



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 92 No. 12

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

December 2018

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

3rd	Community Urban Garden Grant Program	pg. 1
9-11th	Illinois Specialty Growers Association	pg. 11
15th	Book Club for Adults & Educators	pg. 12
22nd	Book Club for Adults & Educators	pg. 12
29th	Book Club for Adults & Educators	pg. 12

FEBRUARY

1st	IAA Foundation Scholarship Due	pg. 11
6th	Book Club for Adults & Educators	pg. 12
15th	Agricultural Scholarship Program Due	pg. 1
21st	Ronald McDonald House Food Check Out Day	pg. 4

MARCH 2019

9th	CCFB Foundation's "Farming for Our Future" Fun/Raiser	pg. 3
9th & 10th	Beginning Beekeeping Course	pg. 11

APRIL 2019

6th & 7th	Advanced Beekeeping Course	pg. 11
-----------	----------------------------	--------

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to www.cookcfb.org, or contact the office at 708-354-3276.

You can register for most programs using the member service center at www.cookcfb.org.

2019 Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 21st Annual "Farm and Food" Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue his/her higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided eight scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$3,000 each.

The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award a scholarship (s) to college students pursuing agricultural related fields of study. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to a High School Senior in an approved FFA Program.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 15, 2019. Late applications will not be considered.
- All applicants must be members or dependents

of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year. (With the exception of the Conserv FS FFA Award for area high school FFA students)

- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.
- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agricultural related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food, fuel or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or print an application out from our website at cookcfb.org/foundation/scholarships.

What is an Agricultural Career? Here are a few examples and there are so many more!



Forestry Management



Large Animal Veterinarian



Nutritionist

Question of the month:

What is the name of the teacher from local Westchester Middle School that was one of the finalists for the 2018 Ag in the Classroom teacher of the year?

☆Bonus☆:

What page of this publication is CCFB mascot Corny Calvin "hanging out" on this month?

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# and phone number)**

November winner is **John Stromski**

How many Acres of Industrial Hemp is planted worldwide?

Answer: 300,000 acres

Community Urban Garden Grant Program



Our Community Urban Garden Grant Program is looking to award 6 gardens in 2019! Applications are available January 3, 2019. All community based urban gardens in Cook County are encouraged to apply. Grant details and applications will be available on our website January 3rd at: <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events/>; by emailing Debbie at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or by calling 708-354-3276.



From our family to yours the Cook County Farm Bureau would like to wish you a warm and safe Holiday!

Holiday office Hours:

In observance of Christmas and New Year's, we will be closed on Monday, December 24th, Tuesday December 25th, Monday, December 31st and Tuesday January 1st.

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate



Gerry Kopping, Cook County Farmer

“How do farmers care for their animals in the winter?”

Answered by Gerry Kopping, Cook County Farmer

In the winter, our barns are kept at about 40 degrees. When a barn is colder and drier it often means animals will stay healthier because fewer germs will spread in that type of environment. If a barn becomes warmer with moisture and humidity which is often dictated by the air temperature this tends to allow germs to breed. A colder, drier barn can be compensated for with the fact that

family legacy going for years to come.

Kopping Farms has grown to include the home farm and another 400-acres of leased land for hay, corn and soybeans.

Have a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.

all animals have a tendency to keep themselves warm through the generation of body heat.

We provide around the clock care for the horses, which are boarded on our farm and owned by people who do not have the property to raise horses themselves. And animal care doesn't stop just because its winter.

For our family, farming has been a labor of love for generations. Our hope is to keep our

Winter Porch Planters a Big Hit

Cook County Farm Bureau® members and guests gathered on Sat., November 17th to make Winter Porch Planters at West End Florist & Garden Center in Evanston. Thank you to our members and guests who participated, our

volunteers who helped, and to Elizabeth Hoffman, Co-Owner and General Manager of West End Florist & Garden Center, a fourth-generation family business and a long-standing farming member of the Cook County Farm Bureau!



Elizabeth Hoffman, Co-owner & General manager of West End, demonstrates how to quickly turn a Fall Pot into a Winter Pot with garden shears, evergreens and creativity.



Rebecca Bonoma proudly presents her Porch Pot creation.



Elizabeth helps member Barbara Silva carry out her Porch Pot masterpiece.



Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Awards Food Science Grants

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® awarded of up to \$300 each to the following middle and high schools who are committed to teaching their students about the use of locally grown foods including meats, dairy products and specialty crops.

Rolling Meadows High School - The grant will enable students to produce a sustainable farm-to-table meal during their study of agriculture. With the addition of a school greenhouse, students will study the process of planting through harvesting items for their meal.

Westchester Middle School - Middle school students will explore the topic of dairy and beef cattle as part of their study of agriculture's link to food and byproducts. A dairy farmer will address the class as part of the unit and students will prepare recipes using beef and dairy.

Komarek School, North Riverside - Family and Consumer Science 7th grade students are conducting a weekly unit on the agriculture

origin of Thanksgiving foods as a partnership with their 1st grade buddies. AITC Learning Kits including Wheat Kit, Apple Kit and corn supplies are supplementing this 6-week unit of study.

East Leyden High School - Food Chemistry students will study seed structure and compare and contrast results of seed development using hydroponics vs. soil-based planting. A final project will be to use the plants grown in a recipe and compare with a store-bought version. The focus will be on greens and salsas for spring lab.

Eisenhower Coop - This developmental learning program will teach students to prepare recipes that are outlined in a weekly newsletter. Students will learn how to follow a recipe and where the origins of many ingredients come from on the farm. AITC materials including Ag Mags and workshop materials will assist in the explanation of ag connections to recipes.

Gracias THANK YOU Gratiifed
The Gratitude Box

Each month, there are people that go out of their way to lend a hand to help with our cause in many ways, big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- Beth Christian, past Cook County Farm Bureau Board member, for sending us various smoked sausages and beef from South Dakota.
- Tony Palumbo, Country Financial Rep, for celebrating 34 years of quality service to Farm Bureau members and Country Financial Rep Bill Schutz on reaching the 33 year mark in his career!
- The Building and Zoning Department of Cook County for supporting Solar energy projects and congratulations on receiving for Cook County a SolSmart Community Bronze designation and development of solar energy.
- Melissa Corlett, teacher at Komarek School in North Riverside, for sharing her Food Science Grant lessons with us and doing the amazing work combining 1st and 7th grade learners. A special thanks for including Senator Lightford in your pumpkin pie lesson.
- Tim Stuenkel for hauling a load of soybean plants, corn in the husks and bins of corn/soybean seeds for use with Ag in the Classroom for the upcoming school year.
- Mike Rauch for giving staff member Katie Smith a combine ride.
- Florence Westerveld, member for more than 48 years, for saying such nice things about Farm Bureau news, articles and photos.
- The many volunteer Master Gardeners who faithfully managed the help desk throughout the last growing season in the Farm Bureau office...you helped out so many members this year!
- The generous members who contributed funds to the CCFB Foundation throughout the year, allowing the Foundation to support thousands of youth, teachers, college students, parents and leaders in agriculture education and training.
- The many Voting members and Associate members who have decided to renew their membership with the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Recognition Appreciative Gratitude

Thanks Appreciative Gratitude

Gracias THANK YOU Gratiifed

Co-Operator
published monthly
Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056
(e-mail) ccfb@cookcfb.org (website) www.cookcfb.org
USPS No 132180 Periodical Postage Paid at LaGrange, IL 60525 & additional mailing office

Editor Bob Rohrer	Copy Analyst Ashley Christensen	Copy Development CCFB Office Staff
-----------------------------	---	--

Officers & Directors
Janet McCabe, President
Michael Rauch, Vice President
Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer

Dan Biernacki	James Bloomstrand	Roger Freeman
Patrick Horcher	Gerald Kopping	Tim Stuenkel
Mark Yunker	James Gutzmer	

Farm Bureau Manager
Bob Rohrer

Office Staff

Melanie Paffumi	Bona Heinsohn	Katie Smith
Juanita Ramos	Bob Heine	Debbie Voltz
Diane Merrion	Kelli McSherry	Jill Drover

Affiliated Companies
Jeff Orman Insurance Agency Manager, South Holland
Victoria Nygren..... Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago North
Marc Rogala Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago South
Jack Smith Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northwest
Sharon Stemke ... Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northeast
Cary Tate Insurance Agency Manager, Orland Park
John Tuttle General Manager, Conserve FS
Postmaster - Mail Form 3579 to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
"Co-Operator" (USPS No 132180) is published monthly as a membership publication for \$2.50 per year to members as a part of their annual membership dues by Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Periodical postage paid at LaGrange, IL and additional mailing office. Postmaster: send address changes to the Co-Operator, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.

