



COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

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

Mark Your Calendar



December

16 Membership Monday **PG 12**

January

29-31 From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference **PG 5**

February

14 Scholarship Application Deadline **PG 1**

March

1 & 2 Beginning Beekeeping **PG 12**

13 Cheese 101 **PG 12**

18 Ag Day North **PG 10**

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to www.cookcfb.org, or contact the office at 708-354-3276. You can register for most programs by using the member service center at www.cookcfb.org.

Question of the Month



At the November 13th Cook County Farm Bureau Board meeting, who was re-elected to serve as the organization's President?

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

November Winner: Joyce Holste

Question: Which Congressman recently met with CCFB leaders to tour and discuss farming and the agriculture industry in Cook County?

Answer: Congressman Sean Casten



HOLIDAY BARN QUILTS:

On November 12, 27 people attended Cook County Farm Bureau's HOLIDAY barn quilt painting event. The attendees learned about barn quilt designs and were able to create and paint their own holiday barn quilt pattern to hang or display indoors. Barn quilts, which are designed using quilt block patterns, are typically painted and displayed on the side of a barn or other structure. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared your creativity to make the event a success!



CCFB Member Mary Gavenda shows off her holiday cardinal barn quilt.



2025 FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Careers in agriculture include farming and much more! The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation has many support opportunities for those who are pursuing careers in the following fields: plant science, animal science, agricultural business, agricultural mechanics, food science, diesel mechanics, ag-related education, education, and/or rural mental health plus more!

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, a total of 19.7 million jobs, or 10.3% of U.S. employment, was related to agriculture in 2020. Farming only made up 13.5% of agricultural employment, food service made up 53.4%, and food and beverage stores made up 16.5%. There are more than one million agriculture-related jobs in Illinois alone.

The CCFB Foundation scholarship application window for the 27th Annual "Farm and Food" Agricultural Scholarship Program is now open. The Foundation offers these scholarships to college

students who are pursuing an ag-related career with the opportunity to start or continue their higher education.

Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture (\$3,500) – This scholarship will be provided to the individual with the top ranked application determined by the scholarship review committee with a focus on an agriculturally related career.

Stuenkel Family Scholarship (\$3,000) – This scholarship has been designed for individuals and CCFB members who are pursuing higher education with a focus on an agriculturally related career in the areas of technology, education, leadership development, and/or mental health.

"Farm and Food" Scholarships (up to \$2,500) – College scholarships will go to other qualified applicants pursuing agriculturally related careers. (last year, 7 were provided)

Applications are now being accepted.

Foundation Scholarships continued on page 5

Agricultural Careers

PLANT SCIENCE



ANIMAL SCIENCES



AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



FOOD SCIENCES



To apply for a CCFB Foundation Scholarship, scan the QR code

Illinois Farm Bureau Members Save Millions

By HANNAH SPANGLER, *FarmWeek*

From hotel rooms and theme parks to restaurants and movies, Illinois Farm Bureau members save money through using their membership benefits.

IFB recently launched the "Millions Saved" campaign to recognize the \$2 million dollars members save in a year through their exclusive access to more than 300,000 local, statewide and national discounts.

IFB Members Save continued on page 10

Two Million Saved



Illinois Farm Bureau members saved \$2 million in a year, using tangible member benefits.



Start Saving Today!

Save on the every day products and services you need from the brands you trust.

2025 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit Available Shortly

A reminder for the 2025 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit for Cook County should be sent out by the Cook County Assessor shortly. The filing deadline date is January 31, 2025. The Questionnaire/Affidavit must be completed online, paper copies will not be accepted. **The 2025 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit is available at: <https://www.cookcountyassessor.com/farmlandaffidavit>**

As A Reminder To Farmer Members:

Cook County assesses a property according to its "Assessment Class" as defined under the Cook County Code of Ordinances. (see Art. II - Chapter 74 Sec. 74-63) If the real estate is used as a "farm", it will be classified as a Class 2 property. Currently, Class 2-39 real estate is defined as "Non-equalized land under agricultural use, valued at farm pricing". An improvement on real estate used as a "farm" can receive a Class 2-24 defined as a "Farm Building".

In determining whether real estate meets the definition of a "farm" under the Cook County Code of Ordinances, the CCAO uses the definition of a "Farm" found in the Illinois Property Tax Code. 35 ILCS 200/1-60 Farm. Section 1-60. In addition, the CCAO follows the guidance of the Illinois Department of Revenue in classifying and assessing farmland. Publication 122 - Instructions for Farmland Assessments - is published annually and contains important information regarding specific situations pertaining to types of land and improvements to the land. A recent copy of Publication 122 can be downloaded here. Also, you can access the CCAO Farmland Eligibility Bulletin here.

In order for a "farm", as defined in Section 1-60 of the Property Code, to receive farmland pricing for the requested year, it must have been farmed for the two (2) preceding years. See 30 ILCS 200/10-110. Further, the

property must be used for farming in the year the owner is seeking the class change to farmland status.

Applying for a class change to preferential farmland assessment:

- Complete the Class Change/ Farmland Application by January 31.
- Upload your documentation to establish your farming activities for the current year and the two preceding years. See list below of required documentation.
- Once your application is submitted, you should receive a confirmation from the CCAO that the application is under review. Once the review is completed, you should receive notification from the CCAO that your class change to farmland has been approved/rejected.

Required Documentation:

- Any tax forms or documents filed with federal, state, or local government entities showing the income, if any, derived from farming activities.
- Any insurance policies covering farm related activities.
- Dated, color photos of any farming operation(s) you are using as a basis for your request for a class change.
- Any leases, rental agreement or other documentation supporting your farming operation(s).
- Any contracts, sales agreements and/or other documentation supporting your farming operation for the current year and prior two years of operation.
- Invoices for seed, crop yield reports, livestock records, soil sampling, etc.

Information available at <https://www.cookcountyassessor.com/farms>

Cook County Farm Bureau has worked with the Cook County Assessor's Office to revise and modernize the annual farmland affidavit. In addition, Farm Bureau has also worked to ensure that the information regarding the special tax designation process is readily available to farmers seeking the designation.

HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN NOVEMBER

- ▶ **Connected with numerous state and local officials through the Cook County Farm Bureau Political Action Committee and the Illinois Farm Bureau ACTIVATOR political action fund.**
- ▶ **Provided a Conceal and Carry Class for members to receive their Illinois concealed carry permit certification. The class consisted of a minimum of 16 hours of training and covering Illinois laws.**
- ▶ **Hosted a Holiday Barn Quilt make-and-take workshop teaching about the history of barn quilts and helping participants get creative and into the holiday spirit by painting their own design.**
- ▶ **Held a free virtual PDCH workshop to help teachers bring the topic of ag innovation into their classrooms.**
- ▶ **Taught 20 children and their families about ag innovation during a program at Morton Grove Public Library on November 6.**



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...

