



COOK COUNTY GO-OPERATOR

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

Mark Your Calendar



May
19 Membership Monday **PG 12**

June
15 Spring Photo Contest Deadline
17 Summer Ag Institute Day 1 **PG 6**
18 Lincoln Park Zoo Pollinator Program

July
9 Summer Ag Institute Day 2 **PG 6**

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



Pages 5-8 of this publication contain what special "pullout" section for member's use and enjoyment?

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

April Winner: Joan Kuhlman

Question: The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution in March recognizing "what day" in Cook County related to agriculture?

Answer: National Agriculture Day

CHECK OUT MORE ONLINE!

cookcfb.org/stay-updated-/ccfb-news

- Family Farm and Food Bytes
- Agents of the Month



Students from CHSAS create a decorative pot planter using pansies, stock, and wallflower.



A group photo of the 21 CHSAS students that attended the 2025 Horticulture Farm Shadows Program at Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park.

Cook CFB Hosts Farm Shadows Program

On April 15, 21 students from Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences attended a Farm Shadows Program organized by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Ted's Greenhouse. The program was held at Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park and was hosted

by horticulturalist Greg Stack. During the program, the students, juniors in the high school's horticulture pathway, learned about careers in horticulture and the day-to-day operations of a production greenhouse. They also participated in a tour of the greenhouse, a propagation activity that taught them how to grow new plants from cuttings, and a planter pot activity where they each chose flowers to create their own planter to take home.

In feedback they gave after the event, students said the field trip "did really change how I think about working in horticulture" and that the program was very insightful and gave them "more of an idea what it's like to work in a greenhouse, if choosing to pursue a career."

Why Retain Your Associate Membership or Voting Membership?

The Cook County Farm Bureau is an amazing value. At just \$20 annually for Associate Members and only \$45 for Voting Members, is it really a difficult decision?

During 2025, in his light-hearted approach, Cook County Farm Bureau manager Bob Rohrer is writing Downwind, his monthly column, about the value proposition for Members following the announcement that COUNTRY• Financial no longer requires membership to access certain insurance policies.

April Downwind message: "We Even Answer the Phone" (and drink coffee with members)

Bonus, call the office and "we actually answer the phone." Yes, we are real people! Go ahead – try us!

March Downwind message: There is an App for that (saving members big

bucks)...the Farm Bureau Membership Benefit Platform Abenity App.

- ONE STOP SAVINGS! More than 300,000 discounts for hotels, restaurants, theme parks, movie theaters, prescriptions, and more await Farm Bureau members. Thanks to our Member Benefit Platform / Abenity App, there's something for every member to enjoy!
- Download your Membership Benefit App or Visit: <https://ilfb.abenity.com> to start saving. Members who have questions about the app or additional member benefits may contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or the Illinois Farm Bureau Membership Call Center at 309-557-2689.

RENEW NOW
Scan below to renew your ccfb membership



www.cookcfb.org

February Downwind message: Check out the IAA Credit Union for great services, great service, and great member benefits.

See "Membership Renewal" on Page 9

SPECIAL SECTION

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

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

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

Farm Data Shows Diverse/Robust Cook County Agriculture Industry

The 2024 Decision Innovation Solutions (DIS) Economic Contribution Study, conducted by Decision Innovation Solutions for the Institute for Feed Education and Research, examined categories within agriculture, including crops, livestock and poultry, and other agriculture.

For Cook County, the study shows that:

- Cook County has the highest total agriculture value added in Illinois at over \$15.4 billion up 3 percent.
- Cook County is second among all counties in Illinois in jobs derived from crops, first in jobs derived from

livestock and poultry, and first in jobs derived from other agriculture.

- Overall, Cook County has the highest total jobs derived from agriculture in Illinois at over 110,000, up 3 percent from prior studies.

The 2023 Feeding the Economy report again shows that the U.S. food and agriculture sector is a foundational pillar of America. Digging into county-level data, the report shows that Cook County agriculture has a tremendous economic impact. Data shows:

- A significant aspect of Cook County's economy is food processing as of 2022.

Continue Reading "Farm Data" on Page 3

Farm Bureau's "Future Forward" Initiative Continues to Pay Dividends through Foundation Support

In April, 2024, the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved a leadership development and growth plan called Future Forward. The plan outlined an intentional strategy to recruit, train, engage, and develop a new crop of young agriculturalists and members with a focus on leadership and involvement through education, program participation, and training.

Attending the April, 2025 board meeting, the next "crop" of Cook County Farm Bureau young leaders in the leadership pipeline attended the Board of Directors meeting to connect with board members and to report on educational training.

Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow graduates



British Griffis, Kayla Biegel, Katrina Milton

Kayla Biegel, British Griffis and Katrina Milton graduated from Illinois Farm Bureau's Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) program, a comprehensive leadership development course, on March 20.

The Cook County trio were a part of the 25-member graduating class in 2025. Now in its 46th year, ALOT has graduated more than 1,200 leaders since 1979. The seven-session course features experts in communication skills, political process, ag economics, and global issues. Through a broad range of process and content skills, graduates enrich leadership abilities and enhance agriculture's voice in Illinois. Past graduates have included past and current Illinois state legislators and agricultural influencers across Illinois.

Kayla Biegel was born and raised in Chicago Heights on her family's flower, herb, and vegetable farm. She began working in high school as a market staff in the Chicagoland area. After graduating from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, with a degree in business management and human resources and accounting, Biegel returned to Smits Farms to continue to grow the farm, specifically in markets and wholesale. She is passionate about food access, helping customers connect with the farmers that grow their food, and continuing her family's farm.

British Griffis is a Chicago native with a wide range of skills and expertise within the sciences. She obtained her B.S. in agricultural biotechnology from the

University of Kentucky. Upon graduating, she explored various career paths to further her interest in understanding the intersectionality between food systems and healthcare. Her career path has not been linear, as her expertise ranges from community outreach to pharmacy to scientific research and development. In 2019, after serving as a Peace Corps food security specialist, she became inspired to use her experience to create change within her former neighborhood by launching a community fridge and pantry in response to the pandemic. She furthered her engagement with urban agriculture and worked for a biotech startup as a research associate and spent three years working as a chemist. The culmination of these experiences has allowed her to view the food system through various lenses at different levels. She hopes to bridge the food access gap for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities in urban areas.

Katrina Milton serves as the Director of Ag Literacy for Cook County Farm Bureau. She is from Leland, a small village in rural LaSalle County that is known for its annual farm machinery auction and large co-op grain elevator. She earned degrees in English and classical civilization from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and she completed an internship

with Catholic Charities. After working for years as a substitute teacher, she studied secondary education at the graduate level at the University of Southern California. Milton spent 10 years working as a reporter and photographer for Shaw Media publications, including The Daily Chronicle, The Valley Life, and The MidWeek newspapers, as well as The DeKalb County Ag Mag.

The 2025 ALOT graduating class heard from nearly 30 speakers, with topics ranging from ag economics to state and local government policy to communication and professionalism and more. Sessions are designed to give participants a head-start on tackling tomorrow's leadership responsibilities.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Farm Bureau provided financial support.

Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program graduates

The Illinois Agriculture Leadership Program is a 19-month premier program that takes a holistic and immersive approach to addressing the most critical and urgent food security and sustainability issues through a series of seminars featuring leading practitioners in business, education and government. Participants are selected through a comprehensive application

and interview process and must commit to approximately 55 seminar days over the 19-month period.

Cook County Farm Bureau members **Jessica Biernacki** and **Angelica Carmen** recently graduated from the program as a part of the 2025 cohort. During the program, they developed essential tools to enhance leadership skills and strengths, strengthened communication skills, looked at and addressed complicated issues and challenges affecting Illinois and national agriculture, looked at different perspectives on issues and challenges, responded to challenges affecting organizations/businesses/communities, strengthened effectiveness in utilizing teams, and much more.

During the program, in addition to a variety of seminars, the group participated in a national study seminar in Washington DC as well as an international study seminar in Mumbai, India and Dubai.



Jessica Biernacki,
Agriculture teacher
Rich Township
District 227



Angelica Carmen,
Agriculture
Sustainability
Landscape design

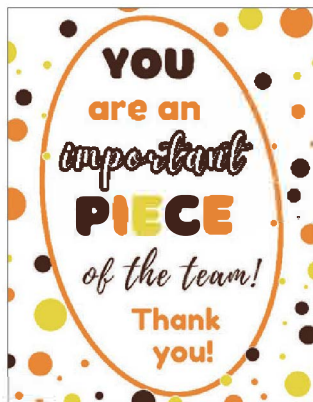
See Page 3 for 2025
General Scholarship
Recipients

Gratitude Journal

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

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- Our 186 active CCFB volunteers who provide skills, knowledge, wisdom, enthusiasm, and leadership to the organization. The Cook County Farm Bureau donated \$800 to our Food Check out Day food pantry beneficiaries, Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry and Maine Township Food Pantry, during April 14-20 Volunteer Appreciation Week in recognition of our volunteers' efforts.
- The hundreds of members that participated in the Cook County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Week held April 14-18. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.
- Soapy Roads of Lombard for providing our members with a beginner workshop for natural soapmaking where they taught about eco-friendly, handcrafted soaps and helped them craft their own beautiful soap.
- The Easter bunny for stopping in to give members treats and pose for photos.
- The many volunteers and Chicago High School for Ag Sciences students for serving as presenters, group leaders, and educational assistants at our April 3rd Ag Days where we hosted about 300 elementary students. Thank you to The Children's Farm in Palos Park and Wagner Farm in Glenview for hosting the successful events!
- Members Leann Pettis, Leah Sheehan, and Matthew Smits for introducing themselves to the Board of Directors to discuss agricultural career aspirations.
- Members Leann Pettis, Leah Walton, Sheri Latash, and Janet Lence for sending us such nice notes.



Co-Operator

Published Monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

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USPS No 132180 Periodical Postage Paid at LaGrange, IL 60525 & additional mailing office



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Postmaster - Mail Form 3579 to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

"Co-Operator" (USPS No 132180) is published monthly as a membership publication for \$3.50 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 fbcooperator@gmail.com with the subject: E-Cooperator.



Downwind

by **BOB ROHRER, CCFB MANAGER**

“Coffee with Members”

Extreme sports. Ruled by adrenaline junkie athletes, mostly age 15 years old or so. They live life on the edge by competing in events like:

- Free style snowmobile jumping (flipping a snowmobile with hopes that it lands right side up...who decided that was a good idea?)
- High wire balance crossing from mountain peak to mountain peak (they do make solid ground trails and roads from point A to point B)
- Tsunami surfing (I'm guessing you do it once, dude)
- Underwater cave exploring (talk about claustrophobic nightmare)
- Free solo climbing (no safety harness, no rope, no future)

I have maximized my adrenaline, thank you. No extreme sports for this guy. Many years ago, I explored some limestone fissure caves with some buddies outside of Hanover, Illinois. We crawled through the tunnels from room

to room. It became confusing to figure out which way was “up”. No water to swim through, though. Boring.

On the farm, in my childhood, my brothers and I tried some activities that felt like extreme sports:

- Manure pit pig rescuing (it's more disgusting than it sounds)
- Feral cat wrestling (all teeth, claws, and rage)
- Bareback sow riding (we never made it to the eight-second horn)

Today...rolling into and out of bed has become my version of extreme sports parkour. The bed is so high...free solo climbing?

While not exactly an extreme sport, I had the true pleasure of drinking approximately a barrel of coffee with members on Friday, April 18. As part of our wrap-up to Member Appreciation Week, a steady stream of members stopped in to say “howdy,” catch up on their Farm Bureau gossip, and consume

a cup of coffee with me, Farm Bureau President Janet McCabe, and board member Dan Biernacki.

The 2-hour coffee break stretched into 3½ of fun-filled, conversational hours. In the process, I learned:

- I could not be a competitive coffee drinker.
- My bladder informed me it was involved in an extreme sport.
- We are fortunate to have terrific members who are a part of the organization (I knew that already).

More importantly, I learned:

- Members love our contests... ag adventures word search, question of the month, identify farm tools/equipment, etc. It was suggested we create an “identify the weed” contest.
- A member used our ABC's of Food feature topic on Zucchini, published in the April 2024 Co-Operator, to create a poster to enter an event at the Lake County Fair in Indiana and received a \$8 prize.
- A member thinks we should move the office to Midlothian so it's easier to attend all our programs (she said with a smile).
- The E Co-Operator is okay for those “youngsters” but the rest of us members prefer to be able to touch the hard copy paper.
- O'Hare National Airport continues to contract full season grazing to help manage the grass growth on its 10,000 acres and a local farmer and his sheep are in the running for the contract.

house circuit breakers.

- Local sheep wool, despite the fact that it has little monetary value, is delivered because it is used to make United States military uniforms.
- Prairie Farms Dairy's french onion dip is the best but is difficult to find for sale in this area.
- Hoof and Mouth disease is spreading on livestock farms through several European countries, causing local concern that it must be prevented from reaching the US.
- Members want to know if recent federal trade actions are supported or opposed by farmers.
- “Biggest loser” family competitions cause members to reject a doughnut leaving one more for me to eat.
- County Farm Bureau staff are very helpful and kind (I knew that also)
- The Easter Bunny drinks Diet Coke when people aren't looking.

The coffee morning re-enforced with me the fact that everyone, has a connection to farming... direct through farm production...linear through family connections...indirect through the love of food, fiber, fuel, and all the products that start on the farm. We recognize each connection is **real and valuable**.

Members responded to our challenge to test our boast “We even answer the phone”. Throughout the appreciation week, members called to give us the daily codewords of popcorn, bacon, watermelon, squirrel, and milkshake to be entered into the daily prize drawing. In the process, we all enjoyed many conversations, making the work day move quickly while providing us a glimpse into member's lives and what matters to you.

Please continue to test us by calling the office...we will answer (We will call it “member appreciation year”).

And thank you for helping me avoid the potential embarrassment of drinking a barrel of coffee by myself...

