break” during the headbanging high school and college years as I transitioned to FM radio for higher fidelity and hearing loss. However, as I moved into the working world, news and political information suddenly grew in importance. I found myself searching the AM radio frequencies for news and talk.

I still love AM radio today, rarely tuning in to something else on the radio. Truthfully, I thought my AM radio obsession might be rare. I discovered I am WRONG!

Currently, there is a bill in Congress called the AM for Every Vehicle Act which would require an AM radio as an option for new vehicles. Some automakers are

cutting AM radios from electric vehicles due to interference issues. Something I hadn’t thought of, but it does make sense. Another reason to not want an electric car.

Do AM car radios really matter? According to a recent FarmWeek article, 82 million Americans tune into AM radio each month for news, entertainment, sports, and emergency information from 4500 AM stations across the United States. AM radio is effective at delivery of weather, farm markets, issues, information, traffic problems, trusted sources for local information, and delivery of the emergency alert network for disasters. And, with enough watts, AM radio covers great distances in rural areas... even Forgottonia!

The Illinois Farm Bureau has joined agriculture and rural organizations in signing a letter to Capitol Hill expressing support of the proposed bill to maintain AM radio options in autos. And there is some serious bipartisan support for the bill...you don’t get any further apart “politically” from cosponsors in the House Speaker Mike Johnson and Rep. Jan Schakowsky and in the Senate Sen. Rand Paul and Sen. Elizabeth Warren! That’s bipartisanhip.

AM radio may not be for everyone, but it is an important tool in the toolbox for farmers, rural America, and for people like me.

Now, I’m wondering how a transistor AM radio sounds on an electric bike or in an electric tractor?

**Bob can be reached at [brohrer@cookcfb.org](mailto:brohrer@cookcfb.org)**

## Recipe of the Month



### Perfect Thyme Cocktail

Nina Koziol, Garden Writer & Hort Educator-Beauty and the Feast

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ½ c gin
- 2 or 3 small slices of peeled, fresh ginger
- 2 or 3 slices of lemongrass stalk (white portion)
- 1 sprig of fresh thyme

#### DIRECTIONS:

Muddle the ginger, lemongrass, and thyme in mixing glass. Add ice cubes, then the gin. Stir to combine all flavors. Strained into a chilled cocktail glass.

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



### 2024 Recipe Collection is Here!

To receive a copy of the 2024 Recipe Collection Booklet, email: [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org), call: 708-354-3276 or register from the MyIFB member center account.

## COUNTRY Financial® is looking for the best!

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# Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Contestants Vie for \$100K

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, is seeking entrepreneurs to apply online by June 15 for the 2025 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. Now in its 11th year, this national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies developing innovative solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

The overall winner of the competition will receive \$100,000 in startup funds, the runner-up will be awarded \$25,000 and two additional business owners who advance to the final four round will receive \$10,000.

"Imagine what \$100,000 could do for your business," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We've doubled the prize and doubled the impact."

Farm Bureau is offering a total of \$145,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition. After the application period closes, 10 semi-finalist teams will be selected and announced on Sept. 3. Next, the 10 semi-finalist teams will pitch virtually to compete for a spot in the final four round of the contest.

The final four teams will be awarded \$10,000 each and participate in a live pitch competition in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives at the AFBF Convention in January 2025 in San Antonio, Texas, to win:

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner, \$90,000 (total of

\$100,000)

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, \$15,000 (total of \$25,000)

Farm Bureau is proud to recognize these innovative businesses, in partnership with sponsors Farm Credit, Bayer Crop Science, John Deere, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services and T-Mobile.

Recent winners of the Ag Innovation Challenge include Barn Owl Precision Agriculture, a company that manufactures a fully autonomous robot that supports farmers as they plant crops, control weeds and collect soil samples (2024 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner) and NORDEF, a company that developed technology to produce diesel exhaust fluid at the point of use (2023 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner). Other examples of successful Ag Innovation Challenge participants, as well as detailed eligibility guidelines and the competition timeline, can be found at [fb.org/challenge](https://fb.org/challenge).

Entrepreneurs must be members of a county or parish Farm Bureau within their state of residence to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit <https://www.fb.org/about/get-involved#join> to learn about becoming a member.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 15.

Details at: [fb.org/challenge](https://fb.org/challenge)

## 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.

## Survey responses needed from Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Dr. Gerald Mashange at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is conducting a survey to better understand the unique challenges faced by socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) in our state. SDFR participation is crucial in helping us identify barriers and develop solutions to improve access to critical resources and support.

Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) are individuals who belong to groups that have historically faced discrimination in agriculture due to their race, ethnicity, or gender. SDFRs consist of the following groups: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (e.g., those identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Asian American, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and/or Hispanic); LGBTQ+ people; people with disabilities; veterans, and women.

Insights from respondents will be invaluable in shaping understanding of

the specific needs and challenges faced by SDFRs in Illinois including:

- **Identifying barriers on** specific obstacles encountered in accessing resources like land, credit, training, and markets.
- **Pinpointing key needs for** understanding what resources and support would be most beneficial to success.
- **Developing solutions to guide** efforts to create targeted programs and policies that address the unique needs of SDFRs in Illinois.

The online survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for research purposes.

Go to take the survey [https://illinois.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3F5SUrop1coWODI?Source=IFB](https://illinois.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3F5SUrop1coWODI?Source=IFB)

If you have any questions about the research study, please contact Dr. Gerald Mashange at [geraldm@illinois.edu](mailto:geraldm@illinois.edu).



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Cook County Farm Bureau is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and our urban neighbors.



Our volunteers enable us to share the importance of agriculture with consumers, youth, members, legislators, and the general public. Our volunteers enable us to achieve our mission.

**CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TODAY**

Contact:  
Bona Heinsohn  
[bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org)



## THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFERS SPEAKERS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS



## SPEAKERS BUREAU



CCFB's Speakers Bureau is excited to offer presentations on a variety of subjects to interested groups and gatherings in the Cook County region.