- Dorothy Stelter, who took over her mother's long standing CCFB voting membership.
- The many Voting and Associate members who have renewed their memberships for 2025!
- Member Mike O'Brien who so generously shared his final garden harvest with CCFB staff.
- The many members that participate in the Question of the Month and the Ag Adventures Word Search each month, including 24 new Word Search participants this month! If you haven't submitted an entry before, December would be a good time to start! You can submit your entries by mail, email, fax or deliver them in person to the office.
- Delegates Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping and Ruth Zeldenrust for willingly giving their time to review the delegate materials during the delegate listening session at the end of November in preparation for the IFB Annual Meeting.
- Members British Griffis, Jonathan Poole, Katrina Milton and Kayla Biegel for expressing interest in the Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program offered by the Illinois Farm Bureau
- The voting members that submitted a proxy for participation in the Cook County Farm Bureau Annual meeting.
- The many members and guests that came out for the barn quilt painting event... It sounds like you had too much fun!
- The many member volunteers that give their time, knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Action Teams that develop, plan, and execute programs and activities for the benefit of the members of this organization. We look forward to working with you for another year!

Co-Operator

Published Monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

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Downwind

by **BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER**

“The diet”

Farmers are great at producing food. Meat, eggs, dairy, grains, fish, vegetables, fruit. That seems to cover all the options.

The rest of it is on “us” ... How we prepare food, cook food, process food, enhance food, consume food.

I have made it through nearly 6 decades by eating what I want to eat. How food has been prepared, cooked, processed, enhanced and consumed has been less important to me than taste.

By writing this column faithfully each month, I have made it pretty clear to the world over the years that I am a food fan. Especially tasty food.

Describe “tasty” food? Sure. No problem although I have to make up some words. Most any food is rated “tasty” on my sliding tasty Bob food scale if it falls into the food groups of Breaded, Gravy’ed, Fri’ed, Chops’ed, Dairy’ed, Bacon-infus’ed or Pi’ed. I call it the Mid-west diet.

Those food groups closely follow my lifetime diet and fall into the MyPlatter USDA (United States Department of Awesome) recommended servings for a happy Farm Bureau manager. I do have a MyPlatter extra-wide poster with the siderails image which describes the daily allowance portion sizes of each food group if anyone needs one. MyPlatter is a science-based, comfort food graphic.

So...Life was going great. Smooth. Normal. And then I had my annual physical (annual means every few years). The results...

- Weight - good
- Height - fine (but shrinking)
- Blood pressure - within tolerance.
- Pulse - have one.
- Cholesterol and LDL – a bit elevated. Wait what - elevated?

Yes - the other shoe dropped. To take care of the elevated cholesterol, the doctor said, “ I recommend some adjustments in the food plan. Need to get more vegetables into the diet, along with whole grains, fruits, nuts, seeds, and legume (beans, peas, chickpeas, lentils, black eyed peas, green beans). Fish. The Mediterranean Diet is best.”

He meant “my” food plan. Talking about “me”.

I looked up the Mediterranean Diet. Surely there is something tasty on the list.

No gravy? No fried goodness? No breaded pork tenderloin the size of my head? No melted cheese drizzle? No bacon infusion? No steak? No melty ice cream on top of a cherry pie? No butter on top of a steaming homemade lard biscuit?

As a hardcore carnivore, the rule has always been no meat, no meal”.

Sure - I like to fish and even eat a fish every few years. An almost tasty fish.

Realization struck. A whole new frontier. The starving my body and my taste buds. My arteries going into shock. Epi-pen stat.

After a few days of wallowing in my self-pity, my wife and I came up with a compromise... Mediterranean Diet during the week and Mid-West free-for-all diet on the weekends.

During the week, I will continue to use my bacon-infused toothpicks to remove the celery cords from teeth. (Must remember not to eat the toothpicks)

As we emerge from the Thanksgiving feast and enter into the holiday driven food gorging season, my Christmas list is unrecognizable... Carrots, hummus, kale and unsalted peanuts. Sure...all produced by farmers (I think to myself, enthusiastically).



Recipe of the Month



Chocolate Chip Cranberry Bread

Kathy Lesser, Chicago

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ t baking powder
- ½ t baking soda
- ¼ t salt
- 1 c sugar
- ½ c orange juice
- ¼ c water
- 1 large egg
- 2 T melted butter
- 1 c almonds, finely chopped
- 1 c fresh cranberries , finely chopped
- 1 c white chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar in a large mixing bowl combine orange juice, water, egg, and butter. Add the flour mixture and mix until everything is well blended. Stir in the almonds, cranberries and white chocolate chips. Pour batter into a greased 9 by 5-inch loaf pan. Bake for 1 hour, or until a knife inserted comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes and then remove from pan and cool on cooling rack. Makes 1 loaf, serves 8 to 10 slices.

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

2024 Recipe Collection is Still Available!

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



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We’re looking for entrepreneurial, client-focused professionals to join our sales team.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES



President Janet McCabe (L) and Sec-Treasurer Ruth Zeldenrust (R) lead the 104th Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

104th Annual Meeting of CCFB

Janet McCabe, President; Roger Freeman, Chairman of the Cook County Farm Bureau Credentials Committee, Mike Rauch, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer, led the 104th Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau held November 13, 2024.

Cook County Farm Bureau Pres., Janet McCabe chaired the meeting to address the business of the organization including receiving an audited financial report, election of directors (Dan Biernacki, Roger Freeman, Pat Horcher, Gerry Kopping, Todd Price, and Greg Stack were elected), approval of acts and deeds of the board for the past year, and approval of delegates to the IAA annual meeting.

President McCabe recognized the board, staff, and teams for a great year of programs and membership service and commended the board, staff, and members for their hard work through recent years with difficult circumstances.

Board Selects Leadership Team for the Next Year

At the November 13, 2024 meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau Board, following the Annual Meeting, the Directors elected its leadership team for the upcoming year. The following individuals were selected to lead the Cook County Farm Bureau in 2025.



Janet McCabe

Ms. Janet McCabe, Orland Park, was re-elected by the Board to serve as the organization's President, a position she has held since November of 2017. McCabe and her husband, Joe, farm in the southern Cook County area and northern Will County raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and marketing hay/straw. She has served on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's Team structure since it was created in 2005. She has served in a variety of leadership roles including Secretary/Treasurer, Governmental Affairs Team, Political Action Committee, Public Relations Team, Audit Committee, and Building Committee. She has served as a director on the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Board. She has also served in Illinois Farm Bureau statewide leadership positions. In addition to her on-farm role, Janet is a Registered Nurse and has been practicing for over 30 years.

McCabe said, "It is humbling to be re-elected to another term as President. 2025 will prove to be an important year for Cook County Farm Bureau and I look forward to helping the board determine the organization's future as we seek serve members in the organization."



Gerry Kopping

Mr. Gerald Kopping, Lemont, was re-elected to the Executive Committee as the Vice-President of the Board for a third term. Kopping has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2004 and has served as the Chairman of the Commodities and Marketing Team, Foundation Fundraiser Chair, Executive Finance Committee, and other leadership roles. Gerry, along with his family, operate Kopping Farms where they board 110 horses, farm 600-acres, custom farm 100-acres, and raise 35-head of cattle. In addition to Farm Bureau, Gerry is an active member of St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church in Lemont, the oldest Catholic church in Cook County; a member of the Lemont Chamber of Commerce; a board member for the Francis Field Youth Foundation; a member of the Land of Lincoln, Illinois, and American Quarter Horse Associations; and a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. Gerry and his wife, Linda, have three adult children.