The "Co-Operator", the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, is available to members through mail delivery, email, or by viewing online at www.cookcfb.org. Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to juanita@cookcfb.org with the subject: E-Cooperator.



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Dihydrogen Monoxide”

I have read some disturbing information about dihydrogen monoxide, also known as “hydroxylic acid”. It is accelerating corrosion and causing suffocation on a global scale. The product, used frequently in industrial and chemical processes, has been found in many local city water pipes. It can cause severe burns and is purported to contribute to the greenhouse effect. Yikes! Ban it, regulate it, label it!

That’s my brief use of the parody on “WATER” that was made famous in the 1980s and 90s based on the public’s lack of scientific knowledge and fear-mongering. The cries for banning, regulating and labeling the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide seemed silly then. Today, with fear mongering at historic levels and with calls to label everything, maybe not so silly now.

After writing last month’s column on the importance of soil as a basic ingredient for agriculture in the “Older than Dirt” column (thanks to the many of you who agreed that I am older than dirt), I started thinking about another important farm ingredient, WATER.

Everyone learns the importance of water and the water cycle in grade school (that’s where I also learned about global cooling). However, I confess that I take water for granted each day.

It always is there when I turn on the faucet, however thinking a bit broader...

- All known forms of life on Earth require WATER to live (including politicians)
- WATER provides plant growth which generates oxygen (daily breath is useful)
- WATER is crucial to the world economy, including power generation, transportation, entertainment, and most definitely agriculture (and trout)
- WATER is required for most food processing (Pringles and jambalaya!)
- WATER enhances cleanliness for washing clothes (Hot showers may be the greatest invention of mankind...right before the invention of ice cubes)
- WATER is used for fire extinction (crucial right now with wildfires in California)
- WATER is important in many sports, like swimming, sailing, surfing, hockey, kayaking, water polo (and slip-n-slides)
- WATER brings life and health to living organisms in millions of shapes and sizes (mosquitoes?)
- WATER provides many political activities (save the whales)
- WATER provides great environmental beauty (Mrs. Rohrer says WATERfalls)

Obviously, if you don’t have dihydrogen monoxide, you can’t farm. When you think of farming meccas, do you ever think of the Sahara Desert, Gobi Desert, Mojave Desert, Kalahari Desert, Arabian Desert and don’t forget Antarctica (plenty of WATER there, I guess).

WATER is the “difference maker” as an important basic ingredient for agriculture. WATER was life-and-death for livestock growing up on the Rohrer family farm. Winters were so difficult with animals on pasture. I remember the Farmer sending me out on many subzero days in my youth to deal with frozen WATER systems, broken pipes and iced over WATER tanks. I couldn’t feel my fingers, toes, ears, nose or face cheeks but the Farmer would remind me that the livestock’s comfort needed to come before my own.

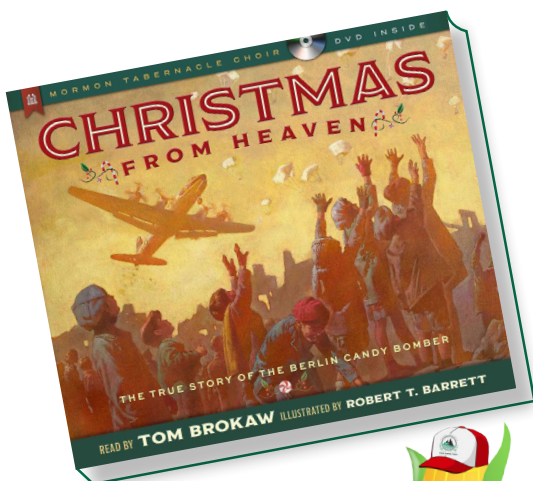
And we silly humans try to control this powerful force known as WATER. We manage WATER up to a point with our dams and irrigation and sump pumps and plumbing and purification systems, but WATER eventually has its way. Droughts leave plants withering. Floods destroy crops quicker. Hail wipes out acres in a matter of minutes. Dams and levees break. Basements flood. Pipes freeze and break. WATER wins!

I read that the Illinois River will be closed to traffic in 2020 to repair a number of the lock and dam systems that are long overdue. The river of moving WATER is used to transport agricultural goods from Illinois to the world as well as used to bring commodities and bulk materials from throughout the world to the Chicagoland area. Do we consider the importance of WATER for agricultural transportation and how it impacts us locally?

One does not just flip a switch or turn a knob to shut off a river for repairs, right?

Enough WATER thought ... now I will make a trip to the bathroom.

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.



Whether it’s 1948 or 2018 we are all inspired by stories of giving and hope which is exactly what Christmas from Heaven is all about. Christmas from Heaven is the story of Gail Halvorsen, a young pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was assigned as a cargo pilot to the Berlin Airlift, in which U.S. forces flew much-needed supplies into a Soviet-blockaded Berlin.

As he performed his duties, Lt. Halvorsen began to notice German children gathered by the fences of Tempelhof Air Base. Knowing that they had very little, he one day offered them some chewing gum. From that small act, an idea sprang: He would bomb Berlin with candy. Fashioning small parachutes, he and his crew sent them floating down as they approached the Berlin airport, wiggling the wings of their C-54 as a signal to the children that their anticipated cargo would soon arrive. Lt. Halvorsen became known by hundreds, if not thousands, of children in Berlin as Uncle Wiggly Wings or The Candy Bomber.

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 FROM 6-11 PM
3RD ANNUAL FARMING FOR OUR FUTURE FUN RAISER
CHICAGO GAELIC PARK IN OAK FOREST
FEATURING DUELING PIANOS, FOOD, BEVERAGE AND MORE!

Tickets on sale now!
\$60/person
\$75/person (after 2/15/19)

708.354.3276
ccfb@cookcfb.org
for details

Recipe of the Month: Easy Fantastic Rolls

- 2 packages yeast
- ¾ c water at 100-110° F
- 4 ½ c all-purpose, unbleached flour
- ½ c fresh local honey
- 1 ½ t salt
- 2 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 stick butter
- Sesame seeds (optional)

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Add 2 cups of flour, then add honey, salt, eggs, and butter. Mix well before adding remaining 2 ½ cups flour. Stir until smooth. Dough will be soft, but it is not necessary to knead. Cover with plastic wrap and allow to rise to 80-85 degrees (at least 2 hours). Pinch off approximately 2-inch pieces of dough and shape into smooth balls tucking edges together. Place smooth side up on greased pan, about 1 inch apart. Brush tops with melted butter and sprinkle with sesame seeds if desired. Allow to rise again until doubled (about 2 hours). Pre-heat oven to 425° and bake for 10-12 minutes. If you are using a conventional oven, bake at 350° for 9 minutes turning if necessary. Makes about 2 dozen.