Any topic can be discussed, but here some past topics that our speakers have covered:

- the use of biotechnology
- farming in an urban area
- container gardening
- farming from a non-farmer perspective
- on-farm health and sanitation



To schedule a presentation, visit:

<https://cookcfb.org/request-a-speaker>

Presentations are offered throughout the year (at no charge) and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

# Family Farm and Food Bytes

**USDA: One in Four Military Members Food Insecure** - More than 25% of active-duty members of the U.S. military are food insecure, compared to just 10% of civilian adults, according to a new study by USDA's Economic Research Service.

The report said that 10.5% of military population had a "more severe form of food insecurity – very low food security," in 2018 and 2020, the years covered by the study. That compares to 3.6% of the civilian adult population. A person is considered food insecure by USDA, if they had difficulty during the previous 12 months getting enough food for themselves or family members due to "a lack of economic and other resources." A person is considered to have "very low" food security if they report "disruptions in their eating patterns or reduced food intake for themselves or their family members."

**Alabama Second State to Ban Lab-Grown Meat** - Alabama has become the second state (Florida) in the nation to ban the sale of cultured meat. However, the legislation does not prevent any federal institution of higher education, or a person that is partnered with a governmental entity or institution of higher education,

from conducting research in Alabama regarding the production of cultivated food products. Globally, Italy banned the technology from their country in December.

**IFB receives excellence in communications awards** - The American Farm Bureau Federation named the 2024 Communications Award winners at this year's communications conference in Texas recently. More than 200 entries for work produced in 2023 were submitted for the 2024 contest. FarmWeek received the best newspaper or E-newsletter award in its division for the fifth time in the past six years (the awards program was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic).

Illinois Farm Bureau was an award winner in each of the following seven categories: Best single blog, editorial or column; best newspaper or E-newsletter (FarmWeek); best graphic design; best promotional or education video or ad; best website; best social media presence; and best public relations campaign.

**'We are the 96%' campaign ad wins national award** - The Illinois Farm Families (IFF) coalition recently won a Best of Show award in the consumer category during the National Agri-Marketing

Association (NAMA) 2024 AgriMarketing Conference in Kansas City.

The Best of Show award was given for a 30-second commercial first aired during the Super Bowl 2023 as the official kickoff of the We Are the 96% campaign produced by IFF. The commercial, titled "The Corporation," features Illinois farmer Chad Bell and his family. The video juxtaposes the family farm against a typical corporation, giving Bell's 7-year-old son the title of "Procurement" and the family dog the position of "Human Resources."

IFF and the We Are the 96% campaign also won the following Best of NAMA awards:

- First place - Consumer-facing social media for the We are the 96 social media campaign

- First place - Consumer-facing ad element category for the "The Corporation" TV spot
- Merit award - Consumer-facing website category for the Wearethe96.org website presence
- Merit award - Public relations audio/video feature or testimonial category for the We are the 96 behind-the-scenes video

**About Family Farm and 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.



## Read FarmWeek's e-edition

Members don't have to wait at the mailbox for the latest edition of FarmWeek. The e-edition is available online after 6 a.m. every Monday morning.

## Growers are Encouraged to Join the Urban Growers Network

The Urban Growers Network is open to all urban growers, community gardeners, and urban agriculture partners in Illinois and Cook County. The purpose of this group is to offer networking, education, and resources related to growing an urban agriculture system in Illinois.

In addition to monthly meetings designed to provide resources and share timely information about upcoming programs and funding opportunities, the network shares information regarding connected programs such as agritourism, the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement, produce safety, farmers markets, capacity building, and farm to food bank.

The Illinois Urban Growers Network meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and is open to producers of all sizes. To receive meeting information visit: <https://form.jotform.com/232974532554058>

## USDA Innovative Agriculture Micro-grants for Chicago/Cook County (IAM-Chi)

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency Outreach Office and Illinois FSA Office, in cooperation with University of Illinois Extension, announces an opportunity for urban farmers and producers, beginning farmers, historically underserved producers, and food entrepreneurs in Chicago, Illinois to apply for an IAM-Chi/Cook County grant.

These grants are designed to fund innovative, forward-thinking, and novel projects to advance urban agriculture in Chicago and Cook County. Grants

must not trigger environmental assessments or evaluations.

Grants will support:

- Conservation practices which improve soil quality.
- Cost-sharing for infrastructure and on-farm equipment.
- Improvements in supply chain issues; and
- Other innovative projects that support urban agriculture.

IAM-Chi grants are:

- Small, one-time allocations that will require verification of expenses;
- Available from \$1,000 (minimum) to \$25,000 (maximum) in funding;
- Awarded to eligible producers for projects that will be completed within 3 months;
- First-come, first-serve competitive basis, beginning now until November 30, 2026; and
- Available as soon as possible or within 2 months after grant submission if selected for funding.

Assistance is available for answering questions about the IAM-Chi grant application process. Applicants who are not able to receive funds in one year, may be considered for funding in a future year, depending on available funds. To obtain more information, please contact University of Illinois Extension at iam-chi-grant@illinois.edu, and to download a grant application, please go to <https://extension.illinois.edu>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



The University of Illinois Extension Academy stopped in at several locations in Cook County include facility in Matteson. The Academy included Extension Director Dr. Sharon M. "Shelly" Nickols-Richardson and an entourage of university professors, educators and research specialists. A heavy rainstorm drove the entire group into the high tunnel on the property to see the plantings and to hear more from local Extension staff about urban agriculture, research and services provided locally by Extension and ways Cook County Farm Bureau is looking partner with the local Unit.

# Planting Seeds

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



**Katrina J.E. Milton**

I've always loved asking questions. Who, what, where, when, why, and how are my favorite ways to start a conversation.

Asking questions is a great way to learn something new. It's the start

of every Google search I make when I fall down a rabbit hole of learning new information. I often look up one topic on Wikipedia, and countless links and 25 topics later, I finally put down my phone having learned something new.

This past month has had a lot of learning opportunities, including the northern lights appearing overhead and cicadas underfoot.