Ruth Zeldenrust

Ms. Ruth Zeldenrust, Chicago Heights, was elected Secretary-Treasurer by the Board. She is also Chair of the Audit Committee. She has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's team structure since it was created in 2005. She currently serves as Chair of the Governmental Affairs Team and is on the Foundation Board of Directors. She owns and operates Zeldenrust Farm Market and Greenhouses, raising local fresh vegetables and flowers/bedding plants in south Cook County.



Mike Rauch



Dan Biernacki

Joining these three officers on the Executive Finance Committee for the next year will be board members Mike Rauch and Dan Biernacki, both of Tinley Park. The Executive Finance Committee holds the responsibility of the budgeting, finance, personnel, and day-to-day oversight of the organization. They also joined the three officers as part of the Foundation Board of Directors.



Charitable Giving

through Individual Retirement Accounts

If you are over 70 ½, the Federal government may permit you to roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without increasing your taxable income or paying any additional tax. These tax-free rollover gifts could be \$1,000, \$10,000 or any amount up to \$100,000 this year. If you are 72 or over, the gift may satisfy your required minimum distribution for this year. Simply contact your custodian and request that an amount up to \$100,000 be transferred to the charity of your choice.



The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation

(708) 354-3276
ccfb@cookcfb.org
www.cookcfb.org

6438 Joliet Rd. Countryside, IL 60525

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.



THE CO-OPERATOR

The Co-Operator publication has been a Cook County Farm Bureau member staple in the mailboxes of members since the 1930s. We plan on continuing to produce this high-quality publication for members moving forward.

However, as our members know, postage rates continue to increase with delivery issues popping up frequently. Therefore, members interested in receiving the newsletter electronically each month are invited to provide us with a quality email address.

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau with your email address today!! **Phone: 708-354-3276 • Email: ccfb@cookcfb.org**

FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS: EVERYTHING LOCAL CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW

JAN 29-31, 2025
BANK OF SPRINGFIELD CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL

FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS
EVERYTHING LOCAL
THE ILLINOIS FOOD, FARMERS MARKET & SPECIALTY CROP CONFERENCE

ILLINOIS SPECIALTY GROWERS

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

ILFMA

FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS: EVERYTHING LOCAL IS BACK FOR 2025 AT A NEW LOCATION!

Please join us at the Bank of Springfield Center on January 29-31, 2025. Register before January 17th to receive the pre-registration discount. It also pays to be a member of either Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers, or Illinois Farmers Market Association to receive the member discount. After January 17th online registration closes and prices will increase.

Pre-Registration Cost: Member:
\$100 | Non-Member: \$225

In person cost starting after January 17th:
Member: \$200 | Non-Member: \$325

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://web.specialtygrowers.org/atlas/events/2025-everything-local-attendee-registration-202211/register>

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM

A room block is available from January 28, 2025 – January 31, 2025 at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield – a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. 701 E Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701. This hotel connects to the conference center and also has a parking garage attached. Please book your rooms by January 14, 2025. Room Rates: \$123/night (plus tax). Bookings at: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ifbeverythinglocalconference/>

We'll provide the ride to the 2025 "Everything Local Conference"

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

Looking to attend the 2025 From Food to Flowers Everything Local Conference? Let us provide the ride. Along with our partners, we are providing a charter bus to the conference.

Pick up date Tues. Jan. 28 departing between noon/1 p.m.
(exact time to be determined closer to the date and will depend on the pick-up location)

Return date Fri. Jan. 31 leaving Springfield at 12 p.m.

Pick-up Locations:

- College of Lake County Grayslake Campus
- Des Plaines, IL - Trinity Lutheran Church
- Chicago - Comer Youth Center
- Joliet, IL - Will County Farm Bureau Office

Final details will be provided closer to the conference.

Cost: \$25 donation
All registrations donations will be donated to Feeding Illinois and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

SPACE IS LIMITED, A WAITING LIST WILL BE MAINTAINED.

****THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU HAS ALLOCATED LIMITED FUNDS TO ASSIST COOK CFB MEMBERS WITH REGISTRATION EXPENSES. FUNDS ARE LIMITED AND IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT BONA VIA EMAIL: bona@cookcfb.org**

To sign up for Bus Ride only, scan here:



To register for the conference and to secure hotel accommodations, scan here:



continued from page 1

Foundation Scholarships

In addition to the "Farm and Food" Agriculture Scholarships, there are other scholarship opportunities available as shown below.

Other scholarship opportunities available...

If you're looking to pursue one of the many careers available in the agriculture industry, Cook County Farm Bureau can help!

"Moving Ag Forward" Vocational Ag Career Training (available in three cycles in 2024/2025) – These scholarships have been designed for individuals and Cook County Farm Bureau members pursuing training in agriculturally related skills including tractor/truck diesel mechanics, CDL for crop, food and livestock hauling, welding, agricultural technology, etc.

(Application window open now)

Adult Scholarships (availability based on training sessions and acceptance) – Scholarships for Cook County Farm Bureau members include tuition assistance for

- Master Urban Farmer training and certification
- Master Gardener training and certification
- Illinois Ag Leadership Program (IALP) training program
- Ag Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) training program

(Application window open now)

Mental Health Training Expense Reimbursement – Mental Health Professionals or Cook County Farm Bureau members seeking to assist farmers and the rural community who attend and participate in mental health/suicide prevention training seminars, conferences, or educational sessions may be eligible for support and reimbursement. Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or email ccfb@cookcfb.org. (Available throughout the year)

Visit www.cookcfb.org/foundation for more information on these scholarships and to apply.

End of Year Foundation Contributions

Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is very fortunate that we have members seeking to contribute charitable donations to the Agricultural Literacy cause as we close out the year. Members seeking to contribute to the Foundation can do so using the form below:

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DONATION

Donor Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my gift of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: _____

Credit Card: Visa Master Card Discover

Card# _____ Exp: _____ Signature: _____

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

Calling the office at
708-354-3276

Planting Seeds

The Future's Right Now



Katrina J.E. Milton

When I was in school, I remember going on an 8th grade class trip to Springfield and high school trips to Washington, D.C.

I still have the photos from those trips in albums at home. I remember rubbing the nose on the statue at Abraham Lincoln's tomb and walking around for what seemed like miles on the National Mall. I also

remember having fun on the bus with friends, enjoying my time out of the classroom and out and about in "the real world."

I relived some of those memories October 23 and 24 when I traveled with 20 high school students from Chicago to attend the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. Although I was a chaperone, I still felt the excitement of traveling via coach bus, looking forward to visiting a new destination with friends.

My high school did not have FFA, and I know I missed out on many great opportunities by not being involved with the organization. I would have loved to participate in projects and learn more about agriculture and leadership as a teenager.

When the students got onto the bus, they were dressed casually – sweatpants, Beats headphones, and Nike sneakers.

After a few hours on the road, we stopped for lunch, and the students changed into their FFA formal attire. They changed into pressed white button-down shirts, dress shoes, and navy blue FFA corduroy jackets.

A few of the high school boys were struggling to tie their FFA logoed ties, since they had never worn or tied a necktie before. Seeing that the

students needed some help, our bus driver taught the students how to tie a tie. It was a simple act of kindness I'm sure the students will always remember.