2025 General Scholarship Recipients

Continued from Page 2

In March, 2025, the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation awarded 10 scholarships to area agriculturalists pursuing agriculturally related careers as a part of their higher education studies. During the April Cook County Farm Bureau board meeting, three general scholarship recipients attended the meeting virtually to communicate their backgrounds and future agricultural goals and respond to questions from the Board of Directors.



Liliana Bernabei, Iowa State University
Agricultural Business



Leah Sheehan, University of Minnesota
Agricultural Industrial Systems Engineering



Matthew Smits, Purdue University
Horticulture

Sign up for Illinois Urban Growers Network Meetings and Newsletter

The Illinois Urban Growers Network delivers technical assistance and resources to urban growers and support organizations to help urban farms and gardens grow a more sustainable food system and agribusiness. Any farmer, gardener, or organization that is involved in urban farming (for profit or non-profit), community gardening, or agriculture and environmental education is encouraged to join the network.

Monthly meetings are the third Tuesday of every month, 9:30 - 11 a.m. through video conference.

Scan the QR code to subscribe to the monthly newsletter:

https://ilfb.informz.net/ILFB/pages/IUGN_Opt_in



Farm Data Continued from Page 1

Food manufacturing accounted for \$9.1 billion in Chicago's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- Bread and bakery products, except frozen manufacturing alone, accounted for just under \$1 billion in GDP.
- Nonchocolate confectionery manufacturing not only provides nearly 3,500 jobs but also contributes over \$540 million in added GDP.

The Census of Agriculture is a count of U.S. farms, ranches, and the people who farm them. Even small plots of land, regardless of whether they're in rural or urban areas, are counted as long as \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were raised or sold. The census is conducted every five years. The 2022 Census of Agriculture, which surveyed changes in land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, and income and expenditures from 2017 until 2022, was released on February 13, 2024.

For Cook County, the data shows that:

- The average farm size is 67 acres, which is a 2 percent increase from the 2017 survey. The vast majority of farms are between one and nine acres, likely due to the urban nature of Cook County.
- The number of farms and the amount of land in farms have declined.
- Nearly half of farm operators in Cook County are new and beginning farmers. Over 75 percent of producers are also family farmers.
- While Cook County only has a handful of organic growers, it is home to nearly 150 certified organic handling facilities, including bakeries, pizza producers, candy producers, distilleries, meat processors, and grain handling facilities.
- Over 35 farms sell directly to consumers, up from 2017. These farms generate over \$2.3 million.
- There are nearly 120 farmers' markets in Cook County, many of which are located in the City of Chicago.

The data shows that Cook County agriculture while more urban than in neighboring counties is thriving.



Four Seasons Gardening

Whether new to gardening or someone with years of experience looking to talk plants, register for **Four Seasons Gardening**, a monthly webinar series from **University of Illinois Extension** exploring plant management and plant varieties to strengthen spring garden skills.

- **May 20: Managing Common Squash and Pumpkin Pests**

Log on monthly to explore a new topic, engage with Illinois Extension horticulture experts, and gain resources on home gardening, environmental stewardship, and backyard

food production. Register for the spring sessions beginning April 29. *For program questions or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact one of the series coordinators, Nancy Kreith, at kreith@illinois.edu, Gemini Bhalsod at gbhalsod@illinois.edu, or Andrew Holsinger at aholsing@illinois.edu.*

Go to <https://extension.illinois.edu/plants/four-seasons-gardening> to register.

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES — FOR FAMILIES —



What is Horticulture?

Horticulture is the branch of agriculture that includes growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants.

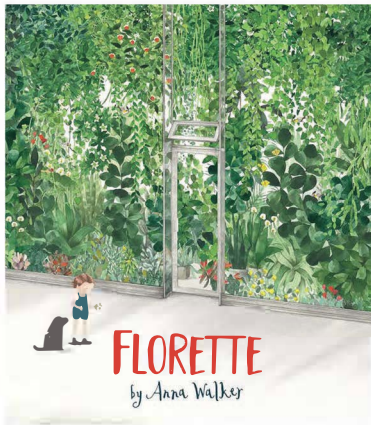
The word “culture” comes from the Latin word “cultura,” meaning “cultivation” or “tending,” which is from the verb “colere,” meaning “to till or cultivate.”

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: *Florette*

Written and illustrated by Anna Walker

Summary from Amazon:

When Mae’s family moves to a new home, she wishes she could bring her garden with her. She’ll miss the apple trees, the daffodils, and chasing butterflies in the wavy grass.



But there’s no room for a garden in the city. Or is there? Mae’s story, gorgeously illustrated in watercolor, is a good match for kids interested in the environment, as well as any child going through a move.



TYPES OF HORTICULTURE

- **Olericulture:** vegetables, such as zucchini, lettuce, and carrots
- **Pomiculture:** fruits, such as apples, oranges, and strawberries
- **Viticulture:** grapes used for wine
- **Floriculture:** flowering plants, such as roses, tulips, and orchids
- **Arboriculture:** trees, such as oaks, maples, and pine
- **Turf Management:** lawn grasses and sod
- **Landscape:** ornamental plants grown for design

Interested in finding horticultural businesses in Cook County?

Check out the Discover Local pull-out section of this month’s Co-Operator.

Latin THE LANGUAGE OF PLANTS

Botanical Latin is the language used throughout the world for naming and describing plants. 18th-century Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus is known as the “Father of Modern Taxonomy.” Taxonomy is the science of classifying and naming living organisms. Linnaeus developed a two-part naming system, known as binomial nomenclature, where each organism is given a unique genus and species name, which becomes its scientific name.

Latin was chosen because as a dead language, the Latin’s words are permanently fixed and universally understood. Many scientific names have ties to ancient Greek words and myths for the same reason.

Examples of binomial nomenclature:

- **Homo sapien** = human beings
- **Crikey steveirwini** = a gecko named after Steve Irwin
- **Spongiforma squarepantsii** = a mushroom found in Malaysia named after SpongeBob SquarePants
- **Acer rubrum** = red maple
- **Helianthus annuus** = common sunflower, named after Helios, the Greek god of the sun
- **Quercus alba** = white oak
- **Narcissus pseudonarcissus** = daffodil, named after the mythological Greek hunter who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water

May Word Search

Last Month’s Winner:
Jennifer Rifis-Meng

Agriculture	H	T	D	N	T	B	G	K	L	Y	A	R	S	R	W
Botanical	S	E	U	P	I	R	K	A	L	G	I	S	T	G	X
Flowers	A	R	R	R	Z	T	N	R	R	T	S	O	N	A	T
Fruit	B	U	E	B	F	D	A	I	Y	A	E	H	A	K	I
Grass	I	W	V	W	S	P	C	L	R	S	V	O	L	P	U
Grow	E	E	Q	C	O	U	B	G	V	L	N	R	P	R	R
Herbs	S	R	A	O	L	L	A	C	I	N	A	T	O	B	F
Horticulture	P	P	R	T	V	H	F	U	D	G	P	I	A	S	T
Landscape	E	H	U	X	M	X	F	B	F	J	H	C	B	G	V
Language	B	R	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	M	U	O	X	D
Latin	E	L	B	A	T	E	G	E	V	U	R	L	Q	Z	W
Plants	P	W	J	S	L	M	R	P	V	H	U	T	M	U	H
Shrubs	A	O	R	G	P	J	R	M	S	X	L	U	V	Y	Y
Trees	E	J	A	Z	Q	G	G	A	V	H	T	R	E	E	S
Turf	E	T	G	R	O	W	E	D	K	T	V	E	Z	A	J
Vegetable															

