

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2025-2026 Board of Director Nominees (2-year term)



James Bloomstrand

James "Jim" Bloomstrand has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2013. Bloomstrand has been a County Farm Bureau Certified Director since 2022. Bloomstrand is the Chair of the Member

Relations Team, a past member of the Agriculture Literacy Team, and a past Ag in the Classroom presenter. Bloomstrand received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering prior to working for the Allis-Chalmers Tractor Division. Bloomstrand also operated the family's corn and soybean farm. Bloomstrand is a graduate of the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow program and has been inducted into the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame. Bloomstrand resides in Hoffman Estates and has an adult child.



Blake Lanphier

Lanphier became a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors in April 2024 and has served the past three years as chair of the Young Leaders Team of the Cook County Farm Bureau. Blake is a 2020 graduate of the two-year

agricultural educational leadership experience through the Illinois Ag Leadership Program. Blake grew up in southeast Iowa on a livestock, row crop, and vegetable farm. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences from Iowa State University. Blake serves as the farm operations manager of Wagner Farm in Glenview where he has worked for the past nine years. He provides support and program assistance for the Glenview 4-H club, which is one of the largest in Cook County. Lanphier is married to Shannon and has a daughter.



Janet McCabe

Janet has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2011 and has served as President since 2017. McCabe has been a County Farm Bureau Certified Director since 2022. McCabe and her husband, Joe, farm in

southern Cook County and northern Will County raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. She has served in a variety of Farm Bureau leadership roles including Secretary/Treasurer and has served on the Governmental Affairs, Public Relations, Audit, and Building committees. She also serves as Chair of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Board and the Political Action Committee. In addition to her on-farm role, Janet is a critical care nurse and has been practicing for over 40 years. McCabe and her husband have two adult children and three grandchildren.



Mike Rauch

Mike Rauch has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2003. Rauch has been a County Farm Bureau Certified Director since July 2023. Mike raises corn and soybeans and does some custom hay

baling in south Cook and Will County and has been active in agriculture for as long as he can remember. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Public Relations Team, serves on the Ag Literacy Team, and the Foundation Board of Directors. Mike holds a B.S. and M.S. degree from University of Illinois. He is also a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program and the ALOT program. Mike has four adult daughters and six, soon to be seven, grandchildren. He and his wife, Laura reside in Tinley Park.



Mark Yunker

Mark Yunker has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2001. Yunker has been a County Farm Bureau Certified Director since March 2023. He and his wife, Heidi, and their son grow conventional and

and organic corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and straw in Frankfort. In addition to Farm Bureau leadership and serving on the Agricultural Literacy Team, Mark is the past President of the St. Johns Men's Club and past Treasurer for the St. Johns Cemetery, and Manhattan Township Trustee. Yunker is a member of the Ag Literacy Team. Yunker and his wife, Heidi, have two adult children and grandchildren.



Ruth Zeldenrust

Ruth Zeldenrust has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2013. Zeldenrust has been a County Farm Bureau Certified Director since 2022 and currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer and Chair

of the Audit and Governmental Affairs Committees. Zeldenrust, along with her husband Henry Campbell, owns Zeldenrust Farm Market where she sells vegetables, bedding plants, honey and a variety of additional products and operates a greenhouse out of Steger, IL. Zeldenrust is the Vice-Chair of the Political Action Committee and is an ACTIVATOR Trustee. In addition to her involvement in Farm Bureau, Zeldenrust is a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program, Class of 2014. She and her husband Henry Campbell have twelve grandchildren.

We Seek to Serve You in So Many Ways!

Agricultural Literacy/Ag in the Classroom - Kids and young adults should know where their food comes from and the hard work it takes to bring it to their families. Our multilevel approach including in-person and videoconference presentations and a host of farm related experiences provide to students, teachers, administrators, and parents the importance of agriculture and farming every day.

Commodities/Marketing – A variety of programs and activities connect consumers with area farmers and members with vegetable production, greenhouses, livestock, corn/soybeans, honeybees, agritourism, composting, community gardens and much more.

Member Relations - Members are the lifeblood of the organization and we seek to deliver a full and comprehensive membership experience through our services, benefits, discounts, programs, and activities package.

Public Relations - Through in-person programs and social media, Chicagoland residents and area consumers who have a natural curiosity about farming, farming practices and agricultural topics gain answers and insight.

Governmental Affairs - CCFB seeks to inform, engage, and influence elected officials and leaders locally, regionally, in the state and federally for quality farm and food policy.

Young Leaders - Younger members, ages 18 – 35 enhance their leadership skills and serve area agriculture's needs through fun interaction.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation - This 501c(3) non-for-profit created to give members the opportunity to support, through their tax-deductible gifts, scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom programming, adult leadership training, internships and more.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee - A Political Action Committee provides members with the opportunity to help positively influence the political landscape of Cook County and support the election of individuals supportive of agriculture and fiscally and ethically responsible.

Master Gardener Resource Center – CCFB has partnered with the University of Illinois Extension to provide members access to local Master Gardeners during the growing season to interpret soil test results, answer questions and provide expertise and assistance in the area of horticulture.

To get involved with any of the Action Teams or programming offered, please go to <https://cookcfb.org/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities>.