Researching the northern lights led me to remember how much I love the animated movie "Balto," and my internet sleuthing about cicadas led to this month's Ag Adventure topic.

Just because school's out doesn't mean that learning has to stop!

The "summer slide" sounds like fun. Maybe you're thinking of splashing

down a giant twisty slide at a waterpark or sliding into home plate during a baseball game.

However, the real meaning of the "summer slide" is a little less fun – and a lot scarier!

The term refers to students losing the learning they achieved during the previous school year over summer break. According to a March 2023 article in the journal Sociological Science, the results are mixed on studies focusing on how much learning a student loses during the summer months.

According to the NWEA assessment, "kids forget much of what they've learned, up to three months' worth, during the summer." Other standardized tests have different results. The Early Childhood Longitudinal Students-Kindergarten series shows no loss, and the Renaissance Learning assessment "shows mild losses in reading and big losses in mathematics."

However, keeping busy – and keeping up with learning – are important for the summer months. Some of my best summer memories of childhood are all about learning. Visiting a zoo or museum is a

great way to learn something new and spend time with your family.

If you want an aged spin on summer learning, there are a lot of Cook County options!

In Chicago, you can learn about the uses of soybeans and climb in a combine during a visit to the Farm Tech exhibit at the newly-named Griffin Museum of Science and Industry or learn about pollinators at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences by walking through the Judy Istock Butterfly Haven, experiencing 1,000 free-flying butterflies.

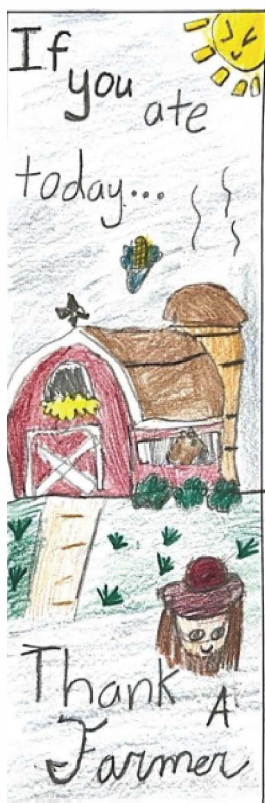
Throughout the county, you can purchase fresh locally-grown produce at local farm stands and farmers markets, as well as visit a greenhouse and shop for plants. A list of Cook County Farm Bureau agricultural and member ag businesses can be found online at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local>.

But don't worry if you want to relax a little this summer! When I envision the perfect lazy summer day, I imagine relaxing in a hammock in my

backyard, listening to the radio, sipping cold lemonade, and reading a good book. Illinois Ag in the Classroom has a Summer 2024 reading list with the theme "Read, Renew, Repeat." For a list of accurate books and accompany activities and lessons, visit <https://iaitc.co/iread24>.

Whatever you decide to do this summer, have fun! Remember to be inquisitive, ask questions, and keep learning – regardless of your age!

**Katrina can be reached at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).**



First Place  
Alexia from Solomon Elementary, Chicago



Runner Up  
Nicholas from Charles Sahs Elementary, Chicago

## 2024 Bookmark Contest Winners



Runner Up  
Christofer from Charles Sahs Elementary, Chicago



Runner Up  
Theodore from Solomon Elementary, Chicago

## JJC to Offer Online Ag and Horticulture Courses

Enrollment is now open for high school students for Joliet Junior College's fully-online agriculture and horticulture courses for the Fall 2024 semester. The courses can be a great option for students needing an agriculture class for the Fall semester due to scheduling conflicts, remote learning and homeschooling, or students wanting to get a jump start on college credits. For more information or to enroll, email JJC Agriculture Professor Tammy Miller at [tmiller@jjc.edu](mailto:tmiller@jjc.edu).

## 2024 Bookmark Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the 2024 Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Bookmark Contest winners. This year's theme was "Year of the Farmer," honoring Illinois Farm-Families Coalition's naming 2023 the Year of the Farmer. Students were tasked with designing a bookmark celebrating farmers, showcasing all the wonderful things we enjoy thanks to hard-working farm families. In Illinois, 96% of farms are family-owned.

We received more than 100 entries into this year's contest. All submissions can be viewed in a YouTube video we created: <https://bit.ly/2024BookmarkContestVideo>.

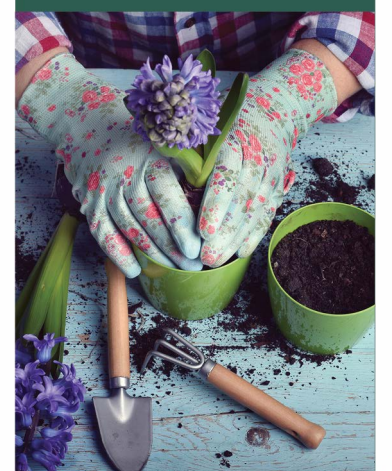
Our first-place winner, Alexia from Solomon Elementary School in Chicago, won a \$35 Amazon gift card.

Our three runners-up, Nicholas from Charles Sahs Elementary School in Chicago, Christofer from Charles Sahs Elementary School in Chicago, and

Theodore from Solomon Elementary School in Chicago, each won a \$15 Amazon gift card.

All four winning designs will be duplicated for distribution in classrooms throughout the school year and at library, zoo, and community events.

Thank you for submitting your "ag-mazing" bookmark designs. We loved seeing your creativity and talent!





# AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES

## — FOR FAMILIES —

### Why is there so much talk about cicadas this year?

Illinois will have two cicada broods at once: Brood XIII and Brood XIX. They last emerged simultaneously 221 years ago in 1803.

Brood XIII emerges every 17 years. It will be seen in Illinois, Indiana, and possibly Wisconsin and Ohio.

Brood XIX emerges every 13 years. It will be seen in Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.

### When do cicadas emerge?

Cicadas emerge when the soil temperature 8 inches below ground is 64 degrees Fahrenheit.