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 2025 and your name is automatically entered into an “End of Year” drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Deadline is the 20th of each month. **GOOD LUCK!**

DISCOVER LOCAL



CO-OPERATOR PULL-OUT SECTION 2025

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



9 Acres Equestrian Center
12211 S La Grange Rd., Palos Park
<http://www.9acresec.com/>
(708) 361-7977



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



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



Cogro Co-op Biodynamic Growers, LLC
21931 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago Hts.
<https://cogro.org/>
(773) 808-3028



Delair's Corn Stalk Farm Pumpkin Patch
13901 Wolf Rd., Orland Park
www.delaircountryfarm.com/pumpkin-farm-orland-park
(708) 785-9532



Forest View Farms
16717 S Lockwood, Tinley Park
www.fvfarms.com/
(708) 560-0306



Harvest OG LLC
1243 Balmoral Ave., Calumet City
<https://bmlgriffis.wixsite.com/harvestog>
(708) 250-1620



Evergreen Park Urban Farm
2709 W. 91st St., Evergreen Park
www.evergreenpark-ill.com/The-Urban-Barn
(708) 286-5055



Brad's Bees & Honey
1525 Dale Drive, Elgin
www.bradshoney.com/
(813) 957-0649



Chicago Tomato Man
www.chicagotomatoman.com/
(708) 466-4700



Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association
cookdupagebeekeepers.com
(650) 200-5582



Double J Riding Club
10545 74th St, Countryside, IL
<https://doublejridingclub.com/>
(708) 365-9741



Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center
40 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington
<https://goebbertspumpkinfarm.com/>
(847) 428-6727



Historic Wagner Farm
1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview
<https://glenviewparks.org/facilities/historic-wagner-farm/>
(847) 657-1506



Angelic Organics North, LLC
<https://angelicorganics.com/>



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



Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot
2061 E 14th St., Lynwood
<https://clarkesgardencenter.com/>
(708) 758-8500



Deer Creek Farms
360 E Glenwood-Dyer Rd., Glenwood
<https://deercreekgoatyoga.com/>
(708) 441-7751



Farm on Ogden/Chicago Botanic Garden
3555 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago
www.chicagobotanic.org/urbanagriculture/farm_on_ogden
(847) 835-6807



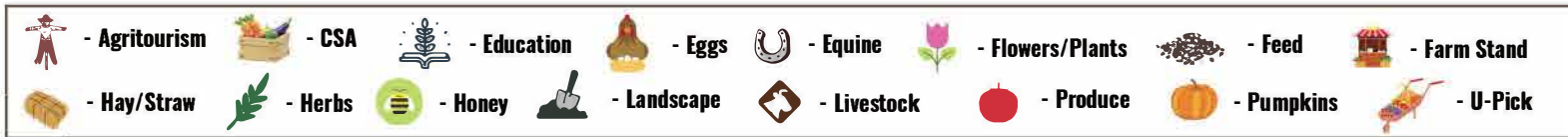
Gorman Fresh Produce
6607 West Bruns Rd., Monee
www.gormanfarmfreshproduce.com/
(708) 534-2375



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



- Equestrian
- Produce
- Farm Stand
- Education
- Eggs
- Equine
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- Feed
- Hay/Straw
- Herbs
- Honey
- Landscape
- Livestock
- Pumpkins
- U-Pick



Horchers Farm & Country Flower Shop
 910 McHenry Rd., Wheeling
<https://horchers.com/>
 (847) 541-3276



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



Kakadoodle LLC
<https://kakadoodle.com/>
 (708) 921-0080



Ludwig's Feed Store
 13205 131st St., Lemont
<https://ludwigsfeedstore.com/>
 (630) 257-3097



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



Pachamama Farmstead Llc
 1525 Dale Dr, Elgin
 Find on Facebook
 (813) 957-0649



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



Sarah's Pony Rides
 8220 S. Keen Ave., Willow Springs
<http://sarahsponyrides.com/>
 (630) 802-1316



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



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



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



M & D Farm & Garden Center
 14946 Bell Rd., Homer Glen
www.manddfarmandgardencenter.com/
 (708) 935-1715



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



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



Salt Creek Butterfly Farm & Apiaries
www.saltcreekbutterflyfarm.org/
 (708) 601-1080



Schroeder's Home Landscape Supply
 10800 Southwest Hwy., Worth
<https://schroedermaterialinc.com/>
 (708) 448-1144



IL Bee Rescue
kim@il-bee-rescue.com
 (630) 926-0273



Johnson Equestrian Center
 10101 5th Ave Cutoff, Countryside
<https://johnsoneqcenter.com/>
 (708) 634-8495



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



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



Moraine Valley Honey Farm
 (630) 816-0738



Randolph Street Farm, Llc
 (815) 382-6913



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



Simrayh Apiaries
 (630) 546-0497



Smits Farms
 3437 E. Sauk Trail, Chicago Hts
<https://smitsfarms.com/index.html>
 (708) 758-1244



Sunny Day's Honey
 Find on Facebook
 (630) 516-3676



The Children's Farm at the Center
 12700 Southwest Hwy, Palos Park
<https://thecenterpalos.org/farm/>
 (708) 361-3650



Urban Growers Collective
www.urbangrowerscollective.org/
 (773) 376-8882



We Sow We Grow
 11959 S. Union Ave., Chicago
<https://wesowwegrow.org/>
 (312) 522-5159



Whiskey Acres Distilling
 11504 Keslinger Rd., DeKalb
www.whiskeyacres.com/info
 (844) 494-4753



Stalwart Market
 3320-3322 E. 90th St., Chicago
<https://thestalwartmarket.com/>
 (708) 808-0991



The Sweetpea Flower Farm
<https://thesweetpeafarm.com>
 (708) 288-0581



The Feed Store
 5408 S Harlem Ave., Summit, IL
<https://frommfamily.com/r/1802>
 (708) 458-1327



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



West End Florist & Garden Center
 3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston
<https://westendflorist.com/>
 (847) 251-1943



Star Farm Chicago
 934 W. 50th Pl Chicago
<https://starfarmchicago.com/>
 (773) 782-0163



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



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



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



Zeldenrust Farm Market
 117 E 231st St Steger
www.zeldenrustfarmmarket.com/
 (219) 289-6831



Value Added

Hemp Seed & Processing
 Kifcure Llc
<https://kifcure.com/>
 (855) 543-2873

Florists
 Kiko's Flower Shop
 650 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge
<https://kikosflowers.com/>
 (847) 696-4226

West End Florist
 3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston
<https://westendflorist.com/>
 (847) 251-1943