After signing in and grabbing an official group photo in front of a John Deere tractor, we walked to Lucas Oil Stadium, the home of the Indianapolis Colts. I was just told that the opening session would be held at "the stadium," I had no idea that it would be held at THE stadium! I've been to professional sports stadiums plenty of times, but never for an ag-related event.

As I walked through a side entrance to our seats, the first thing I saw was a sea of navy blue. Nearly 70,000 FFA students were in attendance, and they were all wearing their jackets. The opening session began with an impromptu dance party, with students from all 50 states and territories, including Guam and Puerto Rico, singing and dancing.

Two songs that I thought were poignant were "Can't Hold Us" by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis featuring Ray Dalton, with the lyrics "This is the moment/ Tonight is the night, we'll fight 'til it's over/ So we put our hands up/ Like the ceiling can't hold us" and "Future's Right Now" by City Wolf, with the lyrics "Look around look around/ The future's right now."

I captured about 10 videos of the crowd of students, each representing their schools and their little (or not-so-little) corner of the United States, dancing, singing, and celebrating. Everyone was happy. The excitement was contagious! I couldn't help but to clap and cheer along with a giant grin on my face, laughing at others' silly dance moves and adding in a few of my own.

It was then that I realized what I was witnessing: the future. The National FFA Organization was once

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

known as "The Future Farmers of America," with the name change occurring in 1988.

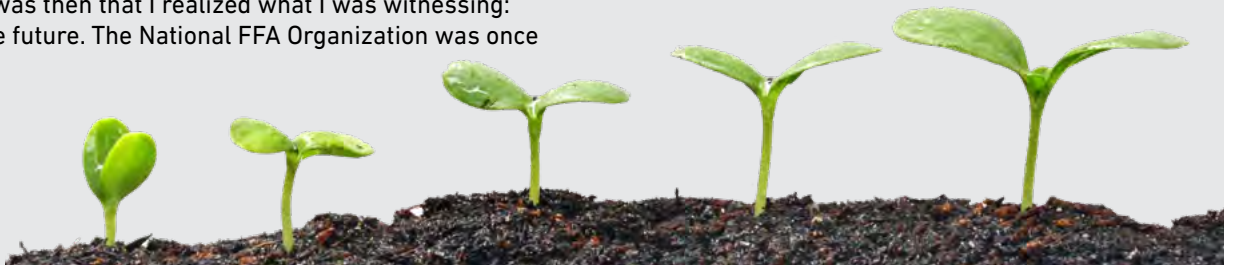
The stadium was nearly at capacity because of agriculture. The same stadium would be full the following week with Taylor Swift fans attending her concert.

I looked out at the crowd in amazement numerous times that afternoon. Later in the day, our group attended the FFA for All experience, which covered the topics of diversity and inclusion in FFA and agriculture. The 20 students from Chicago were able to meet, talk, and befriend students from across the country: Hawaii, Alaska, New York, Florida, and every state in between.

Agriculture looks different throughout the United States. In Illinois, we grow corn and soybeans. Other areas have cranberries, wheat, cotton, and oranges. But what connected the students are two things: their blue FFA corduroy jackets and their reason for being there – agriculture.

I returned home with the same infectiously positive attitude I felt at Lucas Oil Stadium. I was reminded that there are a whole bunch of youth – 70,000 of them, to be exact – that care about agriculture, leadership, and the world of tomorrow. They are completing projects, working together, solving problems, and making the world a better place. It put me at ease to know that through the ups and downs, highs and lows, and tumultuous unknowns of the future, the kids are alright – and the future of agriculture and the future of tomorrow is starting right now.

Katrina can be reached at aic@cookcfb.org.



AITC at Rhodes Elementary School

Teacher Angie Aganon and Rhodes Elementary School fourth grade students enjoyed learning about the importance of Illinois Agriculture from AITC presenter Wayne Kolweier.

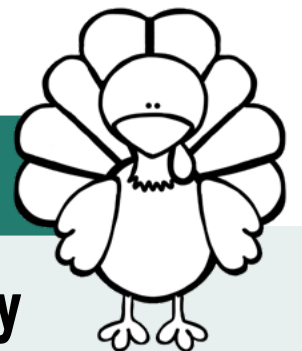


Morton Grove Public Library Ag Innovation

On Nov. 6, 20 children and their families learned about ag innovation at a program hosted by CCFB's Ag in the Classroom program at Morton Grove Public Library. The program attendees learned about tractors, combines, horsepower, and ag inventions. Hands-on activities included a paper horse craft and a tinkering toy competition.



Contest WINNER



Disguise a Turkey Winner Information

Celest Quinones-Foster age 7 from St. Paul Lutheran School

See all the clever disguises here: https://youtu.be/Pg0Ab_xoT1s



AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



DECEMBER AG ADVENTURE: REINDEER

FUN FACTS *About Reindeer*

From FDA's Animal Health Literacy website, <https://bit.ly/4i8m2x1>

- Reindeer and caribou are the same animal (Rangifer tarandus) and are a member of the deer family. In Europe, they are called reindeer. In North America, the animals are called caribou if they are wild and reindeer if they are domesticated.
- Both male and female reindeer grow antlers. Male reindeer usually drop their antlers in fall, leaving them without antlers until spring. Female reindeer keep their antlers through the winter until their calves are born in the spring. If you see a reindeer in winter with antlers, it's usually a female.
- Reindeers' antlers fall off and grow back larger each year.
- Reindeer are covered in hair from their nose to the bottom of their hooves. Hairy hooves give reindeer a good grip when walking on frozen ground, ice, mud, and snow.
- Reindeer are the only deer species to have hair completely covering their nose, and they have an excellent sense of smell. They can find food hidden under snow, locate danger, and recognize direction. Reindeer mainly travel into the wind so they can pick up scents.
- Reindeer are herbivores and eat mosses, herbs, ferns, grasses, and the shoots and leaves of shrubs and trees. An average adult reindeer eats 9 to 18 pounds of vegetation a day.
- Reindeer are the only deer species to be widely domesticated. They are used as draft animals to pull heavy loads and farmed for their milk, meat, and hides.
- Read more about reindeer and Whispering Pines Reindeer Ranch & Tree Farm in Shabbona in Illinois Farm Bureau's Winter 2024-2025 issue of *Partners* magazine at www.ilfbpartners.com.



Reindeer Food Recipe

Adapted from a Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation Lesson

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup oatmeal for protein
- 1/3 cup hay for roughage
- 1/3 cup dried corn kernels for energy
- Red and green sprinkles for Christmas magic

Directions:

Sprinkle on your lawn Christmas Eve night, and the moon will make it sparkle bright. As Santa's reindeer fly and roam, reindeer food will guide them to your home.

Cook County Connection

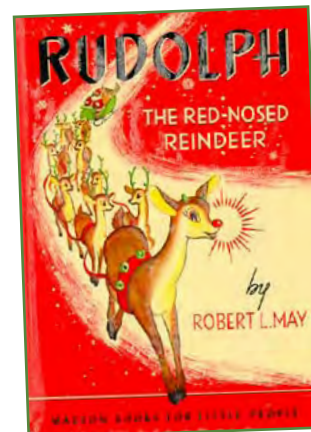
The story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer originated in Cook County! Rudolph's story was written in Chicago in 1939 by Robert L. May. May was tasked at creating a Christmas coloring book for his employer, the department store Montgomery Ward.