Recipe reprinted with permission from member Marcia Kuchta, found in our 2018 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes

You can submit your recipes for the 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure by mailing to the Farm Bureau or to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Your South Holland Agency



Jeff Orman
 Agency Manager
 708-560-7777



Andrew Carrell
 South Holland
 708-596-3999



Jim Verduin
 South Holland
 708-596-0008



Randall Cox
 Matteson
 708-679-1870



Elliot Day
 Matteson
 708-679-1870



Gary Molenhouse
 Matteson
 708-679-1870



Pat Hickey
 Worth
 708-361-4081



Josh Van Namen
 Worth
 708-361-3925



Jim Pathemore
 Orland Park
 708-745-5151



Tim Perchinski
 Steger
 708-754-7300



Bob Smith
 Homewood
 708-798-4844



Paul Turay
 Mokena
 708-478-0423



John VanGennep
 Mokena
 708-478-5500



Bob Deenik
 Lansing
 708-474-5600



Tim Van Zuidam
 St. John, IN
 219-365-1781



Mike Cerf
 Oak Forest
 708-560-7777



Charmaine Toney-Adkins
 Oak Forest
 708-381-4010



Mel Flowers
 Oak Forest
 708-560-9078

Auto, home and business insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. Fixed annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.

Helping you protect what matters most

Help us Celebrate Food Checkout Day by Partnering with us to Support Ronald McDonald House Charities®

With Food Checkout Day scheduled for February 21, 2019, Farm Bureau families and partners have joined together to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when a child is ill. Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow.

Through YOUR support we've been able to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is not a concern of theirs during these times. Help us to collect non-perishable food, money, and pop tabs. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

Cook County Farm Bureau®
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, Illinois 60525
708-354-3276

Since our partnership began in the early 2000s, we've been able to donate almost \$130,000 to the five area Ronald McDonald Houses®. Due to your efforts, Ronald McDonald Houses® remain open to all families regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Please partner with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana in support of Food Checkout Day. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.

Sponsorship Information for Food Checkout Day 2019

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious foods that local farmers grow. Through our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, supporters are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill.

Please consider partnering with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.

Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

Veggies Sponsor

Includes advance promotions, event signage, media, and social media inclusion.
\$500

Sweet Corn Sponsor

Includes promotion on cart signs at Chicago and Oak Lawn grocery store events, signage, media, and social media inclusion.
\$250

Grains Sponsor

Includes event signage, media, and social media inclusion.
\$150

FOOD CHECKOUT DAY SPONSORSHIP 2019

\$500 Veggie Sponsor \$250 Sweet Corn Sponsor \$150 Grains Sponsor
 Other amount (list amount here) \$ _____

Company/ Individual Name _____

Written as you wish it to appear in publications or on signage

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If affiliated with a Country Financial Agency, please indicate _____

Please make checks payable to: Cook County Farm Bureau®. All proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

For more information contact Bona Heinsohn at the Cook County Farm Bureau® at 708-354-3276 or bona@cookcfb.org.

Pig Fun Facts!

- By 4900 BC, pigs were domesticated in China. By 1500 BC, they were being raised in Europe.
- The explorer, Hernando De Soto, landed in Tampa Bay, Florida with America's first 13 pigs in 1539.
- Within three years, De Soto's herd of pigs grew to over 700. Some of De Soto's pigs ran away becoming wild pigs, the ancestors of today's feral pigs or razorbacks.
- Most pigs are raised indoors to keep them safe from extreme weather conditions.
- There are about 2 billion pigs on Earth! Pigs live on every continent except for Antarctica.
- Pigs cannot sweat, so farmers use fans and sprinklers to help keep them cool.
- Pig by-products are used for over 500 different items, including many medicines.
- A pig is one of the few animals that will not overeat.
- Adult pigs can run 11 miles per hour!
- Pigs drink up to 14 gallons of water every day.
- Pigs have a tremendous sense of smell. The tip of their snout is connected to muscle that gives it strength and flexibility to root in the ground.
- A pig's tongue contains 15,000 taste buds. By comparison, the human tongue has only 9,000 taste buds.
- By the time a pig is four to six months old, it weighs about 280 pounds.



Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...

Mark Yunker



- Mark Yunker has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2011.
- He and his wife, Heidi grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and straw in the Orland Park, Homer Glen & Frankfort area.
- Yunker is on the Ag literacy team.
- Yunker and his wife, Heidi, have two adult children, Kristen and Doug.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

The Farm Week Newspaper

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE CCFB?

I think it's a good organization that helps stick up for the farmers, a good group of people to be a part of.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?

Fresh hay in the barn

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

It's a good organization and we need all the support we can get to teach others about farmers and agriculture.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Baling hay as a youth.

IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE ?

A grain farmer

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY?

Popcorn

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

A dog (does that count)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Sweetcorn or Ham

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

Allis Chalmers D17

Family Food Bytes

TROUBLE WITH FOOD STAMPS AT FARMERS MARKETS (NPR's The Salt) – A change in this year's federal contracts has left some farmers market operators nervous. The company that has long provided the technology that allows local farmers markets to accept SNAP benefits says it is pulling out of the business, jeopardizing recipients' access to fresh food.

SAVING CROPS OR WAGING WAR? (NPR's The Salt) – The Pentagon is working with researchers across the U.S. to find a new way to protect crops from adverse weather events and diseases by infecting insects with genetically modified viruses and allowing them to infect plants. Researchers say their work could help corn survive a drought; critics say the plan sounds a lot like biological warfare research.

CALIFORNIA FIRM TO LAUNCH AUTONOMOUS GREENHOUSE (FarmWeek)- A California – based robotics company plans to develop a fully autonomous greenhouse, using software robots to replace human workers, according to Technology Review. Startup company Iron Ox will open an 8,000 square -foot hydroponic facility in San Carlos and grow leafy greens. The anticipated harvest will be 26,000 heads annually. Robotic arms and movers will pluck plants from hydroponic trays, transferring them to new trays as they grow. Large mechanical movers will carry 800 pound water-filled trays.

AG DAY ESSAY CONTEST (FarmWeek) – "Food for Life. How Does Our Nation Lead the Way?" is the name of the theme of the Agriculture Council of America's 2019 Ag Day Essay Contest. The national competition involves written and video essays. Open to students enrolled in grades nine through 12, contestants must be U.S. citizens and attend school in the U.S. Essays must be submitted by January 31. A complete list of rules and regulations may be found at agday.org/essay-contest. The video and written essay winners will receive \$1,000.

NESTLE TAKES PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT (FarmWeek) - Nestle, the world's largest food company, has more than 2000 brands and operates in 189 countries. The company has enacted a responsible sourcing standards program and makes public commitments as it seeks to simplify ingredient lists, partner to promote healthy food environments, improve worker conditions and help assess the needs of farmers. In the U.S., Nestle conducts on – farm assessments that cover animal care, soil erosion and water quality.



NEW FACT BOOK (AFBF) - the American Farm Bureau Federation Foundation for Agriculture has developed a new 12 – page, full – color Food and Farm Facts Junior edition for kindergarten through third grade students. The purpose of the booklet is to explain farming to young learners. Questions include "does chocolate milk come from brown cows?" and "how do farmers use and care for their land?". The new publication costs three dollars each or two dollars for an order of 25 or more copies. To order, go to bit.ly/FFFJR18

About Family Food Bytes: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally, and globally.

Want a free movie ticket?

Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer or professional member. If they join, you will receive a free movie ticket! Call our office at 708-354-3276 to let us know that you referred a member.



Individuals can join the Cook County Farm Bureau by going to www.cookcfb.org and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.

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

Farmers Encouraged to Think Innovatively, Explore Resources



Arthur L. Neal, Jr. currently serves as the Deputy Administrator of the Transportation and Marketing (TM) Program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in Washington, DC

By Kay Shipman, FarmWeek

Arthur Neal Jr. oversees multimillion-dollar grant programs through USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and its weekly farmers' market in Washington, D.C. He offered concrete examples to help farmers navigate during the Illinois Farm Bureau Local and Regional Food Conference in Bloomington held in November.

"We (USDA) want to be sure farmers are in the greatest position to take advantage of the (local foods) market," said Neal, deputy administrator of AMS transportation and marketing program.

Neal, who grew up on a Louisiana soybean and cotton farm, acknowledged USDA has many resources and programs, but is waiting for passage of a farm bill. He advised farmers and others interested in applying for USDA grants or other resources to plan

and prepare.