Horchers Farm & Country Flower Shop
 910 McHenry Rd., Wheeling
<https://horchers.com/>
 (847) 541-3276

Ice Cream
 Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Skokie
 4041 Dempster St., Skokie
 (847) 674-2900

Mulch
 The Mulch Center
 21457 Milwaukee Ave., Deerfield
www.mulchcenter.com
 (847) 459-7200

Food Specialty Growers
 Gibby's Gourmet Mushrooms, Llc
 10347 Oxford Ave. Chicago Ridge
<https://gibbysgourmetmushrooms.com/>
 (708) 912-0991 or (708) 307-3732

Galena Garlic Company
 311 S Main St., Galena
www.galenagarlic.com/
 (815) 777-9625

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

Farm Training/Demo Farm
 MUFTP Extension Demo Farm
 4821 Southwicke Dr, Matteson
<https://www.goebbarts.com/>
 (217) 300-8636

Urban Growers Collective
<https://www.urbangrowerscollective.org/>
 (773) 376-8882

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

Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery
 1035 Sterling Ave, Flossmoor
www.flossmoorstation.com/
 (708) 957-2739

Education/Agritourism
 Ingersoll-Blackwelder House & Kitchen Garden
 10910 South Prospect Ave
www.ingersoll-blackwelderhouse.com/
 (312) 730-5594

Solar
 TrackerSled
 330 South Lombard Ave., Oak Park
<https://sunfarmor.com/>
 (773) 960-4441

Crop Protectants
 Conserv FS
 1110 McConnell Rd., Woodstock
<https://www.conservfs.com/main-office>
 (815) 334-5950

Conserv FS
 7851 183rd St., Tinley Park
<https://www.conservfs.com/tinley-park>
 (708) 532-4723

Composting
 Teegen Compost Services
 (847) 565-9231

Consulting
 Eagle Market Consulting Inc
 2909 W Logan Blvd, Chicago 60647

JulieAnn Gardens
<https://julieanngardens.com/>

SHOP LOCAL

Our Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Join and register your business today. Whether you are a farmer looking to reach new customers or a consumer looking for fresh produce, local dairy, or a brewery in your area – our Shop Local directory is a MUST-HAVE resource! Visit us at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local> or contact us at ccfb@cookcfb.org for additional details. Not a part of the directory – Register Your Local Food or Farm Business today at <https://foodmarketmaker.com/registration>.



SOIL TESTING KITS

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

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

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

- 1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$32
- 2 sample kit: \$42
- 3 sample kit: \$65
- 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$60
- 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$49

Non-member pricing also available.
Costs are subject to change.

To order, call 708-354-3276, using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

We always run the risk of leaving a CCFB member business off a list like this and that is certainly not our intention. We continue to update the “Buy Local” area of our website and encourage any member who wants to be added to the database to contact the office at (708) 354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org.

For more gardening resources and connections, go to bit.ly/49Imi0c.

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

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

Product availability may vary by location

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



Cook County Farm Bureau

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

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

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



Bona Heinsohn

Farm Bureau Continues Legislative Efforts on Behalf of Members

As the state legislative session remains in full swing, Farm Bureau continues working on behalf of farmers and landowners throughout Cook County and Illinois. Farm Bureau's efforts focus on preserving agriculture and the economic well-being of farmers throughout Illinois. Issues include:

Family Farm Preservation Act

Senate Bill 1688 sponsored by Senator Koehler and House Bill 2677 sponsored by Representative Chung reforms the Illinois Estate Tax. Illinois family farm estates are unique in that the vast majority of each estate's value is not in liquid assets. Under current law, most farm estates must plan for the estate tax given the low threshold of \$4 million. Worse yet, the entire estate is subject to taxation if the \$4 million threshold is exceeded. Beneficiaries typically must then sell off parts of the family farm or incur tremendous debt to pay the tax.

Senate Bill 1688 and House Bill 2677 contain the Family Farm Preservation Act, an Illinois Farm Bureau legislative initiative.

The legislation makes the following changes for estates that claim the Internal Revenue Service Agricultural Special Use Valuation Rule for Illinois Estate Tax purposes:

- Increases Illinois' threshold to \$6 million (was \$4 million).
- Makes the existing threshold an actual exemption in which only the dollars over \$6 million are taxed, as opposed to the current law where the entire estate is taxed if the \$4 million threshold is breached.
- Ties the \$6 million exemption to inflation.
- Allows any unused exemption amount to be transferred to the surviving spouse, thus increasing exemption amount for a family.
- Updates the agricultural special-use valuation, for Illinois estate tax purposes, to reflect modern farm estates and farm family descendants.

This has been a politically challenging issue to tackle because it directly impacts revenue collected by the state. Early 2025 estimates projected a \$3.2 billion deficit for Illinois in 2025. Despite this, Farm Bureau will continue to push for the changes to the Estate Tax to be included in the final budget negotiations, which will likely occur at the end of May.

Nuisance Deer

The second issue is an initiative of Farm Bureau. Senate Bill 2160 sponsored by Senator Joyce

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

would give landowners more tools to control deer population on their own properties, encourage hunters to take more antlerless deer during regular hunting seasons, and expand deer donation around the state.

If passed, the process for receiving Deer Removal Permits (DRPs) for deer causing damage to property would be standardized. Landowners would be able to transfer DRPs to anyone with a hunting license to dispatch deer on their behalf. Furthermore, the time a landowner would have to fill DRPs would be extended. This legislation would also create the Hunter Food Bank Fund, which would support grants awarded to food banks to pay processors for donated deer.

Food Deserts

House Bill 1607 sponsored by Representative Harper creates the Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts. The Commission is tasked with reviewing the effectiveness of current State-led efforts to eliminate food deserts and advising the General Assembly on policy, funding, initiatives, and best practices for the elimination of food deserts in Illinois. The Farm Bureau is supportive of the initiative.

Farm Bureau will continue working on behalf of all Farm Bureau members. Members with questions or concerns regarding priority issues are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at bona@cookcfb.org.

Environmental Issues Before the Illinois General Assembly

Farm Bureau continues to actively work on key environmental issues in Springfield during this legislative session. Issues include:

California Emissions Standards

House Bill 3778 sponsored by Representative Dina-Delgado and Senate Bill 2486 sponsored by Senator Villivalam would mandate that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency adopt four specific California Emissions Standards programs that are set and adopted by the unelected California Air Resources Board (CARB). Farm Bureau opposes these changes.

Flood Control Plan

Senate Bill 2311 sponsored by Senator Ellman directs the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to prepare and adopt a comprehensive State flood plan. This plan will include preparation for and response to flood

conditions, provide guides for local flood policy, and contribute to water development. Farm Bureau supports Senate Bill 2311.

Wetlands

Senate Bill 2401 sponsored by Senator Ellman declares a "wetland" as any land area greater than 1/10th of an acre with soil conditions moist enough to support vegetation. Senate Bill 3401 Would prohibit any movement of dirt on a wetland and impose severe, punitive penalties. Farm Bureau opposes Senate Bill 2401.

Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program

House Bill 2745 sponsored by Representative Hoffman directs the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop a nitrogen

reduction incentive program by January 1, 2026 for the purpose of addressing water quality issues. It provides that the program will include a per-acre payment rate of not less than \$5 per acre. Farm Bureau supports House Bill 2745.

Soil Health Awareness Week

House Bill 54 sponsored by Representative Meier would designate the first full week of March each year as Soil Health Week to be observed throughout the State as a week to celebrate and raise awareness regarding the importance of soil health to Illinois agriculture and Illinois farmers. Farm Bureau supports House Bill 54.

Farm Bureau will continue to actively work with State Legislators to advance priority issues and to protect Illinois farmers' agricultural interests.



Cook County Board Recognizes National Agriculture Day

Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton (pictured right) presents Cook County Farm Bureau® leader Blake Lanphier (pictured left) with a resolution recognizing National Agriculture Day and celebrating Cook County agriculture's impact on the county's economy. The resolution was approved during the March Cook County Board meeting.

Membership Renewal

Continued from Page 1

Like a small-town bank but better and your mobile phone is a branch office!

January Downwind message: "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 farming and your food
- Programs, education, events, and more
- Agriculture in the Classroom for local students, teachers, and parents
- 300,000+ discounts by using our Member Benefits Platform app/Abenity and website
- And so much more!

Need more reasons **WHY** to renew your membership?

- Where else will you hear Bob make fun of himself through Downwind each month in your mailbox (physical or electronic)?
- Where else will you hear/read about the latest in food and farm news?
- Where else will you receive access to the great experiences and events that have made us famous?

- Where else will you receive Ag Adventures for Families?
- Ag Literacy for you and your family...we bring it every day!
- Humor...we have it. Serious topics...that's us too!
- ILFB Partners magazine – a great benefit on farming, facts, and travel across the state
- But wait, there's more! Check out www.cookcfb.org.

The value proposition remains huge! We like to say that the membership is dirt cheap, the value is not.

If you missed these past issues of Downwind, check them out at:

<https://cookcfb.org/membership/become-a-member/why-become-a-member>

If you are interested in renewing today: call 708-354-FARM (3276); use the QR code; or online at: <https://www.myifb.org> to pay using your FB member number (found on front page by your address). If you recently renewed in 2025, we sincerely thank you for your support!



Farm Bureau Members Respond to the Spring Viewpoint Policy Survey

Earlier this spring, farmer members responded to Cook County Farm Bureau's quarterly policy survey. Survey topics included farm labor, food safety, and the revitalization of Chicago's downtown. Regarding farm labor, Farm Bureau voting members considered the H-2A agricultural visa program.

The H-2A agricultural visa program can be a lifeline to agricultural employers filling seasonal farm positions, such as harvesting produce, with foreign workers. Employers must first recruit and preferentially hire US workers. Some Illinois farms rely on this program. Over 90 percent of farmer members responding to the survey believe that improvements are needed to the H-2A visa for temporary agricultural workers. Possible improvements include streamlining the application process and expansion of the visa program to non-temporary, non-seasonal agricultural jobs.

Members are encouraged to share their thoughts on the issue with the Cook County Farm Bureau at bona@cookcfb.org.

Planting Seeds

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



Katrina J.E. Milton

May Flowers

When I was in grade school, one year on April 30, my class made May Day baskets for the community. May Day baskets are traditionally small baskets or bags of flowers or treats that are left anonymously for friends or family on May 1.

Our baskets weren't fancy, just plain paper brown bags full of candy, artificial silk flowers, and a handwritten note. We also were allowed to draw all over the paper bag with crayons. The next day, on May 1, our class walked through the neighborhood to leave the bags on the front doorstep of homes. Most students chose their own house or a relative's house. Since I lived in the country, and my relatives lived far away, I chose a house at random and left my May Day basket at their front door.

The next day at school, the cafeteria's lunch lady approached me. She was always a little bit grumpy and curmudgeonly – yelling at students to slow down when

they ran down the hallway, always reminding us to “shush”, use our inside voices, and chew with our mouths closed, and she always made sure we ate our serving of vegetables. However, on that day, she was smiling as she cast a shadow looming over me, and I was afraid that I would get into trouble. She asked me if my last name was Milton, and I responded yes. She then pulled something from her apron: a brown paper bag covered with crayon drawings of flowers. It was my May Day basket! She had tears in her eyes as she thanked me for my thoughtfulness and for choosing her house to place my basket. She said she had never received one before, and she never received cards or letters from her grandchildren.

I never knew if she thought I knew she lived there and chose her house specifically, or if she was just appreciative of the gift, but through the years, she always remembered me with kindness. I always smiled and said hello when I saw her, and she was a little bit friendlier – and always gave me extra dessert.

This spring has been full of flowers – and not only daffodils, tulips, and flowering trees blooming. In April, the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Ted's Greenhouse held a Farm Shadows Program to teach students from Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences about careers in horticulture. The students were not only able to tour the greenhouse,

which they described as “paradise,” but they also had the opportunity to make a planter pot, choosing which flowers and how to decorate it. Giving the students real flowers allowed them to put their creativity and thoughts into action, and they were able to take their planter home to show their families physical evidence of what they learned during the program.

The Cook County Farm Bureau will continue to blossom with upcoming pollinator events at Brookfield Zoo on May 3 and Lincoln Park Zoo on June 18. Learn about pollinators, including honeybees and Monarch butterflies, and do a make-and-take butterfly craft when you stop by Ag in the Classroom's table at these events.

The May Day basket in grade school taught me the importance of being nice, doing the right thing, and the magic of flowers, even if they are only hand-drawn with crayons. You never know what adversities somebody else is going through, and something as simple as candy in a paper bag may make their day (or their life) a little bit happier.

Happy May Day! I hope you brighten someone's day this spring with flowers – after all, horticulture is Cook County's #1 form of agriculture!

Katrina can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



Ag Day North



A third-grade student pets a cow during Ag Day North, held March 18 at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview.

Sixty-eight third grade students from three third grade classrooms at Palmer Elementary School in Chicago attended Ag Day North on March 18, held at Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview. The students learned about what life was like on a farm in the 1920s. Making butter, learning how to pump water and handwash laundry, and petting cows were some of the highlights of their field trip.

Feedback from teachers:

- Thank you for going above & beyond to ensure that all children had a successful field trip. The classroom resources were helpful to build their knowledge about farming. The students loved learning about agriculture through hands-on activities.
- The whole experience was absolutely valuable to the students. They were not only exposed to a new learning environment but to ownership of their learning. The best way children learn is by observing and then doing it by themselves. The students will always remember this magnificent experience.

Feedback from students:

- I'm going to tell my family that I want to be a farmer.
- I am going to tell my family how it is hard to work on a farm, but you can pet cows and see chickens.
- I will tell my family that farmers work very hard.

Ag Day South



Elementary school students pet a rabbit during Ag Day South, held April 3 at The Children's Farm at the Center in Palos Park.