May was inspired to write about a reindeer because of his daughter Barbara's love of the animal at Lincoln Park Zoo. Montgomery Ward staff artist Denver Gillen visited the Lincoln Park Zoo with May and his daughter to see the reindeer and to better illustrate the story.

We have thick Lake Michigan fog to thank for Rudolph's shiny nose. May was inspired by the fog while staring out his Montgomery Ward office window in downtown Chicago and included it in his story.

May wrote a sequel, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Shines Again," which was published in 1954.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Robert May displayed a paper mâché Rudolph statue on his Evanston front lawn during the holiday season. The statue is now on display in Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. May graduated from the college in 1926.



In its first year of publication, Montgomery Ward distributed 2.4 million free copies of Rudolph's story. In the next year, the 32-page book was sold for 50 cents each. The song "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was written by Johnny Marks, Mays' brother-in-law. Marks also wrote the holiday songs "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "A Holly Jolly Christmas," "Silver and Gold," and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Gene Autry's recording of the "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" hit No. 1 on the U.S. charts the week of Christmas 1949 – and the rest will "go down in history."

Gene Autry's recording of the "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" hit No. 1 on the U.S. charts the week of Christmas 1949 – and the rest will "go down in history."

December Word Search

Last Month's Winner:
William Kehoe

Antlers	S	O	N	G	L	J	O	S	M	I	G	N	Y	H	S
Calves	N	L	E	F	U	E	T	E	A	D	O	A	F	X	R
Caribou	I	C	E	S	D	E	J	V	B	S	M	T	Q	I	N
Hair	Z	Y	A	C	Y	E	Z	O	E	X	F	Y	A	L	T
Hooves	J	C	K	E	S	X	R	O	O	I	J	H	H	C	C
Ice	F	B	C	N	Z	U	R	H	L	B	A	X	W	J	G
May	R	N	J	T	J	O	C	E	X	S	G	H	W	S	B
Nose	C	E	Z	X	N	P	T	P	T	S	U	W	Z	D	G
Red	A	C	I	S	E	V	L	A	C	N	M	B	Y	A	V
Reindeer	R	G	K	N	X	Q	N	G	H	O	I	E	K	V	T
Rudolph	I	R	P	M	D	T	F	H	W	O	S	W	L	U	M
Scent	B	A	W	Y	L	E	P	P	M	Z	M	P	C	L	I
Smell	O	K	E	E	C	Y	E	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	O
Song	U	W	R	S	D	R	P	R	A	U	O	P	R	T	O
Winter	E	S	I	R	T	O	J	X	E	E	J	J	G	K	Y
Zoo															

Name _____

Phone # _____

Membership # _____

Choose Your Prize Preference for If You Win:

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

Beggar's Pizza Gift Card 3 Movie Tickets

Delta Sonic Car Wash (Choose one option only)

Located on front of paper

Choose Your Prize: 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!**

At The Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers



Finger Foods Deliver Holiday Fun, Spark Conversation

Butcher block paper covered the 60-inch round table, transforming it into an oversized food platter. Piles of cubed cheeses, sliced cured meats, olives, fruits, veggies and spreads dominated that five-foot-diameter space. Salami shaped into roses, fanned crackers and varying flavors of cheeses gave aesthetic appeal to a party spread worthy of a meal.

While that bridal shower display upstages anything on my kitchen island, I so fondly enjoy the holiday-time finger foods that fill bowls, line platters or cover charcuterie boards. They deliver big taste in bite-size amounts, and the trendy charcuterie concept of artistically piling little foods on wood cutting boards and platters (or tables) makes presentation fun.

The centuries-old French practice has evolved from charcuterie boards of strictly meats to include creative displays of cheeses, fruits, vegetables, crackers, spreads, desserts, nuts and even candy. Generation Z adores the concept. Recognizing that, the Farm Bureau has sponsored charcuterie classes to connect with consumers born in the late 1990s and early 2000s. What an opportune time to talk nutrition. Talk food-shopping habits. Talk Illinois agriculture.

And therein lies one of my loves for finger foods: socialization. Little foods are social to make, social to display and social to eat. Family and friends congregate around the kitchen island to converse as they hover the inventory of tantalizing finger foods like ham-and-ranch wrapped pickles, tortilla rollups with a dab of salsa, seasoned pretzels and homemade Chex mix. Toothpicks aid dining on bacon-wrapped little smokies and homemade meatballs to help move this eating experience from appetizer to meal.

Sometimes, the main course includes small sandwiches of chicken salad

and triangle-cut, sliced loaf bread sandwiches of our grandma's ground bologna salad. The beloved family-recipe cheeseball often triggers stories of cheeseball design competitions or inside jokes of cheeseball thefts from Christmases past. We always have carrots, broccoli florets and grapes to add nutritional balance to the finger food lineup if nothing more than to feel better about Mom's Crispix Mix. That sugar-laden recipe probably four-folds the simple cereal's calories. But dang, it's addictively good, and she makes it only during the holidays.

My childhood 4-H club had a "finger food potluck" at every January meeting, a novel idea in an era when most meals needed more cutlery than fingers. Small foods made the meal and the memories then, as they do now.

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

DECK your HALLS
this holiday season with fresh trees, garland, wreaths, poinsettias, greens and décor!

Purchase from a Farm Bureau Member Business.
To locate one near you, visit our ShopLocal online directory at:
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>

MEMBER BUSINESS

Clarke's Garden Center | Chicago Hts.
Wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor

Gorman Tree Farm | Monee
Trees, wreaths, garland

Horcher's Farm & Flower | Wheeling
Trees, handmade wreaths, greens, flowers

Kolze's Corner Garden | Woodstock
Trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, decor

Melka's Garden Center | Mokena
Trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, decor

Puckerville Farms | Lemont
Trees, wreaths, garland, decor

Smits Farms | Sauk Village
Trees, wreaths, greens

Ted's Greenhouse | Tinley Park
Poinsettias, greens, handmade bows

Historic Wagner Farm | Glenview
Trees, wreaths, roping, garland, greens

West End Garden Center | Evanston
Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, plants, decor

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION'S / OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD Ag Student of the Month



Grade: 11

School: Gary Comer College Prep

Involvement in Agricultural Groups: Janay is Gary Comer College Prep's FFA chapter president.

Involvement in Ag: Janay works at the school farm after school. She is working on a number of FFA Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), including teaching younger ag students how to take care of the chapter's chickens and quail. She is currently taking the urban food production course.

Words from the Nominator: "She has really stepped up as a leader, especially outside of the classroom. She has taken advantage of many different opportunities and doesn't shy away from new experiences. She led our officer team during the FFA JumpSTART Conference to help plan out a successful year and boldly stepped into the position of chapter president. During the 2024 FFA National Convention, the first convention of our chapter, she didn't let an injury slow her down. She challenged herself to step outside

her comfort zone and met with other officers from across the country to learn more about what it takes to be a chapter president. She is a patient and understanding leader who works to be a role model for younger students. In class, she works diligently to keep her grades high and remains on the honor roll."
~ Amanda Anderson, Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor

Plans for the Future: Janay is interested in education and would like to study agricultural education.

