



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

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

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

Vol. 93 No. 3

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

March 2019

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- 9-10 Beginning Beekeeping Course pg. 1
- 15 Nat'l. AITC Conf. Grant Appl. Due pg. 6

APRIL

- 2 Industrial Hemp Commodity Mtg pg. 1
- 6-7 Advanced Beekeeping Course pg. 1
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MAY

- 4 Spring Planter Workshop pg. 10
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- 17 Succulent Planter Workshop pg. 10
- 18 Shred Day pg. 10
- 21 Generation Law 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 using the Member Service Center at www.cookcfb.org.



Although the Chicago Police raced to victory at this year's Food Checkout Day, held February 21st, Chicago Fire Department shopped their way to a close second. See the April edition for a full round-up of this year's Food Checkout Day.

Question of the Month

What "Stinky" critter is invading North East Illinois and other places in the mid-west?

☆Bonus☆:

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

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

February winner is
Ricky Gross

How many days is the comment period open for the rules written by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and published in the Illinois register regarding industrial hemp?

Answer: 45 days

Industrial Hemp—IL Commodity Meeting



Cook County Farm Bureau® Meeting Room, Countryside, IL
Tuesday - April 2, 2019, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Panelist Topics Include: Regulation; Agronomy-Flora, Food, Fiber; Processing & Markets; Seed; Q & A
Registration is required: CCFB member - \$20.00 | Non-member - \$30.00 by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or members can register at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org/membership. Questions: please contact Debbie at 708-354-3276 or at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

Local Food Pantries are Encouraged to Join Farm Bureau's "Food Pantry Challenge"



Cook County Farm Bureau® will be donating \$1,750 to Cook County food pantries. We'd like to help food pantries provide healthy food for the families in their community.

This summer Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a "Food Pantry Challenge" on Facebook. Throughout the summer, families will vote on Facebook for their favorite food pantry. The Facebook polls (five in all) will be boosted to families in the pantries' service areas. After 10 days, the pantry that receives the most votes will receive a donation for \$350. The second-place pantry will receive a donation for \$150.

Interested food pantries are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org for additional information.

Beekeeping Classes Offered at the Farm Bureau



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

Beginning Beekeeping - 12-Hour Course
Dates: Saturday, March 9, 2019 & Sunday, March 10, 2019

Time: 9 AM—3 PM (working lunch)
Cost: \$75.00 for CCFB & CDBA Members; \$100 for non-members

Advanced Beekeeping - 12-Hour Course
Dates: Saturday, April 6, 2019 & Sunday, April 7, 2019

Time: 9 AM—3 PM (working lunch)
Cost: \$75 for CCFB & CDBA Members; \$100 for non-members

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

Registration & Payment:

- Call Debbie (CCFB) at 708-354-3276
 - Credit card payment accepted by phone at no additional charge or mail a check made out to the Cook County Farm Bureau
 - CCFB Member Online Registration at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org
- For Course Details go to www.cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events or call 708-354-3276

The Existence and Expansion of Urban Coyotes in Cook County



Coyotes can be found in every major ecosystem in North America regardless if the area is rural, urban, scarcely populated or densely populated. Urban coyotes or those coyotes living in or near urban areas, have a different lifestyle compared to coyotes living in a rural area. Unlike most animals, coyotes do not need a large cohesive green area, instead urban coyotes have adapted and can live in scattered green areas like parks, golf courses or cemeteries.

Dens and Litters

Despite living in urban areas it's unlikely that individuals will accidentally stumble onto a coyote's den. Typically, dens are well hidden, and are heavily camouflaged by shrubbery with multiple entrances.

Coyotes are highly social and typically live in family groups. Despite this, it's not uncommon to see a single coyote. Young coyotes may split from their pack to search for a new territory or mate. Coyotes also typically hunt alone or in pairs. A family group can consist of an alpha male and female, offspring from previous seasons, and a current litter. Family groups may "adopt" a lone coyote if the territory can support an additional animal.

