

# COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

Ag in the Classroom,  
Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation

## 28,629

students reached through school programming

## 1,261

classrooms reached

## 239

schools received agricultural education

Our seven Ag in the Classroom presenters conducted in-person presentations to students throughout Cook County. Presentation topics included Intro to Illinois Ag, There's Ag on MyPlate, and programs about soil, specialty crops, the farm-to-table process, ag careers, and keeping warm with agriculture.

## BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH "FUTURE FORWARD"

**Future Forward** is a leadership development and involvement plan approved by the Board of Directors. The plan is an intentionally focused strategy to recruit, train, engage, involve and develop a new crop of young agriculturalist members within the organization to be the next generation of agricultural leaders in Cook County. Connections and outreach will target area high school and college students with interest in agricultural careers, Young Leaders, and "members in the middle" age 35-50.

Amanda Maiers, a Senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln studying agriculture education, was the 2024 Cook County Ag in the Classroom Summer Intern.



## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation selected nine individuals as recipients of the 2024 Scholarship Program. A total of \$19,500 in scholarship funds were distributed. Our program offers several scholarships including vocational & adult scholarships. All of our scholarships are available to members, dependents and others seeking a major in agriculture, agribusiness, or on an agriculture related career."

**The Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship** honors the first president of the Foundation and carries the highest financial award and is given to the top-rated applicant.

**The Stuenkel Family Scholarship** honors the Stuenkel Family and their involvement in Farm Bureau and ag literacy efforts and is awarded to an individual whose focus is on an agriculture related career in the areas of technology, education, leadership development and/or mental health.

Scholarship recipients were selected to receive the scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year based on exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, focus on an agriculturally related need and overall character. Foundation Created

\*NEW\* Foundation Created "Moving Ag forward" **Vocational Ag Career Training Scholarship** has been designed for individuals pursuing training in agriculturally related skills.

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Carmen Trotta  
Howard Paarlberg Recipient



Brigid Heller  
Stuenkel Scholarship Recipient



Amelia Niedbalec



Daniel Lyons



Elijah Floerke



Matthew Smits



Leah Sheehan



John Dwyer



Jennifer Miller

### DID YOU KNOW?

The CCFB Foundation has provided close to \$300,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1999.

## 2024 COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU AITC SUMMER INTERN

"Working at the Cook County Farm Bureau has been such an amazing opportunity to help educate children and community members. During my internship, I was able to attend many events, where I could interact with the public and talk about the importance of agriculture. My favorite part about educating individuals is explaining the process of how the food they purchase in grocery stores starts in fields and ends on their dinner tables. I am very proud to have worked at the CCFB and am so grateful for this experience."

– Amanda Maiers, 2024 CCFB AITC Summer Intern

### DID YOU KNOW?

The CCFB Foundation has hired 17 college interns since 2002 to enhance the organization's Ag in the Classroom programming during the summer.



## FARM SHADOW PROGRAM

A Farm Shadow Program was held in the fall at Evergreen Park Urban Barn. The Program was attended by Lyons Township High School students who are enrolled in a Sustainable Urban Agriculture course. This program covered apple and tree science, Illinois' native plants, and food forests and deserts.



Greg Stack's famous horticulture presentation

## AG DAY

Ag Day South was held April 3 at the Children's Farm in Palos Park. The stations at the event included chickens, cows, sheep, pigs, horses, horticulture, bees/honey, and vermicomposting. Approximately 290 students attended this event from five schools.



The bee station

Ag Day North was held April 17 at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview. The stations at the event included nutrition, bees/honey, plants, chickens, horses, cows, pigs, and sheep. Approximately 230 students attended this event from four schools. **Teacher feedback from Ag Day: "Students were exposed to different information and informed of careere opportunities they may not have heard of before."**

## EVENING FOR AG EDUCATION GALA

The Foundation's Gala was held July 19 at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. Through the support of generous sponsors, silent and live auction donators/purchasers, and ticket purchasers, we raised \$30,000. Thank you to our Platinum Presenting Sponsors: Country Financial and Kopping Farms in Lemont, along with our other sponsors of the event.



A 50/50 raffle and member donations for a live and silent auction generated additional funds during the event.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Ag Literacy Program offered multiple workshops for educators. Topics included harvesting Thanksgiving crops and microgreens. There were two Summer Ag Institute workshops where 18 teachers learned about pizza, pollinators, soil, and land use through time.

## AG LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

In November, 22 FFA students attended Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag Leadership Academy. They learned about the process of harvesting grain and were given a tour of a grain elevator, a John Deere implement dealership, and a cold storage warehouse.

## SPONSORING EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Programming went beyond our traditional classroom programs with multiple educational events held throughout Cook County. Events held this past year included programs for career days at middle and high schools, Girl Scouts, library and preschool programs, and participation in the MANRRS National Convention, a community seed swap event, and pollinator week events at Lincoln Park and Brookfield Zoos. The Foundation also sponsored annual disguise a turkey and bookmark art contests.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Foundation has given 27,684 presentations to 658,990 students since the start of our Agriculture in the Classroom program in 1987.

## WE NEED YOUR VALUABLE SUPPORT!

We can only manage with you and supporters like you! We thank the large number of members that consistently remember the Foundation's efforts with a financial gift annually. All donations are greatly appreciated. **Be sure to check out our Foundation 2024 Video to hear directly from members of the Foundation Board and past scholarship recipients: [bit.ly/3z89zaT](http://bit.ly/3z89zaT)**

## THE CCFB FOUNDATION BOARD

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## THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DONATION

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Donations to the CCFB Foundation can be made by:

Mailing a check to  
6438 Joliet Rd., Ste 101  
Countryside, IL 60525

Visiting our website at  
[www.cookcfb.org/foundation-](http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation-)

Calling the office at  
708-354-3276