DECEMBER: JANAY BUSSELL-LARAVIERE

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

By Bona Heinsohn, CAE

CCFB Director of Gov. Affairs and Public Relations



Bona Heinsohn

Since the fall of 2009, Cook County Farm Bureau has maintained a Political Action Committee (PAC) tasked with interviewing, evaluating, endorsing, and determining contributions for Cook County candidates supportive of agriculture.

The Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9) defines a "political action committee" as any person, trust, partnership, committee, association, corporation, or other organization or group of persons, other than a candidate, that accepts contributions or makes expenditures on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate or candidates for public office. A "political action committee" cannot be a candidate, political party, candidate political committee, or political party committee. These types of campaign committees fall into a different type of incorporation under the Code.

Cook CFB PAC is legally registered with the Illinois State Board of Elections to make contributions to state and local candidates. The purpose of the committee is to promote the economic and social well-being of agriculturalists in Cook County. The purpose is silent as to political party and office.

Since 2010, members of the Cook CFB PAC Governance Committee and Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Committee have interviewed and scored candidates for local office. Candidates

have to interview to be considered for an endorsement. The evaluation process considers a candidate's character, communication skills, experience, knowledge of agriculture, and record as well as intangibles like electability and philosophy. While scoring a candidate is subjective, the interviews are not. All candidates are given the opportunity to interview. Interview length and questions remain consistent between candidates for an office. Press and opponents are not invited.

Cook CFB PAC has interviewed over 180 candidates since its inception. While the focus is predominantly on County Board Commissioners, the PAC has also interviewed candidates for Cook County President, State's Attorney, Assessor, Board of Review, Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Another priority of Cook CFB has been to build relationships with Cook County elected officials including County Commissioners and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioners as well as legislative staff.

There are numerous reasons for an association such as the Farm Bureau to build relationships with elected officials, most notably the opportunity to influence the direction of legislation or to educate lawmakers and their staff about issues important to the association. Equally as important is the association learning more about local issues and local government, which in turn can be shared with members. Having relationships and providing objective, verifiable information allows the

association to build our credibility and reputation within the county.

Since 2010, Cook CFB PAC has made over 75 endorsements.

Unlike many other PACs, Cook CFB PAC is not an incumbent-driven PAC, meaning that incumbents with a positive voting record on Farm Bureau issues aren't automatically considered for endorsement – they still may have to interview, and regardless of the interview and their voting record, they may not get endorsed.

Of the endorsements made by Cook CFB PAC, 23 percent were Republicans. While that may not sound like a substantial number, in 2020 over 90 percent of the votes cast in the county were for Democrats. Therefore, it's not only a significant number, but it also shows that Cook CFB PAC is willing to go against political winds if the candidate is the best for agriculture and Farm Bureau members.

There is limited recourse for an individual or group that does not agree with the actions of a PAC. Individuals can file a Form D-4 Complaint for Violation of the Campaign Disclosure Act. The form asks for a specific violation of the Act, which primarily focuses on campaign contributions and expenditures not the candidates or political parties who receive an endorsement. Form D-4 is available on the Illinois State Board of Election's website.

The driving focus for Cook CFB PAC is to promote the economic and social well-being of agriculturalists in Cook County, which in turns benefits Farm Bureau members.



Senator Bill Cunningham Receives 2024 Friend of Agriculture Award

State Senator Bill Cunningham (Chicago) received a 2024 Friend of Agriculture Award during a recent visit to his Chicago district. Senator Cunningham is a former Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee and currently serves as President Pro Tempore for the Senate. Pictured with Senator Cunningham is Cook County Farm Bureau President and constituent Janet McCabe.



Representative Mary Gill Receives her First Friend of Agriculture Award

State Representative Mary Gill, who was appointed to the Illinois House of Representatives in March of 2023, received her first Friend of Agriculture Award in recognition of her outstanding legislative voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Representative Gill is pictured with Cook County Farm Bureau President Janet McCabe (right).



Senator Curran Meets with Cook and Will County Farm Bureaus

Senate Republican Leader, Senator John Curran met with leaders from Cook and Will County Farm Bureaus during a recent visit to his Lemont district office. Senator Curran has represented the 41st Senate District since 2017. Prior to that he served on the DuPage County Board. Pictured left to right is Bona Heinsohn, Cook County Farm Bureau; Mark Schneidewind, Manager Will County Farm Bureau; Senator Curran; and Brad Metzger, Vice President Will County Farm Bureau. Senator Curran is also a 2024 Friend of Agriculture Award recipient.

Cook County Farmers May Need To File Under The Corporate Transparency Act

The Corporate Transparency Act, which was originally passed to combat money laundering and organized crime funding, created the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reporting requirements for corporations, limited liability companies and other entities. This Act and the reporting requirements is estimated to affect nearly 5,000 farming operations in Illinois, including many family farms and partnerships.

However, less than 11% of eligible businesses nationwide have filed their BOI. Those who don't report BOI by the Jan. 1, 2025 deadline or who fail to update information in the future could face civil (\$591 per day of violation) and criminal penalties (up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000) as of April 2024.

Required to Report

Any small business that files an incorporating document with their state business authority, including corporations, limited partnerships or limited liability companies (LLCs) are required to report. Specifically, "small entities" are any company with less than 20 employees and under \$5 million in cash receipts. All beneficial owners of an eligible company—anyone with a significant stake in the company, who exercises substantial control or owns at least 25% of the company's ownership interests— are required to report.

For farms, all owners involved in corporations and/or partnerships, including farm businesses formed as c-corps, will need to report. Sole proprietorships (someone who owns an unincorporated business by themselves) do not need to report. Certain types of trusts or foundations may also be reporting companies.

Reporting

Even if business ownership information was reported to a state agency, such as the Illinois Secretary of State the BOI reporting requirement is not fulfilled. Reports must be submitted electronically at boiefiling.fincen.gov.

Deadline

The deadline to file varies slightly depending on business inception. A company created or registered to do business before Jan. 1, 2024 will have until Jan. 1, 2025 to file its initial BOI report. A company created or registered in 2024 will have 90 calendar days to file after receiving public notice that its creation or registration is effective. All new companies created or registered on or after Jan. 1, 2025 will have 30 calendar days to file after receiving public notice that their creation or registration is effective.

Additional information

For more information, visit on ilfb.org/BOIreporting.

continued from page 1

IFB Members Save Millions

“The intent is to highlight savings by our members who have used their tangible member benefits, and encourage other members to start saving today,” said Stephanie Knittel, IFB member benefit and events manager.

Knittel said that hotels and travel discounts are used regularly. She added brands such as Ford, Case IH, John Deere and Caterpillar also offer great discounts that many members already take advantage of on a regular basis.

Other benefits include Disney and Universal Studios theme park discounts, deals on Goodyear tires and 10% off all MLB ticket and VIP packages. BetterHelp therapy is also a newer addition to the IFB membership benefits program, offering members 50% off their first month of online counseling.

Members can reach out to their county Farm Bureaus for more information on membership benefits or visit ilfb.abenity.com for the full list of current benefits. Members can also download the Abenity app to access their benefits on the go.

AG DAY NORTH TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

Ag Day brings Cook County 3rd grade students to Historic Wagner Farm to experience agriculture up close. Students rotate through learning stations to help them understand the importance of agriculture in Illinois.