Coyotes are monogamous, and research suggests that they are faithful to their mate. The litter size a female has is dependent on food and available resources for those pups. Urban coyotes have surprisingly large litters because of the abundant

supply of rodents, reptiles, fruits, and vegetables in a small space.

Diet

Coyotes are omnivores and typically eat rodents, fruits, and scavenged food. A small portion of urban coyotes' diet is human garbage and feral cats. Studies have shown that coyotes help to manage rodent and Canadian geese populations in urban areas.

Human Interactions with Coyotes

It's not uncommon to see coyotes out in daylight; however, urban coyotes' behavior has shifted towards being more active at dusk and dawn to avoid contact with humans.

To minimize contact with coyotes, do not feed them. Don't leave pet food out. Clean up seeds under bird feeders. Clean out gardens or dropped fruit from trees. If individuals feed coyotes, they will associate humans with food and will become less wary of human interactions. A coyote that isn't wary of humans will enter yards and approach homes.

Safety

Coyote attacks on humans are rare. Discourage a coyote from approaching by:

- Making yourself big and loud.
- Waving your arms, clapping your hands, throwing things.
- Shouting with a loud authoritative voice.

Do not turn around or run. Pick up small children or pets.

Coyotes can, on occasion, target pets for food or as competition for territory. In the case of small children, put yourself between the coyote and child.

To deter a coyote from attacking a pet:

- Turn on outside lights when pets are outside.
- Maintain fencing.
- Remove food sources, including dog food.

Coyotes are one of the few wild animals that have adapted to living in urban environments. By remembering that coyotes are wild animals and should be treated as wild animals and not fed, humans and coyotes can continue to coexist in an urban environment.

Wheat Fun Facts!



- Wheat was first planted in the United States in 1777 as a hobby crop.
- Thousands of varieties of wheat fall into six classes: hard red winter, hard red spring, soft red winter, hard white, soft white, and durum.
- The variety of wheat grown in Illinois is soft red winter wheat. It is used to make cereals, cakes, cookies, and pretzels.
- The four basic parts of a wheat plant include the head, stem, leaves, and roots.
- In Illinois, 83% of the wheat grown is in the southern half of the state, from Springfield south.
- A wheat plant is an annual grass plant that grows to be two to four feet tall.
- The wheat from area farms is collected at grain elevators and then shipped to flour mills.
- Kansas is the largest wheat producer in the United States and North Dakota is a close second.
- U.S. farmers grow nearly 2.4 billion bushels of wheat on 63 million acres of land.
- One bushel of wheat yields 60 pounds of whole wheat flour or 42 pounds of white flour.
- Wheat flour contains a protein substance called gluten. Wheat flour is great for baking since the gluten makes the dough elastic.
- Never refrigerate bagels or any bread product. Bread products become stale six times faster in the refrigerator.
- Approximately 3 billion pizzas are sold in the United States each year. Wheat is used to make pizza crust.
- Nearly 50% of the U.S. wheat crop is sold and exported to about 60 nations around the world.

From the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom SM 2018-19 Calendar for Teachers



Cook County Farm Bureau lost a dear friend and valuable volunteer on February 18, 2019 with the passing of Kathy Bloomstrand. She served 13 years as an Ag in the Classroom presenter (This after teaching elementary school for over 30 years) and provided valuable volunteer support for the Commodities/Marketing Team. Her passion for farm literacy for kids and urban friends was contagious. She also was a great supporter of her husband, Jim, who serves on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and is an Ag in the Classroom presenter. Kathy loved to play tennis and shared with us once that her favorite farm memory was "riding on the tractor with my dad plowing the soil in spring."