### What is the noise they make?

Male cicadas make a noise by expanding and contracting a membrane in their abdomens called a tymbal. They use that clicking sound to attract females to mate. Their "song" can reach above 90 decibels, which is as loud as a live rock concert and louder than a lawn mower or chainsaw!

### Are cicadas dangerous?

No! Despite their size, cicadas are peaceful and do not harm humans. They do not sting or bite.

However, they can be harmful to newly-planted or young trees. Female cicadas cut rows of slits, called pockets, into thin tree limbs about the width of a pencil. She then lays 10 to 20 eggs in each pocket. A female cicada will lay between 500 and 600 eggs. Tree owners can wrap netting or tulle around trees to protect their branches from egg-laying female cicadas.

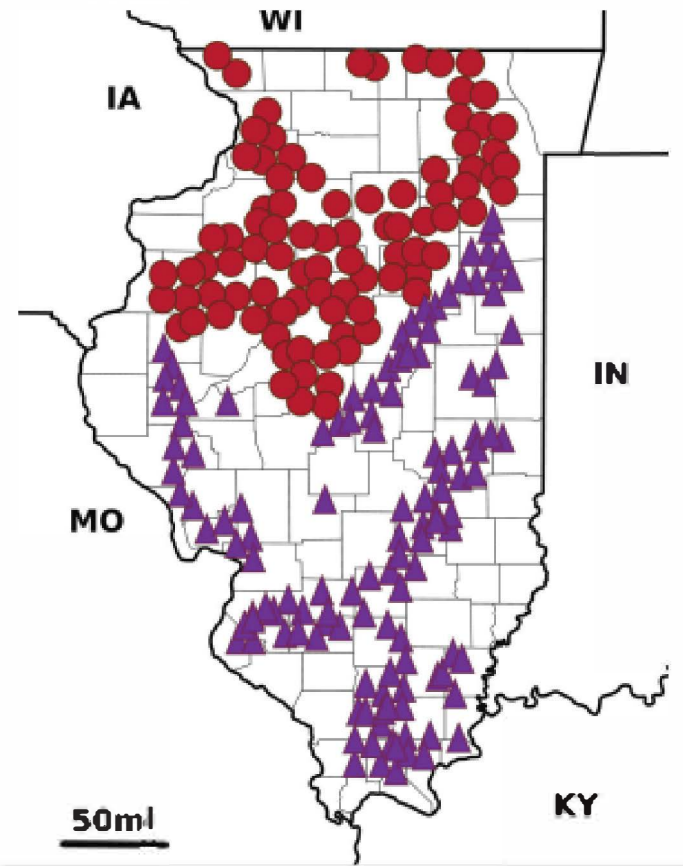
### What do cicadas eat?

Nymph cicadas feed off the sap of tree roots underground. Adult cicadas drink xylem, a liquid found inside trees and plants with woody stems and branches, such as blueberry and grape plant stems. Cicadas' eating habits cause only minimal damage to plants.

### Can you eat cicadas?

Yes! Cicadas are described as tasting like shrimp. They are a common deep-fried source of protein in Shandong, China. In the U.S., cicadas are eaten in tacos, on pizzas, and as sushi, wrapped in rice. They should not be eaten by young children or women who are pregnant or breastfeeding because they are high in mercury. You should also not eat them if you are allergic to shellfish; cicadas belong to the arthropod family and are related to shrimp and lobsters.

For more information about cicadas, visit the University of Illinois Extension's website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/insects/cicadas>.



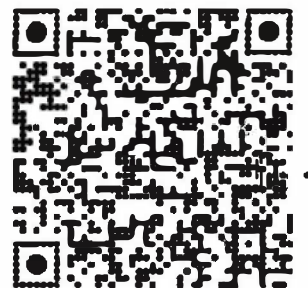
Map of 2024 Cicada Broods including Brood XIII, red circles, and Brood XIX, violet triangles. Photo: Modified from Simon et al., 2022.

Photo from the University of Illinois Extension.

## Did You Know?

- Some species of cicadas emerge every year. Annual cicadas emerge every year and periodical cicadas emerge every 13 or 17 years.
- The last time Broods XIII and XIX emerged together was 1803. The next time will be 2245.
- Periodical cicadas spend most of their lives underground as nymphs, only emerging above ground after 13 or 17 years. After mating and laying eggs, adult cicadas will die – only living about five weeks above ground. After hatching from the eggs, baby cicadas burrow underground to live for 13 or 17 years until the next emergence.
- Every species of cicada has a different song.
- Cicadas have five eyes and four wings.
- Cicadas have been a symbol of change and rebirth throughout history because they shed their exoskeleton as they become adults.

Learn more about the life of a cicada by watching this educational video made by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District



### Choose Your Prize: June 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!**

## June Word Search

Last Month's Winner:  
**Sophie Zielezinski**

Brood	V	G	D	W	D	K	M	I	Z	B	S	L	D	P	J
Cicada	J	N	M	A	N	R	C	T	R	Z	Q	I	A	P	Y
Eggs	G	A	B	S	U	B	E	O	K	G	T	E	J	F	Z
Emerge	M	T	I	O	O	G	O	D	R	M	P	R	K	U	J
Ground	Z	S	K	T	R	D	N	O	I	S	E	A	V	W	C
Loud	J	U	R	E	G	S	A	I	O	A	U	X	G	E	F
Mate	F	Z	M	S	G	G	E	N	J	K	M	J	M	W	G
Netting	D	E	E	T	E	N	G	E	F	I	E	V	H	N	P
Noise	S	R	A	E	Y	P	E	C	R	O	L	D	I	C	C
Sap	D	M	C	K	A	M	X	T	Z	T	Y	S	V	I	M
Soil	K	A	N	S	M	C	B	K	T	L	X	M	T	C	B
Song	G	T	L	H	N	C	A	A	A	I	I	X	R	A	U
Trees	P	E	L	O	U	D	V	M	L	K	N	O	B	D	R
Tymbal	B	N	S	E	T	D	M	H	O	J	E	G	S	A	G
Xylem	U	W	R	R	K	H	Z	F	P	X	I	H	O	R	I
Years															

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

# At The Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers



## Ag for Every Classroom

Free resources use agriculture to teach core subjects

Last summer, a Chicago teacher told me how excited she was to soil her undies for her students when the new school year started.