"You can't learn an effective (business) model based on a dream," Neal said. "You have to put pen to paper, (...and) look at resources and partners."

Neal encouraged farmers to collect and record business information, such as new products, foot traffic and sales. Grant applicants can also include funding for data gathering in their projected funding needs, he added. In fact, USDA wants to gather more data "to communicate what we do in local food," Neal said.

On a smaller scale, Neal shared details of changes made to USDA's farmers' market that grew its vendors from 12 to 30, increased sales from \$150,000 to \$630,000 and transformed into a weekly destination at a federal office complex, attracting shoppers from many blocks and the Metro.

"Don't be afraid to innovate," Neal urged farmers. "Can you do more with what you have?"

For example, a farmers' market food vendor became partners with vendor farmers to add their products to pizza sold at the farmers' market. The venture has become so successful, the pizza vendor is opening a food court with other farmers' market vendors.

Another farmer vendor wasn't selling his frozen meat so Neal encouraged him to try serving product samples, and the farmer sold out at the next market. "Do I smell anything?" Neal said of appealing to consumers' senses. "Learn how to engage your customers."

While all the farmers' market vendors do well and some do extremely well, farmers' markets may not be the right model for every farmer, Neal noted.



The Winter issue of Illinois Farm Bureau Partners magazine should have arrived in your mailbox. Be sure to check out the various farm feel-good articles on great places to see in Illinois, local food facts, recipes, nutritional information, gardening tips, travel information, and the special Cook County Farm Bureau Page. More information, articles, and past issues are available at www.ilfbpartners.com.



Gwen Shaw
Financial Representative

Considering a new career?

As a COUNTRY Financial® representative, you can make a difference in your community by helping customers achieve financial security. If you are one part analytical, one part creative and one part compassionate, let's get together!



Robert Saunders
Agency Sales Recruiter – Northern Illinois & Chicagoland
(309) 821-5226
Want to book some time for us to talk?
Go to <https://calendly.com/rob-at-country>

0518-585HO



Your Chicago South Agency

6438 Joliet Road | Countryside, IL 60525 | 708-352-5555



Marc Rogala
708-352-5555
Agency Manager



Robert Sweiss
773-498-7339
6415 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60638



Theo Leonard
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



Gwen Shaw
773-487-0919
820 E. 87th Street, Ste 212
Chicago, IL 60619



Silver Castillo
773-284-9000
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Leo Maldonado
773-254-5810
5716 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60629



Martha Dominguez
773-254-5810
3458 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608



Kirk Gregory
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



David DeSantiago
773-254-5810
5716 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60629



David Jara
773-284-9000
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Mike Sheahan
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



Steve Phillips
312-583-1416
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605



Kandi Keyes-Winford
773-487-0918
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



Alonzo Nevarez
773-284-9000
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Ed Beavers
312-588-1404
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605



Tony Munno
708-352-5555
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525



Nick Zegar
708-352-5555
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525



Edgar DeLeon
773-498-1184
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Daniel Jemison
708-937-0023
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525



Avangelina Cazares
773-424-1036
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Joseph Soto
773-420-0061
3458 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608



Kirk Gregory, Jr.
773-619-0649
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605



Robert Jones
312-846-7573
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605

1018-522HO



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: Not A Dream By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

As the end of the year approached, it was time to get all of those last-minute tune-ups and check-ups which included one very interesting conversation

about agriculture. As I endured a procedure of sorts and got prepped by a wonderful nurse, doctor and anesthesiologist, there was a series of questions I had to answer before I got put “under”.

“What is your name?
What is your birthdate?
Why are you here?”

I passed those questions with flying colors. Then the last question, “What do you do?” I hate that question as it’s not something that has a one-word answer like I’m a vet, a business analyst, lawyer, teacher, chef, accountant, dietitian, and so on.

With three sets of eyes on me I say, “I’m an agriculture educator with the Farm Bureau and I teach about agriculture in Illinois to children and adults.”

Well! That opened a floodgate with the nurse who goes on to express her excitement about my profession and tells me she was raised on a farm and her family grew corn and soybeans, and still

has beef cattle.

Then the anesthesiologist, who is equally engaged with the topic, tells me that his daughter wants to do this exact type of job and completed an internship last summer in a similar role. He couldn’t believe that a program called Agriculture in the Classroom existed and wanted to know more. At the end of our 5-minute discussion I promised him I’d give him a business card to give to his daughter.

Next thing I know they’re waking me up and checking all of my vitals and it’s over. I lay there thinking to myself, “Did that conversation really take place or did I just dream this while I was out?” Several minutes later the nurse is talking to me and asks if I had that business card. Nope, not a dream.

As the year comes to a close, I can’t help but be thankful for the forces that brought me to my mission to share agriculture with others, even in the operating room. {Sorry Bob, I didn’t ask them to become members, but I sure hope they consider joining the farm bureau.}

I wish you all a holiday season surrounded with those you love and a happy, healthy New Year.

Diane can be reached at aitic@cookcfb.org.



The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program and the IAA Foundation, along with the Illinois Farm Bureau®, have released the names of the 2018-2019 Teacher Grant Winners. Recipients from Cook County include teacher from:

- Nathan Hale School
- Booth Tarkington Elementary
- Chicago West Side Christian Eric Elementary
- Evanston Township High School
- Komarek School
- Rolling Meadows High School
- St. John Brebeuf

The mission of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program is to bring accurate and authentic agricultural information to the students in grades PreK-12 across Illinois. “Each year our teacher grant program is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum. Additionally, our book grant winners are ready to jump into units of study highlighting agriculture,” said Kevin Daugherty, education director, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

Susan Moore, director of the IAA Foundation added, “Supporting teachers through these grants is a meaningful way for the IAA Foundation to fulfill our mission to support education and the future of agriculture. We take great pride in providing resources so teachers can continue innovative techniques to engage and impact students.”

Westchester Middle School Teacher Recognized



The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program is pleased to announce its 2018 Teacher of the Year, Brent Davis, of PORTA-Petersburg Elementary School 2nd Grade Teacher, Menard County, Illinois. Davis will receive a plaque and trip to the 2019 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. He will also be the Illinois nominee for the National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award.

Cook County Farm Bureau is proud to announce Cathy Malloy, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Westchester Middle School as a finalist for Teacher of the Year. Ms. Malloy started her career

never thinking Ag in the Classroom would be a part of her future or that her calling would be to become a teacher.

She graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences and spent twenty years in the industry before bringing her knowledge and experiences to the classroom which was initially at the high school level.

After a few years, an amazing opportunity came along to teach at the middle school level. Within the first few months of school she was introduced to the Cook County Farm Bureau and as they say, history was made. Her transition came about after attending a Summer Ag Institute hosted by our Foundation during which she began rewriting her curriculum by adding agricultural units to each grade by focusing on food and its origin.

Cathy has received many state and county grants that have enabled her to connect agriculture to social studies, science, food science and systems into her classroom studies. A final piece to connect her resourcefulness is her participation in the Adopt A Classroom program offered through IAITC where she corresponds with an Illinois farmer to address her students’ curiosity about how their food travels from the farm to their home near Chicago.

Congratulations to Cathy Malloy, our Teacher of the Year finalist!



Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Ms. Laura Mosher invited our Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program back to John Hersey High School to educate her students on using our resources for their Preschool Practicum. During our mini-workshop, over 100 students learned about Illinois ag commodities including wheat, corn, soybeans and pumpkins, followed by a hands-on project using AITC materials. “How could we be 17 years old and not know about this stuff?” exclaimed one student while learning that all corn growing in farm fields is not sweet corn. We look forward each year to our visit and hope to see some of these future teachers teaching their students about Illinois agriculture.