Co-Operator

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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, big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- Sherry and Chris Grande along with Nancy Kreith for volunteering to pick-up hundreds of pounds of food from local schools for our food drive efforts. They braved very cold weather to help get much needed donations!
- Greg Stack, Karen and Dan Biernacki for taking hours of their morning at Ted's Greenhouse to develop and design centerpieces for our Fun'Raiser gala event. A shout out to Ted as well for educating us on some of their amazing plants!
- The many members and schools that supported the 2019 Food Check out Day benefit for Ronald McDonald House by contributing food, money, pop tabs, time and love for another successful event!
- Our many members who recently renewed their Farm Bureau membership for another year!
- Our members that work outside through whatever weather comes (even subzero) to get the job done!

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



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

The Building of an Organization

100 years “old.” 100 years “young.” Which is it? Time is relative, I suppose, to what you are comparing the 100 years to...

- The dinosaurs from the Jurassic age lived 150 million years ago... 100 years is young
- The adult mayfly, upon hatching from a mountain stream, lives for about a day... 100 years is old

Cook County Farm Bureau will reach this milestone in about a year, March of 2020. Young or old, 100 years of age is a nice round milestone number. The dinosaurs would probably snort, but we kinda think that 100 years is a big deal!

Leading up to this event, the planning and prepping by the Cook County Farm Bureau board, committees and staff has ramped up with the goal of creating a celebration worthy of 100 years. In preparation for various events, activities and materials, we have been reading minutes, opening boxes in the archives room (very dusty), studying (and laughing at) old photos, reviewing issues of the publication (was the world black-and-white), seeking organizational history and recording member stories that capture the longevity, success and human side of your County Farm Bureau organization.

As we approach our 100-year celebration, we plan on devoting space through The Co-Operator by taking a look at the life of your Cook County Farm Bureau and sharing some of the successes and challenges your organization has faced.

Here’s the brief startup history of your Cook County Farm Bureau...

Back over 100 years ago, farming in the early 1900s was changing significantly with wonderful new technology such as the tractor (no more finicky horses to feed), better seeds, improved knowledge about soils and better methods to grow crops and livestock. Much of the knowledge was being generated through research and studies from land-grant universities such as the University of Illinois. The creation of the Cooperative Extension Service brought farm advisors out to rural areas to share information and teach farmers about these new and innovative ways of farming.

In 1912, with the help of a University of Illinois farm advisor, the DeKalb County Farm Bureau was formed. The group then hired their own farm advisor to help members. The County Farm Bureau system was born!

In 1916, following the formation of a number of County Farm Bureaus with assistance from farm advisors, the group decided to form the Illinois Agricultural Association to represent farmers on the state level. The Illinois Farm Bureau system

was born!

In 1919, following the formation of a number of State Farm Bureaus, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) was formed to represent farmers on the national level. The National Farm Bureau system was born!

Finally, seeing the successful organization formations happening around them, local Cook County farmers talked about forming a County Farm Bureau in the urban area. On March 15, 1920, 250 area farmers traveled to the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago for an organizational meeting to create the Cook County Farm Bureau. The County Farm Bureau was born!

The historical documents about the early days of Cook County Farm Bureau left me with the following impressions and details:

- The enthusiasm of forming a new organization was on full display with many eager leaders.
- Chicago played a significant role in early Farm Bureau development with AFBF being formed in Chicago, Illinois Farm Bureau being housed in Chicago and the majority of Cook County meetings taking place at the offices of the Illinois Farm Bureau at 130 N. Wells St. in Chicago.
- There were many challenges to building an organization from scratch (I can only imagine all the frustrations):
 - Collecting promissory notes in the form of membership dues from members
 - Retaining members and recruiting new members
 - Finding suitable office space
 - Purchasing equipment
 - Hiring a farm advisor and support staff and paying them on time
 - Developing board bylaws, procedures and actions
 - Prioritizing issues and programs to work on

I do not know what the odds of success or failure were 100 years ago for an organization. Today, so many startup companies, for profit and non-for-profit fail within their first 5 years. A successful Farm Bureau was certainly no given.

Obviously, what the CCFB founders did in those early days had a significant impact in the development and growth of the organization initially as well as long-term. Now, 100 years later, we have the opportunity to evaluate and celebrate!