The second-grade teacher and her students buried cotton underwear in the school courtyard as a "Soil Your Undies" science experiment through Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Periodically, they dug up the undies to observe and record decomposition to measure the soil's health and microbial activity.

The teacher used agriculture as an avenue to teach science after her attendance at a Summer Agricultural Institute hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. This summer, 40 institutes will take place across the state, providing pre-K-to-12 teachers an enjoyable, well-spent way to earn required Professional Development Units while they gain hands-on experiences, receive free teaching materials and take adult field trips to local farms.

The raving reviews of the institutes are no surprise given the nationally recognized success of Illinois Ag in the Classroom, which provides agriculture-based curriculum resources for free to teachers year-round. Topics of Illinois-grown pumpkins, apples, corn, soybeans, dairy, pork, pollinators and more serve as the vehicle to teach science, literature, math, STEM and social studies. In each topic area, students learn about agricultural careers, increasing awareness of the state's top employer and the overlooked job opportunities within the industry. The

available curricular resources are relevant to student life and correlate to Illinois Learning Standards with various delivery options.

My favorites are the two dozen magazines called "Ag Mags" that highlight a single ag topic with vibrant images and graphics that benefit readers of any age. Double-sided classroom posters turn from themes of apples to agriculture's part in football. Lesson plans have students making ice cream in a bag and grinding wheat to make flour. Digital resources work well with Chromebooks or smart boards. Translations in Spanish and French allow materials to reach more students.

Accessibility to resources gives Illinois Ag in the Classroom its edge. Materials are free online and through local county Farm Bureaus, which employ county coordinators to manage distribution of materials and even provide no-cost, in-classroom presentations. This valuable classroom resource is a concept to embrace: Let's use Illinois' No. 1 industry of agriculture to understand the food, fiber and energy products that impact our lives, explore careers that surround us and teach core subjects in engaging ways – whether through pumpkins, pollinators, corn, cows or underwear.

**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.**

## IAA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$151,501 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS PURSUING AGRICULTURE DEGREES

Students can count on support of scholarships for college tuition during the 2024-2025 school year, courtesy of the IAA Foundation.

The charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, is awarding \$151,501 to 89 students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. Students are selected based on their activities and leadership, their community involvement, professional career goals and their overall commitment to success.

"Each year we are proud to support and encourage students who represent agriculture's strong and vibrant future," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation.

David Mock of Galva, in Henry County is the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership Scholarship recipient and receives a \$7,500 scholarship for the honor. IAA Foundation Distinguished Scholars Eric Wisely of Oakdale, Alex Jagers of Princeton, and Justin Huff of Savoy, each will receive a \$5,000 award. Other scholarships being presented range in value from \$1,000 to \$3,001. A full listing of recipients can be found at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).

### Local recipient:

Allen and Ellen M. Blessman Scholarship \$1,000  
Carmen Trotta, Cook County  
*Agricultural Education major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Annually, the Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus combine to award more than \$1,000,000 in scholarship support.

"The scholarship program acknowledges hard-working students and offers financial support so they can pursue their dreams and land careers in agriculture," Smith said. "Through generous farm gifts and contributions from individuals, farm families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, and others who support our industry, we continue to see diversification and growth in our program."

For more information on the IAA Foundation scholarship program, how to establish a scholarship, or to donate to a scholarship fund, visit the IAA Foundation's website at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org) or call 309-557-2232.

# FARM FRESH FUNDS

*Want a \$20 Farm Fresh Funds voucher redeemable to one of our area greenhouses, garden centers, farm stands or other farm businesses?*

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 \$20 in fresh funds! 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](http://www.cookcfb.org) and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.

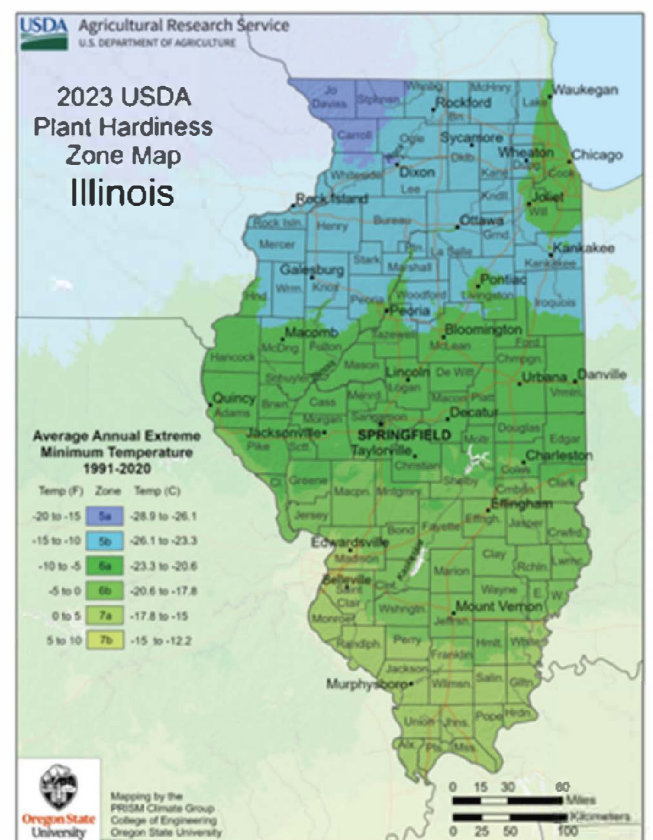
## USDA Plant Hardiness Zones Have Changed

Check out the interactive map for the US at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

2012 Map



2023 Map





# Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

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



Bona Heinsohn

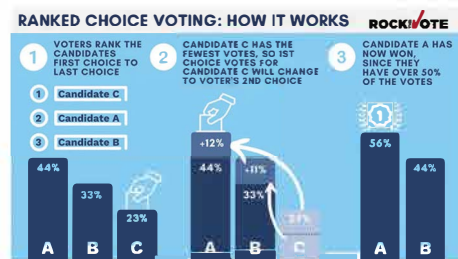
The Illinois Legislature approved the creation of a Ranked-Choice and Voting System Task Force for the purpose of reviewing voting systems and methods of voting. The task force is charged with:

- Engaging election officials, interested groups, and the public for the purpose of assessing and implementing ranked-choice voting in presidential primary elections beginning in 2028.
- Advising whether the voting systems used by the State Board of Elections and local authorities would be able to accommodate alternative methods of voting.
- Making recommendations for changes to the Election Code or administrative rules.