Opportunities for Teachers in 2019

- School Food Drive/Community Service benefiting the Ronald McDonald Charities runs in mid-January.
- Teacher/Adult Book Club focused on food security through reading and discussion (see flyer in this issue)
- “Spring” Ag in the Classroom Professional Development Workshop – Date coming soon!
- New grant opportunities will be announced in January
- Ag Days for 3rd Grade Classrooms are 3/21/19 (Palos Children’s Farm) and 4/17/19 (Wagner Farm); registration ongoing until full.
- Summer Intern – Visit <https://cookcfb.org/foundation/internships> to apply.
- Children’s Bookmark Design Contest – Starts April 1st

Follow our website for details at <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources> or feel free to contact Ag Literacy for more information on all programs at aitc@cookcfb.org.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

Join the Cook County Farm Bureau® For our annual School Food Drive
Jan 28-Feb 5, 2019



Our focus this year will be to donate food and supplies to fill the needs of the Ronald McDonald® House pantries and their Mobile Care Units. Schools can sign up by emailing us at aitc2@cookcfb.org.

DROP OFF DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2019
AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE® NEAR ADVOCATE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
4410 W 93RD STREET, OAK LAWN, IL 60493
3:00-5:00 P.M. (PICK UP AVAILABLE IF NEEDED)

CONTACT JILL OR DIANE AT 708-354-3276
OR [AITC2@COOKCFB.ORG](mailto:aitc2@cookcfb.org)

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

December is a month typically filled with friends, family, and food. This December also finds reason for a special celebration with the 200th birthday of Illinois. We wanted to take a flashback to some sweet treats that had their beginnings in Illinois and in our county right here in Chicago. As you reach for a gift this month, you may find a package of Pixies or Peppermints for that special someone, so sit back and enjoy a few fun facts associated with them. Happy Holidays to our Family Adventure readers and good luck on the last word search of the year!!



The Palmer House Brownie



Many experts agree that the first presentation of the brownie as we know it today came about in 1893 at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago's Loop. And there's a lot more history involved than just the fact of a long-ago recipe being developed in the city. Brownies came into being because socialite and philanthropist Bertha Palmer was head of the Board of Lady Managers for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. She directed Palmer House pastry chefs to come up with a recipe for a dessert that would be easy to transport in boxed lunches at the Women's Pavilion.



The desserts were a hit, but they weren't called brownies. The first mentions of brownies in American cookbooks don't come until several years later. But the dessert she had created was a part of one of the most important events in Chicago history, the Columbian Exposition, held to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World, and to showcase Chicago's recovery from the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. It's still being made, from the same 1893 recipe, at the hotel now known as Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel, one of the grande dames of the city's hospitality industry.

Source: www.forbes.com/sites/terricolby/2018/08/31/taste-the-palmer-house-brownies-for-a-bit-of-chicago-history

Brach's Candy

In 1904, Emil J. Brach opened his "Palace of Sweets" at North Avenue and Towne Street in Chicago. The output of this candy factory grew quickly, producing more than 25 tons a week by 1911 and 1,000 tons a week by 1918. In 1922, the company built a large new plant on the city's West Side; this facility, the largest candy factory in the United States, soon employed hundreds of men and women. Brach's annual sales grew from about \$8 million in 1925 to \$22 million in 1945 and \$62 million in 1961. In 2007, the company was sold to the Farley's & Sathers Candy Company, which in turn merged with the Ferrara Pan Candy Company in 2012 to form the Ferrara Candy Company.



Source: www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/2576.html

Lemonhead



The company was started in 1908, and Nello Ferrara took it over from his father decades ago. The company, which also makes Red Hots and Boston Baked Beans, produces a million pounds of candy a day. Sal Ferrara's grandfather, the original Salvatore Ferrara, founded the business in 1908 on Taylor Street selling the candy-coated almonds known as "confetti" that symbolize good luck at Italian weddings. Nello Ferrara created spicy-hot Atomic FireBalls after serving in Occupied Japan in the post-atom bomb era. He developed Lemonheads in 1962, saying he got the idea after his son was born with a head shaped like a lemon.

"When my father was born, my grandfather always said he was too stubborn to come out on his own," Alana Ferrara said. "They had to use forceps, and he said, 'My son's head looks like a lemon.'"

"He always claimed that when I was born, that I came out of my mother sideways," the younger Mr. Ferrara said, "and my head was shaped like a lemon."

The Atomic FireBall was invented after Nello Ferrara served in Japan after World War II.

Source: www.nytimes.com/2012/02/10/business/nello-ferrara-creator-of-lemonheads-candy

Chicago Origins: 1920



Fannie May Confections Brands, Inc. began as a single candy shop in 1920. H. Teller Archibald and his wife Mildred Archibald opened Fannie May on Chicago's North LaSalle Street, in the heart of the city's central business district, the Loop.

Funding for the enterprise evidently came from Mrs. Archibald's family, and the business was very soon a Chicago success. Chicago had a thriving candy industry, which had taken off after the Columbian Exposition in 1893. While most candy makers of that era were small, family-run businesses, new technology introduced in the early 1900s made larger enterprises possible. New equipment enabled manufacturers to mass-produce candies of uniform dimensions and quality. Around the turn of the century, Chicago was home to many large-scale candy companies, such as E. J. Brach & Sons, Wrigley's Gum, Ferrara Pan Candy, and Mars. Cracker Jacks originated in Chicago, as did Frango Mints, the delicacy sold at Marshall Field's department stores. According to Joel Glenn Brenner, author of *The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars*, the Archibalds chose Fannie May as the name of their shop to give it a consciously old-fashioned ring.

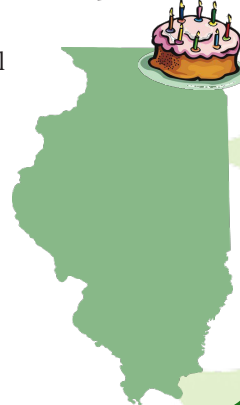
In 1946, just after World War II, Fannie May created its most well-known candy to date, the Pixie, by hand-pouring caramel over nuts and then placing them on a conveyor belt to be drenched in chocolate. Today, that combination of caramel and crunchy pecans covered in chocolate is one of the company's best sellers. Throughout the years Fannie May has developed candies that often become the center of many family and holiday traditions.



Source: www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/31/Fannie-May-Confections-Brands-Inc.html

How well do you know your state?
See if you can identify the state symbols listed

- Bird Capital
- Fruit Soil
- Flower Tree
- Insect Pie
- Snack
- Prairie Grass



What kind of pine has the sharpest needles?

A Porcupine!

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2018 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!

December Word Search

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

Bertha Palmer

Big Blue Stem

Butterfly

Chicago

Cardinal

Drummer

Goldrush Apple

Monarch

Peppermint

Pixie

Popcorn

Pumpkin

Red Hots

Springfield

Violet

White Oak

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix

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

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Last month's word search winner is....

Charlene Dorsey

Congratulations



Farm Creates Country-Style Christmas

I love this time of year. My infatuation with the holiday season seems fitting for a Christmas Eve baby who literally traveled home from the hospital in a Christmas stocking. I'm so in love with the Christmas season that my husband and I decorated a "wedding tree" at our late-summer reception in the farm shop: a 12-foot scotch pine under which guests placed presents – the tree itself was a gift from the local Christmas tree farm.

I have more Christmas tunes than country songs in my playlist. I own a half dozen full-size artificial trees (and a few little ones). And I'm one of those who decorates before Thanksgiving. I figure that if I can decorate with pumpkins for six weeks or more, then the greenery deserves as much time out of the box. To back my decision, experts in the field of psychology say that decorating for Christmas early makes some people happier, spiking feel-good hormones. I'll sacrifice a solar spotlight to illuminate that message of glad tidings.

Regardless of when I pull out the ceramic light-up barns, the farm intertwines with our holiday. I'm a sucker for any Christmas decorations with farm influences, such as wrapping paper dotted with chickens wearing Santa hats and wooden trees made of reclaimed barn board. I use a rusty old hog feed pan as a table centerpiece filled with pine cones from the farm windbreak. A string of corn cob lights and a collection of tractor ornaments adorn the tree in our bedroom. Meanwhile, the old runner sled on display outside the front door reminds me of Grandpa's hill in the cattle pasture.