The founders did well!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

A glimpse at the Cook County Farm Bureau during its first decade of life:

- 250 farmers from throughout Cook County ventured to the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago on March 15, 1920 to participate in the formation of an organization.
- HA Dooley was nominated and unanimously elected the 1st president of the Cook County Farm Bureau because “Mr. Dooley had led the organization committee along successful lines”. “All Mr. Dooley asked in response was the wholehearted support of the committee to make the Cook County Farm Bureau second to none in the state.”
- On May 13, 1920, the organization bought a Ford touring car for Mr. C.E. Durst, newly hired farm advisor, to use and discussed car insurance for the vehicle (5 years before the Illinois Farm Bureau created an insurance company that would become Country Financial!) Mr. Durst (salary \$4,000) spent a lot of time in that first year getting out trying to meet with farmers through a series of evening meetings.
- Mr. Blesch of Lemont was “ashamed that their township’s Farm Bureau membership was so small.”
- An audit committee was formed in 1921 to review the finances and accounting practices of the organization.
- The Board created office hours for the Farm Advisor C.E. Durst - Thursdays at Blue Island and Saturdays in Arlington Heights. He requested that a motion or sliding picture machine would greatly aid him in making educational lectures.

Big issues in those first 10 years included...

- Cooperating with the University of Illinois on insect control
- Supporting a livestock survey statewide
- Creating Boys and Girls Pig clubs
- Passage of a law to exempt farmers from having to pay a license to sell their own produce
- Seeking reduced freight rates for shipping line stone and farm commodities
- Establishing a relief fund for children in Europe
- Investigating trucking conditions in Cook County
- Manure handling and garbage burning on Cook County truck gardens
- Improving Cook County railroad crossings
- Investigating the development of a Cook County Fair
- Seeking improved Cook County taxes and farm assessment for area farmers
- Creation of membership picnics and field days for members
- Requesting for financial assistance from the Cook County Board to provide education regarding the destructive nature of the European corn borer
- Lobbying from the state \$30,000 as a part of an Illinois bill to establish a truck garden experimental station in Cook County
- Cooperative buying of boxes of asparagus
- Local dairy production and marketing improvements
- Cleaning up Thorn Creek which was badly polluted
- The eradication of tuberculosis in cattle in Cook County
- Working on control of the onion maggot to save onion growers money
- The organization of spray rings for fruit trees to grow more and better apples
- In 1925, the board had difficulty meeting quorums requirements for board meetings and had a discussion regarding whether Farm Bureau should continue as an organization.
- We especially liked a resolution to the County calling on a greater sheriff presence to protect private property from trespassing and damage, approved by the CCFB Board on October 10th, 1927 which led to the creation of a Protective Association.

Next month, we will knock the dust off some more of the organizational history archives to take a look at 1930-39!



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Have You Spotted Any “Stinky” Bug Invaders?

A new potential home invader looking for a spot to overwinter in Illinois homes this year is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) which has spread to many counties in Illinois. They are a nuisance because they do what stink bugs do best—stink, but only when threatened. This invasive insect was first identified in 1998 in Pennsylvania and is considered a stowaway from Asia. BMSBs have a large host range feeding on the landscape, native and agriculturally important produce. They were originally reported in Illinois in 2009.

According to a study by a University of Maryland entomologist, adults have a strong preference for ripe fruit, leaving the nymphs to eat other plant material. This has caused many growers on the East Coast, where the population has skyrocketed, to forfeit efforts to be organic and start using chemicals. Traps have also been developed using an aggregation pheromone. The BMSB has piercing mouthparts and is capable of damaging a multitude of crops from apples to pears to soybeans and landscape ornamentals. University of Illinois Extension Entomologist, Mike Gray, has said, “BMSB are capable of causing economic losses to soybean and corn producers.”