THIS AMAZING EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND FOR SCHOOLS. YOU SIMPLY PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/AgDayNorth>

Happy Holidays

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS. THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A WARM AND SAFE HOLIDAY!



CCFB Board of Directors
Standing left to right: Jim Bloomstrand, Mark Yunker, Blake Lanphier, Todd Price, Roger Freeman, Pat Horcher, and Greg Stack
Sitting left to right: Dan Biernacki, Gerry Kopping (Vice-President), Janet McCabe (President), Ruth Zeldenrust (Secretary/Treasurer), and Mike Rauch

COOK COUNTY Agent of the Month

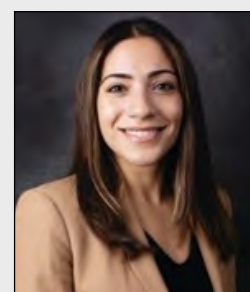
The Agent of the Month program is designed by COUNTRY® Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients.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



*ILIR NUMANI

has been named Agent of the Month for October 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 an Agent with COUNTRY® Financial since April 2005.

Chicago North Agency, Vicki Nygren, Agency Manager



*NADIA ABUEID

has been named Agent of the Month for October 2024. Nadia's office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave, Unit A, Palos Heights, IL. Her phone number is 708-995-0233. Nadia has been an Agent with COUNTRY® Financial since December 2019.

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager



*MATT HUONDER

has been named Agent of the Month for October 2024 by Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager. Matt's office is located at 3285 N Arlington Heights Rd, #203, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. His phone number is 847-891-6660. Matt has been an Agent with COUNTRY® Financial since September 2021.

Chicago Northwest Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

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





Let your Farm Bureau membership benefits help with holiday gift giving ideas and savings!

MOVIE TICKETS

AMC Tickets \$9.50
Regal Cinemas \$9.50
Marcus Theatres
Platinum: \$8.00
Silver: \$7.00*

*Marcus Silver tickets are not valid within the first 14 days of select features.

CHICAGO BULLS

Enter Promo Code: **CCFBNOVDEC** for savings on tickets

December & January games are updated on our website as they are released to us.

ABENITY APP

ILFB Membership Benefit Platform

Download the 'Illinois Farm Bureau Membership Benefit Platform' App on Android or iPhone for even more savings. Login or register with your Farm Bureau number.

CAR WASH TICKETS



Super Kiss Car Wash: \$13.00
Deluxe Car Wash: \$9.50
10 min Interior Cleaning: \$14.50

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

Enter Promo Code: **CCFB** to unlock your exclusive savings

December & January games are updated on our website as they are released to us.

PBR BULLRIDING TICKETS

January 10 & 11 at the Allstate Arena. Visit: shops.ticketmasterpartners.com/pbratallstatearena
Use Discount Code: **FARM25** to save 20% on tickets!

TICKETS AT WORK

Get exclusive savings on local tours, out-of-state theme parks, Broadway and Vegas shows, Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Studios, Cirque du Soleil, Disney on Ice and MORE!

To sign up, visit: www.ticketsatwork.com, click on "Become a Member" and use code **CCFB**.

Order Movie or Delta Sonic tickets via credit card by calling 708.354.3276. See our website for entertainment links, pricing, and app instructions: <http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits>

CLASSIFIED ADS

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/stay-updated/classified-ads. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad.

Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to fbcooperator@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following month's 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

2006 Suzuki Boulevard C50 Touring. Like new, 2,000 miles \$5900. Shaft Drive. Studded leather bags. Call Bob 708-602-3350.

91 Cadillac 4 door, 112,000 original miles, no rust, runs and drives perfect, needs nothing. Cold AC and recent brakes. Paint is faded. \$950 call Don 847-358-0972.

Collector 87 Chrysler Fifth Avenue, loaded, black with red interior, 318 cubic inch engine, 44,000 original miles. Stored last 28 years – showroom condition in and out. Insured by Haggerty Insurance for \$13,500. Asking \$11,500 obo. Call Don 847-358-1718.

4ft. rounded nail table with light. 4 slide drawers and 4 shelves. Like new, black marbled formica. Asking \$200.00. Call 708-654-2010. Picture available online.

18 position ladder, 16 ft, asking \$150. Call 708-654-2010. Picture available online.

I RIDE electric scooter new. Paid \$1,300 asking \$950. Weight 32 lbs. (base), length 38", width 19.25". Call 708-654-2010. Pictures available online.

Stored classic 2002 Jaguar XKR super charged convertible limited edition. Excellent condition with every available option. Insured for \$80,000 asking \$35,000 obo. Pictures can be texted upon request. Call Jim 773-581-4400.

2010 Volkswagen Jetta. One owner, great motor and transmission, clean. 185,000 miles. \$2,650. Call Louie 847-361-9292. Pictures available online.

Stored aged high end, with documentation, Erte Art Courvoisier Cognac bottle collection. Numbered bottles from a 7-bottle collection. Numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 7. Call Jim 773-581-4400 for pricing and pictures.

High-end 12"x24" porcelain tile for master bath. Over \$5,000 worth of tile and 300 square feet available. New in box. Will sell for \$2,500. Call Jim 773-581-4400 for description of tile and pictures.

Wooden wall panels 8' wide and 6" thick. 14' – 23' long. Also, 8' railroad ties. Delivery available. Call Bill 708-415-4716.

Vintage Nelsonville, Ohio Circle Cube Brick Pavers (early 1900's) – 10.5" x 2.5". 300 pavers available, worth up to \$6,000 if sold individually. Will sell whole lot for \$4,000. Call Dave 708-264-4901. Picture available online.

MDT snow blower, purchased in 2010, 24" 2 stage, 3 forward gears and 2 reverse. Asking \$250 obo. Buyer must pick up. Call John 847-828-8655 after 1.

Antique Singer sewing machine – model #201-2, year 1939. Excellent condition, black and gold in cabinet, all attachments. Works great. \$300 call 815-469-3001 and leave a message.

Antique walnut Queen Anne dining table (1910-1920) seats up to 10 people, excellent condition pads included and 4 oak chairs. \$275. Please call 815-469-3001 and leave a message.

Outdoor Christmas Décor. Pictures available online. Call Chet 815-838-4764.

Santa with sleigh and 7 reindeer, including Rudolph with brightly lighted nose, elevated stands and 2 spotlights. \$800.

8ft snowman needs some work, restoration to your desire. \$150.

Glittering sign with spotlight. Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men. \$100.

Town of Bethlehem includes 4"x 8" plywood boards with fluorescent paint and 8 black lights each 4' long, Star of Bethlehem \$250.

Manger scene: 8' wide x 4' deep x 5' high. Includes Baby Jesus, Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, animals, and three kings. \$275.

Four Elves 4' tall. \$125 for all.

Drummer boy on stool with drum. \$100.

FOR RENT

Horse farm: Modern, nicely remodeled farmhouse perfect for a single person or a couple. Tree shaded lot, barn with three stalls, loft, electric and water. Large grassy fenced pasture, on good road, near Frankfort. Call 708-670-2118.

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.

Need Cash? Wanted – old broken or new gold jewelry, coins, diamonds, watches, gold teeth. I also install watch batteries for \$10. Call Bob 708-602-3350.

Wanted Cessna 172 or 150 airplane in airworthy condition. Call or text Joe 847-962-6745.