Two hundred sixty-three students from four schools attended Ag Day South on April 3, held at The Children's Farm at the Center in Palos Park. Stations included poultry, cows, sheep, pigs, and horses led by The Children's Farm; horticulture led by Greg Stack; composting and worms with University of Illinois Master Gardener Volunteers with Cook County South led by Nancy Kreith; and bees and honey with Illinois Bee Rescue, led by Pete Soltész, president of the Cook/DuPage Beekeepers Association. Students from Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences led the elementary school students from station to station.

Feedback from teachers:

- Field trip on 3rd grade Ag Day is a wonderful experience for all. For many students, this is their first time being on a farm and around farm animals. Building background knowledge is so important for students and this is done by all the wonderful activities done by the Farm Bureau Foundation.
- The Foundation has a very strong and powerful message of introducing farm life and animals to children who may never have that opportunity.

Feedback from students:

- Every time we eat, we eat agriculture.
- I am going to tell my dad that I touched a chicken.
- What I liked best is knowing the information about the animals.

Educators: Earn 8 CPDUs/ PDCH with Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's Summer Ag Institute!

Route 66 starts in Chicago – and so does our SAI! This year's theme is “Cook County's Ag Connections to Historic Route 66 and Transportation.”



SCAN CODE TO VIEW ITINERARY

Learn more about Route 66 before the highway's 100th anniversary in 2026, as well as other forms of transportation, including waterways and railways. Scheduled itinerary can be found by scanning the QR code.

Cost is \$50 each day or \$75 for both days for Illinois Farm Bureau members. For more information, email Katrina at aitc@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276. To register for SAI, visit bit.ly/SAI2025RSVP.

Day 1: Cruisin' Chicago: Route 66 Trolley and Waterway Adventure

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Held in Chicago

Meet in downtown Chicago for a full-day, all-inclusive adventure including an historic Route 66 trolley tour, Wendella lake and river architecture tour, and a guided tour of the McCormick Bridgehouse Museum. Lunch and all tours included. Parking NOT included.

Day 2: Roads, Rivers, and Rails with Illinois Ag in the Classroom

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Wednesday, July 9, 2025
Held at the Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL

Learn more about Illinois' agricultural connections to transportation. Guest speakers will present about biofuels, including ethanol and biodiesel. Hands-on activities will teach engineering and map-reading skills. Lunch included. Held at the CCFB in Countryside.

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

18 position ladder, 16 ft, asking \$100. Call 708-654-2010. Picture available online.

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

Ivers & Pond upright piano, good condition, needs tune-up. Free. You must arrange pick-up and move. Call Mike 708-296-0247.

Classic limited edition 2002 Jaguar XKR100 super charged with every available option. Pristine condition. 17,000 original miles. Will send pictures by phone, if interested. Contact Jim 773-581-4400.

Erte Courvoisier Cognac Collection. Will send pictures by phone, if interested. Call Jim 773-581-4400.

2010 Volkswagen Jetta, 186,000 miles, model 2.5 engine. Runs great, very clean interior. \$1,900 firm. Needs minor body touch up. Call Louie 847-361-9292, Pictures available online.

2001 Ford Crown Vic runs and drives like new. Cold AC, no rust or dents, interior close to new. Southern car. New brakes, shocks, front suspension and overall. Engine has minor noise, which could be major. Sell for \$1,650. Call 847-358-0972 and ask for Don.

Solo brick building zoned commercial B2 with full basement. Ideal location one mile to expressway and 2 1/2 blocks to Arlington Park train station. Contact Rita Joan for more info 815-600-4828,

All items are brand new, in box, never used (shower duplicates), prices listed or best offer. Call Paul 708-826-0000:

• George Foreman 60 square inch Super Champ Family Grill \$54 • Toastmaster 4-slice toaster oven/broiler \$50 • Proctor Silex Durable

Toaster Oven/Broiler, 4 slice capacity \$54 • Mr. Coffee 12 cup switch on/off indicator light \$24 • Rachel Ray 3-piece BBQ tool set \$24 • Hamilton Beach 6 Quart Slow Cooker, oval (fits 6 lb. chicken or 4 lb. roast) \$60 • Proctor Silex space saving blender \$33 • Parini Quesadilla Maker \$49 • Elite Cuisine non-stick sandwich maker \$19 • Vicks warm steam vaporizer \$17

Little Beaver gas earth drill w/10" auger. 7 HP B&S engine, model #7. Good condition \$750. Ask for Michael 847-272-0448.

Toyota LP 3000 forklift \$7,500 (delivery additional). Model #42-5FG15, 1005 hours, very good condition. 48" extended forks, 185" three stage lift, 48" backrest, 63.5" free lift. Solid pneumatic tires, front headlights, side-shifter, 6 degree tilt. Ask for Michael 847-272-0448.

Snapper rear engine riding lawn mower. Series 17, Model M280917B. 28" cutting width, 9.0 HP Briggs & Stratton engine. Pull start manual recoil. It has 5 speed on-the-go shifting that allows you to shift smoothly through 5 forward speeds without clutching or stopping. For your safety, when your feet leave the automatic break step pedal, the blade stops while the engine keeps running. Pivoting front frame allows all 4 wheels to remain on the ground while the deck conforms to the contours of your lawn. It has stand-on-edge for storage, nice, dependable and well taken care of rider. This 82-year-old senior decided to go with a lawn service. Looks and runs very good. Price is \$500. Call 708-361-8230.

FOR RENT

Arlington Heights 4 bedroom, 2 bath house with two car garage. 8 rooms, 3 levels, new kitchen and finished basement. Near train and expressway. 312 N Reuter St, Arlington Heights. Must have good credit. No dogs. \$3,200 per month. Call Louis 847-361-9292

Modern brick ranch in Worth. Three bedrooms, two baths with den and attached two car garage. All appliances included with central air. Call 708-670-2118.

WANTED

Wanted 5 ft blow mold Santa, with or without light. Call 708-439-9770.

Wanted 1972 older cars, trucks, parts, unfinished projects, and 1967/69 Camaros. Call 708-439-9770

I buy vintage sports cards and non-sports items. Call or text John 773-213-4024

Wanted 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 Ron a call at 630-273-4433

At The Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers



Farmers Bond with their Lunch Box

Always take your lunch box along.

Accept the statement as words of wisdom or a standing joke among the farm crew. On a good planting or harvest day, farmers intend to camp out in a single piece of equipment – just a guy or gal and their lunch box in the tractor, combine, semi or sprayer. But the day quickly goes awry when you dismount the tractor to help with a breakdown, jump in the service truck to grab supplies at the home farm or drive another truck to fetch a part in town. Soon, you're thirsty, hungry and two vehicles removed from your afternoon snack and Cherry Coke Zero.

The lunch box provides comfort and routine. Its caloric content caters to our personal cravings and delivers physical fuel for the body, emotional therapy for the mind and small moments of peace in a 14-hour workday. My teenage son says, "It's a good day when a lunch box is involved." The insulated cooler signals cab time and farming the land with his favorite snacks and a sweet tea.

I look forward to the lunch box rituals in the field, starting with yogurt and berries for breakfast. Lunch comes out about 11 a.m. or when field conditions allow, providing another hashmark in the timeline of a long day. Strangely, I like traditional hot foods served

cold, including homemade meatloaf or 4-H barbecue with no bun – all at the temperature of a lunchbox lined with ice packs.