The Christmas music starts in our home after Halloween or at the end of harvest, whichever comes first. That mega farm task otherwise siphons any pleasure of celebrating the season. It yields only guilty joy to crank the holiday tunes while knowing the crops are still out there. For some evidence of that, reminisce about 2009 and cue Blue Christmas when you do. That year's dreadfully late corn harvest extended beyond Christmas for most of us in farm country.

With a thick black line through "Harvest 2018" on the done list, I stream the Christmas tunes above the relentless blare of the bin fan outside. We wrap up production records, pay the year's final bills, plan the farm holiday party and enjoy some downtime, outside of a few cattle and chicken chores.

May you celebrate a blessed Christmas season filled with joyful moments.

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

From the Farm Desk

TPP DONE DEAL (Wall Street Journal) – The Trans Pacific Partnership – a trade pact between 11 Pacific Rim nations – will take effect this year after Australia became the sixth country to ratify it this week. The deal is the largest free-trade agreement completed in Asia and could be the most important trade agreement reached in more than two decades. Last year, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement, saying it would disadvantage U.S. workers.

WINTER WEATHER FORECAST UP IN THE AIR; EL NINO EXPECTED TO BE A KEY FACTOR (FarmWeekNow) – El Nino patterns typically mean milder winter conditions in Illinois. For those who follow the Old Farmers' Almanac, it predicts a wet season. Its revised forecast calls for higher levels of snowfall with biting cold temperatures this winter. But due to its prediction of above-average temperatures, it also predicts below-normal snowfall in some areas that normally get snow.

The Farmers' Almanac's forecast calls for higher levels of snowfall with biting cold temperatures this winter. (Illinois Farm Bureau file photo)



ILLINOIS SET TO BECOME SOLAR LEADER (Digital Journal) – Illinois is experiencing a boom in solar energy projects stemming from the state's Future Energy Jobs Act, a 2016 law that sets a target of getting 25 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2025. At the end of the second quarter of 2018, Illinois ranked 34th, up from 43rd in 2017 in solar capacity and the state is projected to add 1,857 megawatts of solar capacity over the next five years – an increase of 1,898 percent over what it has today.

IL DAIRY FARMERS FEELING THE PINCH (Illinois News Network) – Illinois dairy farmers are among those feeling the effects of the ongoing trade wars and it's forcing some farmers to make tough decisions. "We are seeing the closing of several dairies here in Illinois," said Tasha Bunting, Illinois Milk Producers' Association. "We started the year with about 600 and we're now down into the 560-range. Certainly, it's having a far-ranging impact on our dairy farmers across Illinois."

FARMERS: GET THE FARM BILL DONE (Reuters) – As Congress returns for the lame-duck session, farmers have one priority on lawmakers' to do list: Get a farm bill done before the end of the year. Lawmakers have said passing the legislation is their highest priority as it would provide some stability to farmers who have been affected by the loss of export markets due to the U.S.' ongoing trade war with China.

IL FARMERS FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY (Illinois News Network) – Illinois farmers are working to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels in their soil and improve the economics of best management practices. "They need that soil to be productive, and they need to take care of it so they can pass on that business and that entire enterprise to the next generation," said Lauren Lurkins, director of natural and environmental resources at the, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB).

MARKETMAKER CONNECTS BUYERS, GROWERS (FarmWeekNow.com) – Illinois Food MarketMaker is connecting farmers to more potential buyers through expansion of its ag-related partners. The interactive database is using technology through its growing partnerships "to put information in one place," said Dan Knipe, MarketMaker co-founder. Knipe presented workshops at the IFB Local and Regional Food Conference in Normal last week.

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

Conserv FS Declares Patronage for FB members

For the tenth consecutive year, the Conserv FS Board of Directors has declared near record levels of patronage refunds. Consistent with last year's payout, patronage of \$3 million will be paid out for 2018 fiscal year purchases. And again this year's patronage payout will be paid as 70% cash and 30% Class E preferred stock.

The company's performance in fiscal year 2018 was strong, along with its balance sheet, which allows the company to pay such a high cash percentage.

"The diversification of our coop has allowed us to manage through tough years in one area while generating strong profits in others," says John Tuttle, Conserv FS General Manager.

Individual rates of payout are determined by product line and will be similar to last year's rates.

Individual checks will be processed and cut over the next few weeks and will be distributed in mid-December. A full breakdown of payment rates will be included with the check and members' individual payment records. Rates may vary for direct transport load deliveries.

In addition to patronage, the board approved \$700,000 of stock revivment, keeping the cooperative on a ten-year cycle, a primary goal of the board. "Keeping the stock of the coop in the hands of active patrons is something we pride ourselves on as a board," said John Henning, board president. With the cash patronage and stock revivment, the company will return nearly \$2.8 million in cash to the country.

Conserv FS, Inc. is a Federated Cooperative locally owned and controlled, based in Woodstock, Illinois. Conserv proudly serves patrons throughout Northeastern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin.

**INCREASE FUEL
EFFICIENCY**

RESTORE HORSEPOWER

**EXTEND
ENGINE LIFE**

CONSERV FS

708-532-4723

Dieselelex® Gold
Power ♦ Efficiency ♦ Protection

- Restores lost horsepower and fuel economy
- Starts engines faster and produces lower emissions
- Extends fuel pump and injector life

www.conservfs.com

**GO
FURTHER
GO
FS**

©2018 GROWMARK, INC. M102395

Action Request: Urge Congress to Pass a Farm Bill During the Lame Duck Session

Cook County Farm Bureau® members have patiently waited for Congress to pass the next farm bill. The election is now over. No more excuses for inaction. And time is short. There's only a month- roughly 16 session days- to get a farm bill passed and enacted before the end of the year. The new 116th Congress will be sworn in on Thursday, January 3.

If the "lame duck" Congress is unable to pass a farm bill for the President to sign, the new Congress will be forced to start from scratch. That could delay a farm bill for months.

That's a nightmare scenario that we must work to avoid at all costs.

Our action request urges the Illinois delegation to pressure farm bill negotiators to do everything they can to avoid a nightmare scenario. In a nutshell: Strike a deal and pass a farm bill before time runs out on the 115th Congress.

Visit: <https://p2a.co/wtqk9nG> to ask Congress to pass a farm bill.

Cook County Looks to Advance Solar Projects

In Illinois, the sun is doing more than just warming the ground. Popping up across the countryside, including in Cook County, are solar farms. Illinois' boom in solar energy projects is likely the result of the state's Future Energy Jobs Act. This Act sets a target of 25 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2025. According to the Digital Journal, at the end of the second quarter, Illinois ranked 34th up from 43rd in 2017 in solar capacity. The state is projected to add over 1,800 megawatts of solar capacity in the next five years, an increase of nearly 1,900 percent over today.

Earlier this fall, Cook County Farm Bureau® staff met with the Cook County Department of

Building and Zoning to discuss how the County will handle solar farms, community-based solar projects, and individual solar projects.

Generally, solar panels in unincorporated areas will be permitted in all residential districts but may require a special use permit or planned urban development (PUD) designation depending on their location.

Going forward, the County is in the process of developing solar and other green energy standards. Farm Bureau staff will monitor the process and provide insights as warranted.



Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri (pictured right) received the 2018 Friend of the Farm Bureau award presented by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee in recognition of his outstanding voting record on Cook County issues. Comm. Silvestri is the Chairman of the Zoning Committee and worked collectively with the Farm Bureau to improve livestock regulations in unincorporated Cook County. Comm. Silvestri is pictured with Farm Bureau staff, Bona Heinsohn.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

The Opening Minds Early Education Conference at the Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park February 6-9, 2019 is now available for registration. It is the only event in the nation where people of all professions educating or caring for young children, birth to eight years old, gather to learn and solve practice problems, side-by-side, together. Opening Minds is for people working in: education, administration, health & wellness, medicine, nursing, justice, social service, policy, government, parks and recreation, technology, business, library science and more. For additional information, visit their website at: <https://www.openingmindsusa.org/openingminds-2019/>.