The task force is composed of 20 members including legislators, the public, and individuals with knowledge and experience administering elections. But what is ranked choice voting and how would it impact Illinois

elections?

Ranked choice voting is a system in which a voter ranks candidates on their ballot in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than 50% of the vote s/he is declared the winner. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. The ballots with the now-eliminated candidate as their first choice candidate now go to the second choice candidate and the votes are recounted. This process is repeated until a candidate has over 50% of the vote.



Ranked-choice voting is in direct contrast to the voting system employed by most of the country including in Illinois, plurality voting. With this system a candidate only has to win one more vote than their opponent. With

this process, a candidate could receive less than 20% of the vote but his/her opponents received even fewer votes; therefore, the candidate with less than 20% of the vote wins. Another way to think about it is that with our current voting system 80% of voters voted against the winning candidate. Eighty percent of voters preferred anyone else.

Potential advantages of ranked choice voting include:

- Increased voter turnout. Elections outside of the second Tuesday in November suffer from chronic low voter turnout.
- Elimination of the need for and costs of runoff elections.
- Elimination of voters' feelings of their vote not counting. Even if their favorite candidate doesn't win perhaps their second choice could.
- Reduced negative campaigning. Candidates are not only competing for first choice votes but also second or third choice votes from their opponents, which disincentivizes candidates from running highly negative

campaigns.

- Increased candidate diversity. With ranked choice voting political parties worry less about vote splitting.

Concerns about ranked choice voting include:

- Longer ballots.
- Increased cost of printing.
- Voter confusion about the process.
- Transition hurdles.

Roughly 50 jurisdictions nationwide have adopted ranked choice voting, including Evanston which plans to implement ranked choice voting for their municipal election in April of 2025. Additional jurisdictions include Alaska; Maine; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Oakland, California; and St. Paul, Minnesota.

As the task force reports back to the Legislature it will be interesting to see what recommendations and information is included.

Bona can be reached at [Bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:Bona@cookcfb.org).



## Representative Canty Visits with Farm Bureau

Representative Mary Beth Canty from Arlington Heights visited with Cook County Farm Bureau members Amy Hansmann (middle) and Bona Heinsohn (right) prior to the second annual Black Farmers Lobby Day in Springfield. Although only in her second year in the Illinois General Assembly, Representative Canty has built a strong relationship with Farm Bureau and actively seeks opportunities to expand her knowledge of agriculture throughout Cook County and Illinois.

## Farm Bureau Working on Regenerative Agriculture Policy

No one 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 and creates confusion among consumers who may not understand the term. A poorly defined or poorly understood term could also become diluted or corrupted over time.

Cook County Farm Bureau leaders are investigating the state's first regenerative agriculture policy. Generally, the policy provides that Farm Bureau supports:

- Regenerative agriculture referring to maintaining the health of soil by rebuilding organic soil matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.
- Regenerative agriculture practices including but not limited to minimal tillage, diversified crop rotation, cover crops, green manure, precision application of biological and chemical inputs, and natural fertilizers, including compost and inoculants to ensure soil micronutrients are kept in top condition.
- Farmers having a menu of regenerative agriculture practices rather than a prescriptive list when qualifying for incentives.
- Farm policy supporting regenerative practices.
- Reducing barriers to implementing regenerative agriculture practices including cost-sharing, incentives, and low-cost loan programs.
- Access to technical assistance for farmers considering incorporating regenerative agricultural practices into their farming operation.

Members with questions or suggestions are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org) to discuss.



## Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton meets with Members

Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton joined Cook County Farm Bureau members, Michael Howard (pictured center) and Ameila Howard (pictured right) prior to the second Annual Black Farmers Lobby Day in Springfield. The Howards run Eden Place Farms and Learning Center in Chicago and not only farm but teach interested individuals from throughout

Chicago about farming and growing food. Learn more about the Howards and urban agriculture during Episode 3 of Fields Apart: Rooted Together, a docuseries focused on the shared characteristics, goals, and challenges of urban and rural Illinois farmers.

## Bill Regulating Wetlands in Illinois Appears Stalled for the Moment

Senate Bill 711 attempts to reinstate and broaden environmental regulations over wetlands in Illinois that U.S. Supreme Court rightly removed via the Sackett decision. The legislation would create three tiers of "wetlands," which are not well defined. The legislation would then create a permit structure under the jurisdiction of Department of

Natural Resources that would regulate activities on private lands as small as dredged or fill material discharged into the smallest potential pooling of water, regardless of permanency. This would impact essentially all land changes for private landowners. In addition to oversight and regulation under the jurisdiction of IDNR, the legislation

enables any individual to intervene in a permit application or file a complaint with the Pollution Control Board.

In April, Farm Bureau issued a call to action to engage members in this issue. Those calls and emails were successful and temporarily prevented this legislation from advancing further at this time. In addition to Farm Bureau

opposition, they have built a strong coalition of opposition from a variety of industries in addition to agriculture.

Farm Bureau will continue to oppose Senate Bill 771 and will reactivate advocates if the legislation begins moving forward during the last weeks of session in Springfield.

# Farm Bureau Celebrates Members During Member Appreciation Week

Thank you for participating in Member Appreciation Week! Below is a list of our lucky winners. We truly appreciate our members and want to say thank you for your membership, your involvement, your interest, and your support. Thank you to those that stopped by the FB office for some sweet treats and giveaways! We always love meeting our members!!

## MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK WINNERS

### MONDAY

- "Cyber Shopping On Us!"**  
William Rudenga
- 2 AMC Movie Tickets**  
Thalissia Muldrow
- 1 Year Free Membership**  
Alice Vogel  
Gary Rauch

### TUESDAY

- "Grocery Giveaway"**  
Neal Miller
- 1 Sample Soil Kit**  
Jay Drabik
- 1 Year Free Membership**  
Vira Sharapova  
John Stires

### WEDNESDAY

- "Discover Local"**  
Cathy Newquist
- CCFB Swag**  
Marie Ostrowski
- 1 Year Free Membership**  
Andrew Deutsch  
Samantha Bretz

### THURSDAY

- "Catch Some Rays & Waves"**  
Kelly Dirschl
- Delta Sonic Car Wash**  
Joseph C. Mayerhofer
- 1 Year Free Membership**  
Wail Samhan  
Julie Brickey

### FRIDAY

- "Family Fun"**  
Vanessa Rodriguez
- Dinner Gift Card**  
Donica Bradford
- 1 Year Free Membership**  
Fred Falk  
Cindy Perkins



We had a fun visit with member Karen King and a few new smiling faces.



Member Steve LaRocque enjoys some prizes from playing the Ag Spin Wheel with FB manager, Bob Roher.



Thank you to the Lamos for stopping by and posing with CCFB tractors!

Visit [myifb.org](http://myifb.org) to see details.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

*Save*

SONESTA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU. Farm. Family. Food.™

Illinois Farm Bureau has partnered with Sonesta Hotels for a brand-new, exclusive benefit that will save members money on travel expenses. Cook County Farm Bureau members can now receive 15% discounts off the best available rate at Sonesta Hotels.

To take advantage of this offer, members can call 1-800-766-3782 or visit Sonesta.com. Access the code at IFB's benefit platform at [ilfb.abenity.com](http://ilfb.abenity.com) or call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276. Advanced reservations are required.

**About Sonesta**  
Sonesta International Hotels has more than 1,100 properties in eight countries. Now with 15 industry-leading brands to choose from, Sonesta has the perfect stay for guests looking for luxury, extended travel, exploration or anything else. Sonesta offers service with passion, loyalty with a purpose and a commitment to the many faces—new and familiar—that stay with us. The human side of hospitality is the core of our culture. Our mission is to wow

every guest, team member, partner, and community in which we operate by delivering quality, value, and amazing hospitality.

IFB is proud to offer members over 300,00 member-only discounts and corporate rates on everything from pizza and the zoo to movie tickets, car rentals, and hotels like Sonesta. Access all member benefits at IFB's benefit platform at [ilfb.abenity.com](http://ilfb.abenity.com).

# COOK COUNTY

## Financial Representative 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.

*\*Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by COUNTRY® Financial.*



### \* ILIR NUMANI

has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2024 by Vicki Nygren, Agency Manager. Ilir's office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Highway Ste 200, Chicago, IL 60631. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a

Financial Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since April 2005.

**Chicago North Agency, Vicki Nygren, Agency Manager**



### \*TROY VIDOVIC

has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2024 by Cary Tate, Agency Manager. Troy's office is located at 12130 S Harlem Ave Unit A, Palos Heights, IL 60463. His phone number is 708-425-1816. Troy has been a Financial

Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since February 2010.

**Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager**



### \*NICK BURKE

has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2024 by Cary Tate, Agency Manager. Nick's office is located at 12130 S Harlem Ave Unit A, Palos Heights, IL 60463. His phone number is 708-425-1816. Nick has been a Financial

Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since September 2005.

**Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager**



### \*MIKE SPADONI

has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2024 by Cary Tate, Agency Manager. Mike's office is located at 5003 W 95th St, Oaklawn, IL 60453. His phone number is 708-425-1825. Mike has been a Financial Representative

with COUNTRY® Financial since June 2005.

**Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager**



### \*JOE SEPSEY


has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2024 by Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager. Joe's office is located at 3205 N Wilke Rd, Ste 114, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. His phone number is 847-640-7745. Joe has been a

Financial Representative with COUNTRY® Financial since January 1991.

**Chicago Northwest Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager**

# ABC'S OF SPICES

We already gave you the ABC's of Food but the Cook County Farm Bureau also loves spices... All types of spices with all types of flavors. In this feature, we will be highlighting different types of spices, from A to Z. If you'd like a full list of the ABC's of Food, contact the CCFB office.

<b>This month "A"</b>	<b>ANISE</b> 
Anise seeds are small, measuring about 3.5 mm in length, and are tear-drop shaped seeds.	<b>The seeds feel slightly hollow to the touch and crumble easily.</b>
Anise seeds emit a strong licorice flavor with subtle spiciness and a sweet floral finish.	Anise seeds are also commonly known as Aniseed or Sweet Cumin.
	<b>ANISE SEEDS AND STAR ANISE, WHILE OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE SAME SPICE, DO NOT COME FROM THE SAME PLANT, AND ARE CONSIDERED DIFFERENT SPICES WITH SIMILAR FLAVOR PROFILES.</b>
The seeds are widely used to flavor meat and vegetable dishes in Mediterranean and Asian cuisine, specifically soups and curries.	 <b>In Europe, Anise seeds are commonly used to flavor cakes, cookies, and quick and leavened bread.</b>
<b>IN EUROPE, ANISE SEEDS ARE COMMONLY USED TO FLAVOR CAKES, COOKIES, AND QUICK AND LEAVENED BREAD.</b> 	In Mexico, Anise quickly became a staple in native dishes like Mole Poblano and Pan De Muertos, a bread baked for the Dia De Los Muertos celebration.

Source: <https://blog.ghires.com/20-mango-facts/>

Next month... Basil

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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.**

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.