While previously limited to handheld foods, today's auto-guidance permits spoons and forks. I enjoy the calm pace of soybean fields with long, back-and-forth passes. Satellites steer the tractor hands-free so I can fork my food while watching the machine's performance. In contrast, odd-shaped fields with lots of turning, stopping and starting keep my lunchbox lid largely closed.

Homemade trail mix ranks an afternoon highlight. Popcorn keeps me alert a kernel at a time. Miniature chocolate bars satisfy sweet cravings but not quite like my grandpa's treats did. All the grandkids wanted to ride with him and raid his lunch box for a piece of strawberry licorice.

Grandpa called his lunch box a dinner pail, a nod to dinner as the noon meal in farm country. For most of the world, dinner means supper time, and that's when Mom is the hero. She delivers a hot meal, homemade dessert and drinks to the field as the contents of the lunch box dwindle.

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.

Celebrating Small Business Month with IAA Credit Union



Jennifer Killian

In celebration of National Small Business Month, IAA Credit Union (IAACU) proudly highlights its ongoing commitment to supporting small businesses. As a trusted partner in the community, IAACU offers a suite of tailored financial solutions—from flexible business checking accounts to a variety of loan options—designed to foster growth, sustainability, and long-term success for all the entrepreneurs working with us.

Comprehensive Business Solutions

IAACU provides a range of services to meet the diverse needs of small businesses:

• **Business Checking Accounts:** IAACU's Simple Business Checking Account features no monthly fees and offers the

first 100 transactions free each month, with a nominal fee of \$0.25 per subsequent transaction. Account holders can manage their finances seamlessly online or via mobile devices, and benefit from free bill pay services.

• **Business Loans:** Recognizing the unique challenges faced by small businesses, IAACU offers various loan options, including:

• **Owner and Non-Owner-Occupied Real Estate Loans:** Financing solutions for purchasing or refinancing commercial properties.

• **Equipment Loans:** Loans tailored for acquiring and refinancing properties essential business equipment and vehicles.

• **Operating and Asset-Backed Lines of Credit:** Flexible credit lines to support day-to-day operations or leverage assets for business growth.

Community First Accelerate Grant Program

In collaboration with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago), IAACU participates in the Community First® Accelerate Grant program, which provides grants to support the growth and development of small businesses in Illinois and Wisconsin. In 2024, IAACU awarded a total of \$33,000 in grants to two local businesses:

• **Smiley's Daycare:** This daycare offers affordable, high-quality childcare by blending the comforts of home daycare with the educational benefits of larger facilities. The grant enabled Smiley's Daycare to purchase a storage shed, enhancing their ability to organize resources and provide a wider range of activities tailored to children's developmental needs.

• **Clean Cans:** Specializing in environmentally safe cleaning services, Clean Cans disinfects, sanitizes, and deodorizes residential and commercial trash and recycling cans. The grant

supported the company's expansion plans, allowing them to invest in additional equipment and broaden their service area.

These grants, comprising \$15,000 from FHLBank Chicago and an additional \$1,500 from IAACU for each business, underscore IAACU's dedication to fostering local entrepreneurship and community development.

A Trusted Partner for Small Businesses

IAACU continues to be a trusted financial partner, offering personalized service and competitive financial

products. Whether through innovative banking solutions or collaborative grant programs, IAACU remains committed to empowering businesses and strengthening the communities it serves.

Scan the QR code to speak with a member of our Small Business team or visit www.iaacu.org/business.



See Ad on Page 12

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 2025

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 so members can take full advantage. An open Q&A session will follow the short staff presentation.

DATE: Monday, May 19, 2025 **TIME:** 4:00-4:30 p.m. with Q & A

LOCATION: Zoom; link will be emailed prior

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



Get a Jump on Summer Fun!

RAGING WAVES WATERPARK – Park opens May 24th

General Admission Single Day Ticket: ~~\$29.00~~ CCFB member price (regularly \$62.99); ages two and under are free. Limited supply of tickets, while supplies last. Call CCFB to order at 708-354-3276 or stop by the office.

SANTA'S VILLAGE, Dundee – Park opens May 17th

Single Day Ticket: ~~\$29.99~~ CCFB member price (per person/plus tax). Retail value: \$38.99. Guests under 36 inches are FREE and parking is FREE. Purchase tickets online at Santa's Village website (www.santasvillagedundee.com) and use code: 2025CDP.

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

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



Master Gardener Help Desk Open

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and the University of Illinois Extension continue to partner on a project that benefits local Farm Bureau members and the general public. Master Gardeners are available to answer questions from members and the general public related to gardening and horticulture.

Master Gardeners are available through the Cook County Farm Bureau by emailing mastergardener@cookcfb.org or calling the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

General topic areas that can be addressed include soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification and treatment, and more. Commercial related questions will be forwarded to the University of Illinois Extension professional staff.



Cook County Farm Bureau PHOTO CONTEST

SPRING PHOTOS

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

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

Example Categories for Spring:

Planting Vegetables, Planting Flowers, Farmers' Markets

Prizes:

Each season will have three winners.

1st place: \$100 cash

2nd place: \$40 Farm Fresh Funds*

3rd place: \$25 Farm Fresh Funds*

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

The contest is open to all members in good standing. Go to <https://bit.ly/4jyhUWV> to submit entries.

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

Recipe of the Month

Italian Crescent Zucchini Pie

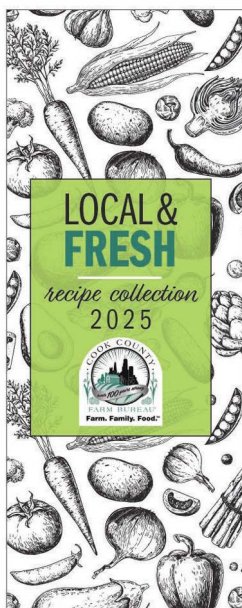
Wanda Bruinsma, Lynwood

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 c thin sliced fresh zucchini
- 1 c diced onion
- 1/2 t salt and pepper
- 1/2 t garlic powder
- 1 t Italian seasoning
- 2 T fresh parsley or 1 t dried
- 2 eggs
- 8 oz shredded Italian cheese
- 1 T butter or EVOO
- 2 t mustard of choice
- 1 can crescent rolls

DIRECTIONS:

Press one can of crescent rolls into lightly greased 8x11 inch pan and pre-bake at 375° for 4 minutes. Spread 2 tsp mustard over the crescent crust, set aside. Sauté zucchini and onion in 1 T butter or EVOO for 8 minutes. Stir in salt and pepper, garlic powder, Italian seasoning, and parsley flakes. Blend 8 oz shredded Italian cheese and 2 beaten eggs and stir into zucchini mixture. Spread over crust. Bake 18-20 minutes, until set.



2025 Recipe Collection is Available!

To receive a copy of the 2025 Recipe Collection Booklet, call 708-354-3276, email: ccfb@cookcfb.org, or register from the MyIFB member center account.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Commercial Real Estate Loans | Business Checking
Lines of Credit | Commercial Vehicle Loans