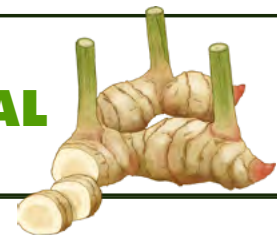
Wanted 6 ft blow mold Santa, with or without light. Call 708-439-9770.

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.

This month
"G"

GALANGAL



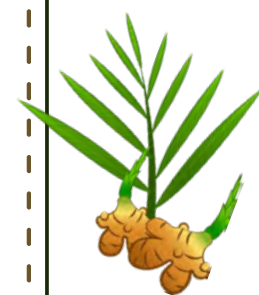
Galangal, also known as Thai ginger, is a spice often used in traditional medicine around the world, especially in Thailand and Indonesia.

Dried galangal powder is used in baked goods or curries.

When crushed or sliced, Galangal has a warm, pungent, and complex flavoring of woody, earthy, peppery, and bitter notes combined with subtle nuances of citrus, pine, and mustard.

The term galangal refers to the root of several plant species belonging to the Zingiberaceae or ginger family.

GALANGAL RHIZOMES ARE AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND



Galangal has many benefits, including treating pain and inflammation.

Use finely chopped galangal in salads, stir-fries, or dips

Galangal supplements are available in capsule, powder, and liquid form.



Essential oils from fresh and dried galangal root may help prevent the growth of various bacteria, fungi, and yeasts.

Next month...Habanero Pepper

Agriculture in the Classroom 2025 Summer Intern

Description:

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation offers an internship within the Ag in the Classroom program in Countryside, IL. The internship's hours will include portions of June, July, and August 2025.

Responsibilities:

Assist with summer ag programs, including giving presentations and conducting activities at community,

library, and school summer events

Assist with the planning and organizing of Summer Ag Institute, workshops to teach ag curriculum, for K-12 educators

Compile all materials related to summer ag programming, including the ordering of materials, organization of supplies, development of rosters, scheduling, and preparation of summary reports/letters following programs

Take photos and create graphics to be used for social media and in print

Perform miscellaneous duties as they relate to the AITC program

Qualifications:

Applicants must be enrolled at an accredited college or university.

The student should be pursuing a degree in agriculture education, agriculture communications, or a related field

The qualified student will possess excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to speak in front of large groups

The student will possess computer and technology skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Office and virtual meeting platforms

The individual must have good organizational skills and be able to work independently on a wide variety of assignments simultaneously

The individual should have a passion

for educating both adults and children in all areas of agricultural education

Additional Information:

This is a paid internship, available to current enrolled college students. Some area travel is required. The position is selected through an interview process and application, as well as a resume, academic transcripts, and references.

Contact:

For more information or to apply, contact Katrina Milton at 708-354-3276 or aitc@cookcfb.org.

To learn more about the Cook County Farm Bureau, visit our website at www.cookcfb.org.

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

Membership Mondays – December 2024

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



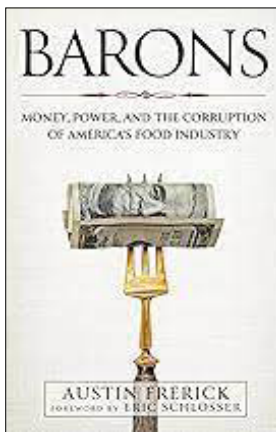
LOCATION: Zoom; link will be emailed prior

WHEN: Monday, December 16 **TIME:** 4:00-4:30 pm minutes with Q & A

REGISTRATION: Registration is required by emailing ccfb@cookcfb.org or call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Zoom Book Club

Participants will read “Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America’s Food Industry” and will be asked to explore the rise and consequences of their actions of seven corporate titans of the agricultural industry. Barons explores alleged corruption and monopolies within the agricultural industry.



LOCATION: Zoom, link will be provided before first meeting

WHEN: Meeting dates will be the following Tuesdays – January 21st, February 4th, February 25th and March 11th

TIME: 6:00 pm

REGISTRATION: Email Bona at: bona@cookcfb.org to sign up. Last day to sign up is January 10th.

Preparing Wills and Trusts

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

This program will inform you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust.



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

WHEN: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 **TIME:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm

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

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

Cheese 101 - presented by Meredith Meder, ACS CCP

We will talk, eat and discuss different milk types, cheese styles and how to buy, cut and store cheeses. This class is ideal for a novice or if you just love cheese!



LOCATION: Cook County Farm Bureau | 6438 Joliet Rd. Countryside – Lower Level Conference Room

WHEN: Thursday, March 13, 2025 **TIME:** 7:00 – 8:30 pm

COST: \$17.00 for CCFB members, \$20 for non-members

REGISTRATION: Registration is required in advance by calling the FB at 708-354-3276.

Beginning Beekeeping in Person 2025

Beekeeping for those interested and never kept bees and beekeepers looking to learn and overcome challenges of bee loss and keeping bees sustainably.



LOCATION: Cook County Farm Bureau | 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside – Lower-Level Meeting Room

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday, March 1-2, 2025 **TIME:** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

COST: \$125.00 for members of CCFB or CDDBA. \$150.00 for non-members; ask how to join!

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT: Registration and payment is required in advance by credit card at 708-354-3276.

HAVE A TOUGH-TO-BUY-FOR RELATIVE OR FRIEND ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST?

Consider purchasing a Cook County Farm Bureau membership and check the box!

A membership features:

- Agricultural fun
- Farming information
- Agriculture literacy and school connections
- Great discounts, benefits, and services
- Virtual and in-person programs and activities
- and much more!

All for the low price of \$20 (Associate member) and \$45 for the farmer/agriculture professional!

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or go to the member center at www.cookcfb.org.



To our Voting Members,

We would like to personally thank you on behalf of the board and staff for renewing your \$45 membership with the Cook County Farm Bureau®. We commend you on your continued resilience, determination, and energy. We value your commitment as we partner for a strong agriculture present and future.

As your partner, your Cook County Farm Bureau offers great resources, information, and programs for essential support for you and our other members, farmers and farm owners, workers, small businesses, parents and youth, and affiliated companies. We love being a strong partner to you.

We continue to see firsthand the important role farming and agriculture plays every day in the Chicagoland area and in our country. We continue supporting area food, fiber, and fuel producers to help provide high-quality, farm fresh products to local consumers. We view this as important work.

Cook County Farm Bureau membership remains the best value in town. We thank you for your membership and we look forward to serving you in the year to come!

RENEW NOW

Scan below to renew your ccfb membership



www.cookcfb.org

Renew today by calling 708-354-FARM (3276) or using this QR code (members service renewal link).

To our Associate Members,

It has been our true pleasure serving you and your membership needs during this past year. We hope you will renew your \$20 membership for another year to take advantage of our value proposition (you received a renewal notice recently).

Cook County and Illinois family farmers seek to provide you, your family, and families across our great country and beyond with safe, wholesome, sustainable food supply.

Your Farm Bureau membership provides you and your family:

- Access to local farm and food producers
- The opportunity to support Illinois farm families and food security
- Information about farm in and your food
- Programs, education, events and more
- Agriculture in the Classroom for local students, teachers and parents
- 300,000+ discounts (abenity link or member center)
- And much more! Check out www.cookcfb.org

Thank you for your membership!