This article is for local farmstands, farm markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations that are hosting farm-related activities, events, workshops and gatherings that will occur soon.

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

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



Representative Fred Crespo (pictured left) received the 2018 Friend of Agriculture award in recognition of his outstanding support of agricultural and small business issues. Rep. Crespo is pictured with Farm Bureau staff, Bona Heinsohn.



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

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

In November, Cook County's voter turnout hit an eye-popping 28 percent, or the sixth highest recorded turnout in the last 12 years. With those votes comes a wave of new faces. In January, JB Pritzker, Juliana Stratton, and Kwame Raoul will join incumbents Jesse White, Susana Mendoza, and Michael Frerichs at the helm of Illinois' government. Together they're charged with leading Illinois out of impending fiscal doom and into prosperity. Governor-elect Pritzker won Cook County with over 71 percent of the vote.

On the federal front, Congressmen-elect Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood will join a wave of freshmen

House Democrats. Like all freshmen, the Congressional class entering the 116th Congress will suffer from a lack of Congressional process experience, which will only be exacerbated by the fact that many experienced, senior Congressmen are retiring. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan opted not to run for re-election, which meant that regardless of the election, Congressmen would have to elect a new Speaker of the House. The Speaker will choose committees and committee chairs. Turnover is ultimately inevitable and with it comes a loss of institutional wisdom.

November also ushered in 13 new State Senators and 32 new State Representatives. With these new faces comes new opportunities and new relationships. It will also bring

new faces to leadership given that many senior legislators opted not to run for re-election. The turnover is especially large given that 2018 was not a redistricting year.

With the elections, both the Senate and House Democrats added to their supermajorities. In January, the Illinois Senate will be home to 40 Democrats and 19 Republicans and the Illinois House will be home to 73 Democrats and 45 Republicans.

Beyond the borders of Cook County, November's election highlighted the changing demographics of the suburbs. In DuPage County, there will be four new State Representatives and one new State Senator. For the first time, one Senate District will be solely represented by members of

the Democratic Party. With change comes the opportunity to build new relationships and to create avenues for new commonalities. November meant opportunities- opportunities to fill the advocacy gap and the issue education gap. It will be of extreme importance to educate new and existing legislators on agricultural issues, including Farm Bureau's positions on the Farm Bill, food security programs, crop insurance, immigration reform, and health care reform.

Regardless of how you voted in November, it is paramount that individuals with different ideas and opinions work together for the common good.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.



Deck your halls this Season...
Fresh Trees,
Garland, Wreaths,
Poinsettias & Décor!

Purchase from a Farm Bureau Member Business. To locate one near you, visit our Farm Products Locator at:

www.cookcfb.org/discover-local

- Big John's Farm Market Chicago Hts
- Clarke's Garden Center Chicago Hts
- Gorman Tree Farm Monee
- Historic Wagner Farm Glenview
- Horcher's Farm Wheeling
- Kolze's Corner Garden Woodstock
- McCarthy's Farm Stand Orland Park
- Melka's Garden Center Mokena
- Puckerville Farms Lemont
- Ted's Greenhouse Tinley Park
- West End Garden Center Evanston

Cook Country Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



Ilir Numani

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy Ste. 200. in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



Sylwia Grochowska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2018. Her office is located at 3933 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



Nader Mikhaeil

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Nader Mikhaeil has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2018. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8874. Nader has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2006.



Joseph Munch

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Joseph Munch has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2018. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8835. Joseph has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Kathy Spiewak

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Kathy Spiewak has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2018. Her office is located at 11 W. Wise Rd., Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-716-1010. Kathy has been a Financial Representative since February 2007.



Almira Hodzic

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Almira Hodzic has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2018. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6792. Almira has been a Financial Representative since December 2016.



Martha Dominguez

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Martha Dominguez has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted St. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-254-5810. Martha has been a Career Financial Representative since June 2012.



Steve Phillips

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Steve Phillips has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 2018. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-583-1416. Steve has been a Financial Representative since November 2014.



Nora Beverly

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Nora Beverly has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for October 2018. Her office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park Ave., Ste. C & D in Tinley Park, IL. Her phone number is 708-429-7789. Nora has been a Financial Representative since August 2011.



Kurt Husein

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Kurt Husein has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for October 2018. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave., Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-480-5099. Kurt has been a Financial Representative since December 2017.



Jim Verduin

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Jim Verduin has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for October 2018. His office is located 17080 South Park Ave. in South Holland, IL. His phone number is 708-596-0008. Jim has been a Financial Representative since March 1982.

New Member Benefit Platform



Sign up to access over **302,000** discounts
<https://ilfb.abenity.com>



Access local and national discounts at work, at home, or on the go! Save on thousands of hotels, restaurants, movie tickets, retailers, florist, theme parks, national attractions, concerts, and events.

Sign up today! <https://ilfb.abenity.com>

Cook County Farm Bureau Member Health Benefits



Free hearing screening! Free annual electronic hearing evaluation and a 20% discount off the dispensers' regular list price on hearing aid purchases is provided. Visit www.beltone.com to find the nearest Beltone location near you or call Beltone Hearing Center at 877-710-6228. Members present their Cook County Farm Bureau Membership Card to receive the discount use code #MC42180.



You can save at over 57,000 participating pharmacies including just about every major pharmacy chain from CVS to Wal-Mart. Visit www.cookcfb.org for more information and to print a card online OR contact our office at 708-354-3276 and request a prescription card. Once you receive it, you can take it to a pharmacy near you to receive your discount!



Lasik eye surgery with a savings of up to 45% off the national average cost for traditional Lasik. Call 1-866-977-3012 for a quote.



A medical alarm protects your loved ones with a push of a button! Members receive one month free of monitoring and no initial fees. Call toll free 1-855-872-8404 or visit on line www.peaceofmindalert.com.

Classifieds

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad. Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to FBcooperator@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline date for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following month's Co-Operator. Members may run up to four non-commercial classified ads annually for free. Any ads submitted after the fourth free, will be charged. If mailing your ad, please mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attention: Classified Ads, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056.

For Sale

Cemetery lot - Mount Vernon Cemetery Garden of Apostles lot 1. For pricing call Albert at 630-863-3801.

Commercial brick building full basement with front/back entrance. Free standing ideal location near major highways and Arlington park train station. Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828.

Brick home 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, gorgeous kitchen intriguing atrium double garage and fenced yard in Dekalb, IL. Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828.

Handicap Ramp- wheelchair ramp with steel risers, 4ft wide, 12ft long (In 3-foot sections to shorten length as needed) adjustable height for the steps and landing of your home's entrance. Asking \$950.00 or best offer. Call Dan at 630-204-8022 for info.

2014 Stannah 420 saxon chairlift 12'6" track, rises 10 stairs 420 saxon stairlift is designed specially for straight staircase fitting. Weight capacity 350lbs. \$700.00 call Bernard at 847-224-2105 for more info.

Electric 2 manual Wurlitzer organ pedals free to good home. Call Jean at 708-532-3013

New vehicle waxmaster by Wilton \$40. New 6pc Humidore \$40. Clam shell car carrier \$50. 3pc tan luggage set \$100. 2-self drive lawn mowers \$50 each. Ma & Pa Americana

Christmas bears \$20 each. Call Paul at 708-826-0000.

Lawn Christmas décor- Toy soldier lite up 2 1/2 feet tall to 3 1/2 feet tall, 5 with black hats, 2 with white hats, 1 major with white hat and mustache, taller excellent condition. \$200 or better offer. Call Paul at 708-826-0000.

Elite quality leather massage chair with integral foot massager. Couple years old and seldom used. Original cost was approximately \$2800. Selling for \$800 - in very good shape. Heavy chair to move; so be ready to remove from our 1 story home. Call Cindy at 630-781-5139.

