



FIELDS OF CHANGE

GROWING A STRONGER COOK COUNTY TOGETHER



Throughout 2025, the Cook County Farm Bureau® strengthened its roots in the community- partnering with local farmers, students, families, and non-profits to grow opportunities, deepen connections, and share agriculture's impact across the county.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS

Cook County Farm Bureau championed the people who grow our food by connecting them directly with consumers and policymakers.

PROMOTING LOCAL FARMS

Through a four-page Co-Operator insert, Market Maker listings, and seasonal spotlights, Farm Bureau helped elevate farm businesses and bring customers closer to the source of their food.

ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE

We represented farmers' voices at municipal and county board meetings, built strong relationships with elected leaders, and achieved meaningful results, including expanding farming opportunities on forest preserve property, supporting the operations of Wagner Farm in Glenview, and the approval of an urban agriculture district in the City of Chicago.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY GROWING SPACES

More than \$2,450 in grants helped community gardens and urban farms purchase plants, seeds, and essential materials to grow fresh, local food.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

We believe the future of agriculture starts in the classroom.



Over **24,000** students reached through school programming



Over **1,000** classrooms reached



Over **200** schools received agricultural education

Teachers, administrators, and parents also participated in specialized workshops and learning sessions.

SUPPORTING COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL STUDENTS

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships to students pursuing agriculture and mental health-related degrees and supported continuing education for healthcare providers and agricultural leaders.

EXPANDING CAREER PATHWAYS

We funded vocational training scholarships for students in truck driving, diesel mechanics, welding, and ag technology- preparing them for vital careers connected to agriculture.

PROTECTING POLLINATORS

Since 2022, over \$16,000 has been invested in local pollinator projects, including providing low-cost seed to members, hosting educational events with the Lincoln Park and Brookfield Zoos, and engaging consumers in conversations about the importance of pollinator health.

INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Farm Bureau remains committed to protecting the land, water, and pollinators that sustain us all.



HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES THRIVE

Together with members and partners, Farm Bureau members worked to ease food insecurity and meet essential needs across Cook County.

FIGHTING HUNGER

Donations of food staples and more than \$7,200 in member contributions supported two local food pantries- Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry, Oak Forest, and Maine Township, Park Ridge.

MEETING HYGIENE NEEDS

A countywide hygiene product drive provided much-needed support for families facing tough times.

ADVANCING NUTRIENT REUSE RESEARCH

Farm Bureau has supported research on struvite as a sustainable, slow-release phosphorus source for specialty crops. Since 2021, Farm Bureau has invested over \$57,750 in nutrient reduction education and research to help farmers innovate responsibly.

PARTNERING WITH NON-PROFITS FOR GREATER IMPACT

Collaboration strengthens our community impact. Farm Bureau provided financial and in-kind support to organizations including the Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association, Friends of Wagner Farm, Greater Chicago Food Depository, and Illinois Specialty Growers Association, among others.



As the county's largest farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers, because when we grow together, our whole community flourishes.



Cook County Farm Bureau®

6348 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

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



Read
the
Full
Report