Diesel Generator. Denyo Whisper WATT 40 / 3 Phase / 240 V or 480 V / 240 / 120. Good condition (sold "as is") includes heavy duty trailer with new tires and Illinois title. \$12,000. **For info Call 773-218-5747.** Pictures available online.

Dayton 3VE50 oil fired torpedo heater \$400. Only used for four days so it's like new. 125,000 BTU's and a 10-gallon tank, heats up to 2,900 square feet. **If interested call Joanne at 847-404-1960.** Picture available online.

8-person poker table with folding legs, with cover. In good condition. \$75.00. **Call Vic 847-909-0181.**

Antique clocks/collection for sale. Authentic. Running. Wall and mantel clocks. Pictures are available online. **Call Sandee 708-323-7504.**

## FOR RENT

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.**

## VACATION SALES/ RENTALS

Great opportunity to invest in International Real Estate. For sale by owner. The property is located in the central region of Mexico, on the commercial corridor of the Uriangato-Morelia Boulevard. Near the Soriana shopping center.

Situated approximately 2 hrs. away from the picturesque San Miguel de Allende, Gto; 40 minutes from the colonial Morelia, Mich and 3-4 hrs. from Mexico City. The building is approximately 1170 square feet and is a mixed use (1 storefront + 1 residential apartment) masonry building featuring an ample storefront with a 1/2 bathroom on the first floor and a 1 bed/1 bath + utility solar atrium apartment on the second floor. Price \$102,000 US.

Ideal for the business/owner occupancy setting or as an income-producing property. Only earnest and dollar transaction offers will be considered. **Email: [mmaeda735@gmail.com](mailto:mmaeda735@gmail.com).** Picture available online.

## 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.**



# Soil Testing Kits Available

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. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. 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 typically within two weeks, with more extensive test interpretation provided by the partnering volunteer Master Gardener Unit with the University of IL Extension South Suburban Horticulture Team.

### 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 and pricing subject to change. Soil Kits are available for purchase at the Cook County Farm Bureau by calling 708-354-3276, using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover at no additional charge, or stop by the office to purchase, Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Soil Testing Program



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# 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](http://www.cookcfb.org). Scan our QR for our Events Calendar.

## 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.



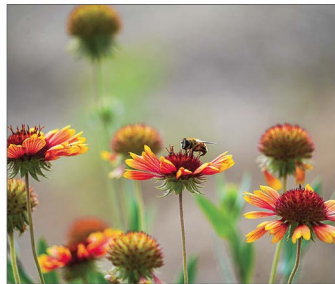
**DURATION:** 30 minutes **COST:** Free

**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](mailto:ccfb@cookcfb.org) or call the Farm Bureau at **708-354-3276**. Zoom link will be emailed the week prior.

## Partnerships for Pollinator Event

Visit Lincoln Park Zoo to celebrate Pollinator Week with free educational activities, demonstrations and giveaways. Zoo attendees are invited to learn more about pollinators and agriculture's commitment to supporting them. Join Illinois Urban Growers Network Meet-Up during the pollinator event. Connect with other growers in the Illinois Urban Growers Network. Meet Illinois Farm Bureau and Cook County Farm Bureau staff.



Learn environmental practices and programs that are right for your farm or community garden. Meet -Up will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 18 2024

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Lincoln Park Zoo, outside the Pepper Family Wildlife Center

## Pollinator Event at Brookfield Zoo

Visit Brookfield Zoo to celebrate Pollinator Week and learn more about the importance of pollinators and their contribution to the environment. Zoogoers will have the opportunity to visit with numerous partners and educators.



**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Brookfield Zoo

# Let the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Move Vocational Careers Forward

Agriculture and farming needs skilled workers. Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation wants to support not only the farming industry but those individuals looking to advance their careers and earnings potential.

Vocation scholarships are available for a variety of uses, including:



Drivers hauling agricultural commodities, food products, inputs and equipment preparing to study and test for their CDL. Trucks over 16,001 pounds require a Class C license and depending on the weight of a trailer the driver may require a Class B CDL.

The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points is a prevention-based approach to safe production, handling, and preparation of foods. This system establishes prevention measures and training. Vocational scholarship funds can be used for individuals wishing to take this training.



Welders looking to advance their careers.



If you think your vocational training or training may be eligible to be covered by a scholarship but are unsure contact the Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276 to discuss.

Scholarships up to \$1,250 are available to students enrolled in a vocational training program or at an Illinois community college. Deadline for consideration is July 31, 2024 for program enrollment September 1- December 31.

**To apply:**

- Students must be an Illinois resident.
- Farm Bureau membership is not required though it is preferred.
- Students must be enrolled in or planning to enroll in a vocational training program or a commercial driving training program at an Illinois community college.

- Proof of enrollment must be provided. If proof of enrollment is not provided, the individual will forfeit the funds and return any paid out.

- An endorsement signed by a Cook County farmer, Cook County Farm Bureau leader, area agribusiness, or area food processing business must be provided.
- Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation directors and employees of Cook County Farm Bureau or their immediate family members are not eligible to apply.

Awards will be made based after and evaluation by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors. Payments will be made directly to the vocational program or community college where the recipient is enrolled to assist the training program.



[specialtygrowers.org/ShopLocal](https://specialtygrowers.org/ShopLocal)

## DISCOVER LOCAL

CO-OPERATOR PULL-OUT SECTION 2024

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

## Discover Local & Fresh

Fresh is the focus in and around Cook County Ag! Visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses, Farmstands, Garden Centers, and Ag Producers for all your outdoor planting and fresh produce needs! Fresh seasonal vegetables, herbs, produce, honey, flower plantings, trees, shrubs, lawn, landscape materials, grills, and garden décor are available now.

For a listing of member businesses and producers in the Cook County area, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3V3CjJP>

Member businesses offering additional discounts to CCFB members include Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center in South Barrington and Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park. Check our website for details and restrictions at:

<https://bit.ly/3WMIjsX>

# Summer Fun

## Raging Waves Tickets Available

\$27.00

Member Savings of \$33.00

To purchase tickets, call the Farm Bureau office at (708) 354-3276