Five cemetery lots \$1000 each section 20 Lakewood Memorial Park Elgin, IL. Call Allen at 847-359-6712

Vehicle

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee limited V8, 4-wheel drive, 145,000 miles. Maintained every 3000 miles, sunroof, runs good-always maintained, good tires. \$5200.00 OBO. Call Richard at 708-654-2010.

2009 Fat Bob, miles 13355, vivid black 96ci Cam Engine, new tires installed fall of 2017, new mirrors, grips, chrome

clutch and brake handles, washable air filter, and fluids get seat made for two this motorcycle is one great ride and sound great. Always getting compliments on how it looks and sounds! It's all cleaned and ready to ride. Buy it now and be ready for Toys for Tots. Call Michael at 708-710-7867.

For Rent

Time Share - January 2019 3rd & 4th week in beautiful Marco Island Florida on a beach facing Gulf of Mexico second floor sleeps 6 (no pets allowed). Call Rita at 847-259-9339 or 815-600-4828

Wanted

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

Petroliana wanted old oil cans, signs, old gas station stuff, even old motorcycle cans, and signs etc. Call Jim at 708-361-8230

Vintage Star Wars toys from 70's and 80's. Call Kevin at 708-645-0540

IAA Foundation Offers Scholarships to Support Agriculture, Illinois Farm Bureau Families



Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members and their children are encouraged to apply for 72 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be

awarded in total of \$110,000 for the 2019-2020 school year.

"We are pleased to help students through our growing scholarship program," said Susan Moore, director, IAA Foundation. "It is a great privilege to support the next generation of leaders, and encourage continuing education in agricultural fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner.

In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy and St. Louis District Dairy Council.

All applicants must be high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled at an accredited college, university or community college. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academic ability, leadership and financial need. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines available at the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. The application opens Dec. 1, 2018 and must be completed online by Feb. 1, 2019.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2230, or e-mail Susan Moore, Director, IAA Foundation, at smoore@ilfb.org.

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

Will-South Cook SWCD Conservation Education Scholarships

In the spring of 2019, the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District will award three \$1,000 scholarships, including the Allen May and Dick McHugh Memorial Scholarships.

The scholarships, which aim to further the cause of soil and water conservation, will be awarded to Will-South Cook County students who expect to major in agriculture or a natural

resource field at any accredited college or accredited school of higher learning.

Applications are available on the SWCD website, www.will-scookswcd.org or by calling the SWCD District office at 815-462-3106 ext. 3.

DEADLINE: To be considered, the completed application form must be submitted by February 1, 2019.

Beekeeping Classes Offered at the Farm Bureau

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and the Cook Du-Page Beekeepers Association (CDBA) have joined together to help get you started down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees, by offering beekeeping workshops at the Farm Bureau! Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton of the CDBA will be conducting the classes.

• Beginning Beekeeping – 12-Hour Course

Dates: Saturday, March 9, 2019 & Sunday, March 10, 2019
Time: 9 AM – 3 PM (working lunch)
Cost: \$75.00 for CCFB & CDBA Members | \$100 for non-members

• Advanced Beekeeping – 12-Hour Course

Dates: Saturday, April 6, 2019 & Sunday, April 7, 2019
Time: 9 AM – 3 PM (working lunch)
Cost: \$75 for CCFB & CDBA Members | \$100 for non-members

Class Location: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

Registration & Payment:

- Call Debbie (CCFB) at 708-354-3276
- Credit card payment accepted by phone at no additional charge or mail a check made out to the Cook County Farm Bureau
- CCFB Member Online Registration at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org

For Course Details go to www.cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events or call 708-354-3276.

Are You a Business Owner and A Member Of The Cook County Farm Bureau®?



A Member-to-Member discount program was created to provide members who own businesses the opportunity to promote goods and services offered through their business to the other members of CCFB.

Please visit www.cookcfb.org/membermember.html for details, to sign up for the program, and to view a list of current participating member-to-member businesses.

We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.

We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana

Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at www.luckysenergy.com

Growing To Serve You Better

Whether you are a grower, supplier, association, or consumer... **TOGETHER** we are the voice of specialty crop growers in Illinois.

Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, & Organic Conference

January 9-11 / 2019

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:
Dec. 18, 2018 -Hotel Reservations
Dec. 21, 2018 -FSMA Workshop Registration Ends
Dec. 31, 2018 -Conference Pre-Registration Ends

(After Jan. 1, you will need to register on site at the conference).

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
Springfield, IL

We encourage you to register for the conference using our web-based system.
Visit: www.specialtygrowers.org/iscaoc

www.specialtygrowers.org

More Reasons to Enjoy your Farm Bureau membership!

"During the 1st half of the 2018 year, your CCFB Ford Benefit has saved over 98 members over \$49,000 purchasing Ford Products!"



Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2017/2018 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2017/2018 Lincoln vehicle.

Enjoy valuable savings on your choice of vehicles from our comfortable and capable lineup! Take advantage of this exclusive special offer today by visiting our home page at www.cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

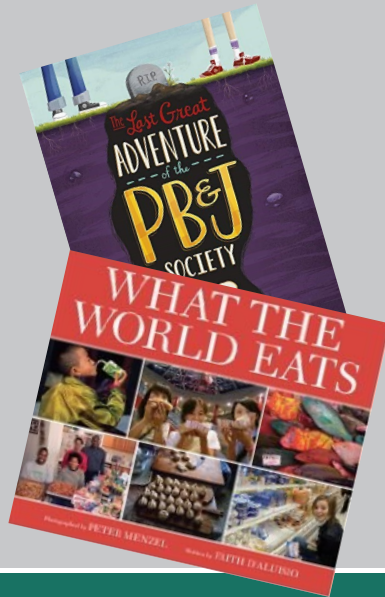
*Must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days to take advantage of the Ford/Lincoln program.

But wait there's MORE! Now – January 2nd, 2019 members can receive an additional \$500 in Conquest Bonus Cash to be applied towards a purchase or lease of an eligible new 2018/2019 My Ford vehicle, if they have a non-Ford/ Lincoln/ Mercury vehicle registered in the household 1995 or newer.

See the Conquest Cash Rules at Cookcfb.org

BOOK CLUB ADULTS AND EDUCATORS

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® as we explore themes of social class, sacrifice, food insecurity, and compassion. Through readings, group discussion, presentations, and a group work night at a local pantry, Book Club participants will also learn about Cook County agriculture.



Program will include:

The Last Great Adventure of the PB&J Society by Janet Sumner Johnson

What the World Eats by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio

Discussion on food insecurity services and issues
Presentation by a local farmer

Volunteer evening at a local food pantry

Skype discussion with PB&J author, Janet Sumner Johnson

\$10 donation per participant to a local food pantry (included in cost)

Teachers will be provided lesson ideas and guided reading tips

Dates

Tuesday

• Jan. 15

• Jan. 22

• Jan. 29

Wednesday

• Feb. 6

7 - 8:30 PM | Cost \$10

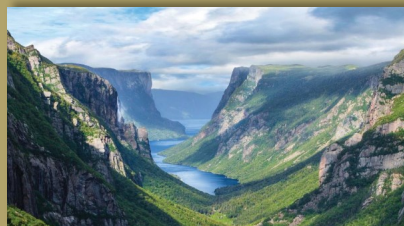
Location: River Forest Public Library

To register: call the CCFB office at (708) 354-3276 or email

aafc@cookcfb.org



For more info and book synopsis, visit www.cookcfb.org



Mayflower Cruises & Tours

2019-2020

Motorcoach, Rail & Cruise Holidays

US & Canada

Guided Holidays

To begin your Life Enriching Experience, learn more about Mayflower Tours and the **Exclusive Discount** Cook County Farm Bureau® members receive contact:

Mayflower Tours

Discount Code: ccfb16

- Ask for Kayla: 800-728-0724 ext. 201
- Direct: 630-435-8201 (9:30 am—6:00 pm)
- Email: kayla@mayflowertours.com
- Visit: www.mayflowertours.com