The BMSB body has the shield-shape characteristic to stink bugs and it is as wide as it is long. The three most identifying characteristics are its black and white banding on the antennae, the alternating dark/light banding on the edge of the wings and the smooth shoulders. They are capable of aggregating in manmade structures and recent USDA studies show they prefer large dead trees that are still standing in the forest, like oak or hickory. They can withstand temperatures to zero Fahrenheit. In April after hibernating, the adult lays 20-30 eggs with nymphs emerging shortly after. There can be multiple generations per year depending on seasonal temperatures.

To control BMSB in the home:

1. Use a vacuum to suck up adults or drop them in soapy water.
2. Take steps in early fall to caulk cracks and crevices around the house.
3. Prevent movement in from the outside by repairing windows and putting on door sweeps.
4. It is not recommended to use sprays in the home because insecticide residues are relatively ineffective in providing control.

For more information on this pest, please contact the local University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educators. The Master Gardener help desk at the Cook County Farm Bureau is scheduled to open Mondays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm on Monday, April 15 through November 15, 2019. Call 708-354-3276 or email mastergardener@cookcfb.org.

Source: Kay Shipman, Farmweek and Kelly Allsup, Extension Educator, Horticulture. Photo: Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.



Sara Velander
Financial Representative

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What's Up?

During a recent meeting with Chicago Northwest & Chicago Northeast Financial, Reps and Staff were asked:

What is your favorite membership benefit?



Nader Mikhail:
Medieval Times, good show for a good price



Joe Munch:
Rental car benefit, great for when traveling



Tim Hranka:
Delta Sonic car wash, clean car



Faustino Ramirez:
Hotel discounts, I have used this one a few times



Kathy Spiewak:
Attractions, great to spend time with the kids



Tony Scalzitti:
Ford discount of \$500! I used it myself back in May



Meet a “Face” of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Presenter:
This month's “Face of CCFB” is ...

Linda Schaeffer



- Linda was a preschool teacher, attending educational programs at the Farm Bureau, before joining Ag in the Classroom as a presenter in 2017. She was a strong proponent of including agriculture in her classroom. Before teaching Linda was a health information manager.
- Linda attended Summer Ag Institute 1 and 2 during her career and was a regular participant in our teacher professional development workshops.
- The highlight of SAI 2 for her was having the opportunity to drive a combine at the McLean County Farm Bureau.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

The Co-Operator gives me a different perspective on events and opens my eyes to people I would not normally encounter.

WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING BACK TO CLASSROOMS WEEK AFTER WEEK TO DO AITC PRESENTATIONS?

The students are eager to learn and laugh so easily.

WHAT ARE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS STUDENTS HAVE AFTER PARTICIPATING IN AN AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM?

- I wonder what we would do without farms?
- How many varieties of corn are there?
- How do the cows know they have to be in a line (in the milking barn)?
- How do they figure out that pig bones make Jello?
- Why does one of the cows not make milk?
- Where are the corn seeds kept?
- Why doesn't straw have anything in it?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMMENT A STUDENT MADE DURING YOUR AITC PRESENTATION?

I asked what food do we get from a dairy cow and the student answered, “Milk, chicken nuggets, and yogurt.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY?

Chocolate cupcakes.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF A TEACHER YOU HAD WHILE GROWING UP?

My 4th grade teacher was one of the kindest people I ever met and understood my shyness.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST SURPRISING THING YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT AGRICULTURE?

97% of Illinois farms are family owned.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

A majestic pig.

Board of Directors Focus on 3-Year Strategic Plan

As successful as the Cook County Farm Bureau has been in recent years, the Board of Directors and staff continue to seek to be more effective in serving the needs of members. Recently, the Board of Directors spent a day (January 31st, allegedly the coldest day ever in the Chicago area!) focused on developing a three-year strategic plan and volunteer management program to create a stronger and more effective organization for all the members of the Cook County Farm Bureau. Facilitated by Dr. Sarah Bond, the board evaluated the last three year plan and



The Cook County Farm Bureau Board focused a day on creating a three-year strategic plan.



Dr. Sarah Bond, facilitator



An exercise on the value of teamwork and communication using multiple strings attached to a rubber band to build a plastic cup pyramid was very effective as the board considers volunteer recruitment, training, implementation and management.

Recipe of the Month: Quinoa Risotto with Arugula & Parmesan

- 1 T olive oil
- ½ yellow onion, chopped (about ½ c)
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1 c quinoa, well rinsed
- 2 ¼ c low-sodium vegetable stock or broth
- 2 c stemmed arugula, chopped
- 1 small carrot peeled and finely shredded
- ½ c thinly sliced fresh shiitake mushrooms
- ¼ c grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ t salt
- ¼ t freshly ground black pepper

In a large saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and sauté until soft and translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the garlic and quinoa and cook for about 1 minute, stirring occasionally. Don't let the garlic brown.

Add the stock and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer until the quinoa is almost tender to the bite but slightly hard in the center, about 12 minutes. The mixture will be broth. Stir in the arugula, carrot and mushrooms and simmer until the quinoa grains have turned from white to translucent, about 2 minutes longer. Stir in the cheese and season with the salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

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

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

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106 Stephen St
Lemont, IL



Nick Burke
708-425-1816
3923 W. 95th St
Evergreen Park, IL



Mike Thauer
708-425-1559
3923 W. 95th St
Evergreen Park, IL



Erica Storrs-Gray
708-671-1465
12130 S Harlem Ave
Palos Heights, IL



Terry LaMastus
708-754-5900
3308 Chicago Rd
Steger, IL



Joe Voves
708-425-1527
3923 W. 95th St
Evergreen Park, IL



9731 W 165th St Suite 36 Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1111

Stump the Staff!

Every day, the Cook County Farm Bureau office fields many phone calls and provides information and answers to a variety of questions. Stump the Staff is designed to highlight some of the questions that we frequently receive...

Q: Where can I go to get a car rental? How much is the discount for?

A: We have four different types of rental places to choose from on our website, www.cookcfb.org. This is what we have to offer:

Enterprise - www.enterprise.com/ilfb or 1-800-RENT-A-CAR Rate plan: ILFARM

Alamo - www.alamo.com/offer/ilfb or 1-800-462-5266 Rate plan: 421770

Hertz - www.hertz.com or 1-800-654-2210 Rate plan: 27628

National Car Rental - www.nationalcar.com/offer/ilfb or 1-800-CAR-RENT Rate plan: 5706352

Discount Price varies for each company starting as low as 5% to 20% .





Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

AG LIT BIT: Corn Syrup?

By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

As March approaches I am excited to leave behind the crazy weather of February and enjoy the traditions of March including leprechauns, the first day of spring, National Ag Day, daylight savings time (March 10th) and March Madness.

I really wasn't a follower of basketball some 30 years ago, but I became painfully aware of March Madness as our wedding day happened to be the day that Illinois played Michigan in the Final Four losing 81-83. With many Illini fans at the reception it was inevitable that we'd lose some guests to the hotel bar to keep tabs on the score. While I don't feel ancient, there were no cell phones back then and no other way keep tabs on a game or news event.

I've gained interest in following the tournaments over the years as my three sons typically had some interest or my friends discussed their brackets. The first NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament was in 1939, and it has been held every year since. It started with 8 teams and kept expanding to the 68-team format. March Madness was first used to refer to basketball by an Illinois high school official, Henry V. Porter,

in 1939, but the term didn't find its way to the NCAA tournament until CBS broadcaster Brent Musburger used it during coverage of the 1982 tournament.

Always being cognizant of connecting everything back to agriculture, March Madness was an easy one that we have used in classrooms and camp programs. Trust me when I say kids love learning about ag through the lens of sports. Ever think about the wood floor? ESPN ran a great piece a few years back that shared the process of making the floor for the 2017 tournament in Phoenix. It includes the fact that 500 trees were harvested for the floor, among other facts. (http://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/18985386/from-tree-tipoff)

The connections don't stop with the floor as the game requires tickets (more trees), food such as hot dogs (pigs), buns (wheat), cheesy nachos (cows, corn), player jerseys/socks (cotton), fuel for team buses (soybeans) and even the basketballs (cows). Then there's the beer including hops, barley and dare I mention corn syrup (Bud Light has been backpedaling since their Superbowl ad which riled up corn farmers). Have a great March and enjoy the vast connections to agriculture!

Diane can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Local School Donations Fill Backpacks

With a new mission and new challenge, schools once again showed their generosity during our food drive benefitting the Ronald McDonald Houses of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana®. This year's food collection focused on providing food and personal items for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile which is a backpack distribution program providing cold weather gear, toiletries, and non-perishable food items for the children. The Care Mobile program has served more than 21,890 children who would have otherwise gone without medical care, providing health screenings, immunizations, primary care treatment, and referral/follow-up appointments for everyday and serious medical needs.

Our gratitude to the coordinating teachers who publicized the event at their school and organized the collection in the hallways. Our thanks

to the teachers, janitors, students, farm bureau helpers Sherry, Chris and Nancy who helped load the cars (and truck) and guided our Ag Literacy Team toward the final drop-off points for the wonderful donations. We couldn't help but be moved by the special touches the children included such as Hello Kitty Toothbrushes, Spiderman Hats, decorated boxes for donations and Olaf Beanie Baby gifts. We received over 10 lbs. of hats, 14+ pounds of toothbrushes and more wish list items than you can ever imagine. The Cook County Farm Bureau's school food and supply donations were all collected and brought to the local Ronald McDonald Houses where they will be used for the backpacks as well as to fill the pantries at all local Houses.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the following schools without whom the program would not be possible:

St. Germaine Elementary School, Oak Lawn • Komarek Elementary School, Riverside • Tobin School, Burbank • St Alphousus/St Patrick School, Lemont • St Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago • Most Holy Redeemer School, Evergreen Park • John Dore Elementary School, Chicago • George Washington High School, Chicago • Harnew School, Oak Lawn • McCord School, Burbank • St John Fisher School, Chicago



Students from St. John Fisher School displayed examples of the donations they gathered for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile backpack distribution program.

The winner of our school garden box is Ms. Kathleen Jones, 3rd grade teacher at Westchester Intermediate School. Kathleen joined the Farm Bureau in January and was entered in our drawing for new teacher members that ran that month. Our thanks to loyal member, Bob Metcalf, for his referral. Ms. Jones received an EarthBox® System (wheels, drain box, soil), several accurate Ag Books for her classroom and several packages of our Ag Mags that come in classroom sets of 30. We encourage all educators to consider joining the Farm Bureau for \$20/year. Our literacy resources are ideal for teachers! Mention you are a teacher when you join.



National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Grant Application 2019

Funded by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation



Purpose: To provide admission for one Cook County K- 12 teacher to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas from June 19-21, 2019.

(Up to a \$750 value; includes admission to conference, flight/ hotel assistance)

For more information on the conference, visit:

<https://naitconference.usu.edu/>

Application Process:

Completed application must be submitted by March 15, 2019.

Return to:

Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation
Attn: Diane Merrion
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
Email: aitc@cookcfb.org

2 HOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
MONDAY * APRIL 8, 2019 430-630PM

SPRING LESSONS:
POLLINATORS
PLANTS
SOIL

Get your students ready to dig into new lessons while you earn **2 free PDCH** during this hands-on, two hour Professional Development workshop.

- **Soil Surprise:** Teachers will examine soil, it's properties and the non-living and living within it.
- **Insects:** Lessons that won't bug you.
- **Plant and Soil Interactions:** Diffusion activity, how does your garden grow?
- **Water Quality:** Overview of the new digital case study h2know.
- **Native Plants and Pollinators:** Their role in the environment & importance to us
- **Tips** on establishing a school pollinator garden

Featuring:
Haley Siergiej, Nutrients for Life with STEM activities
Emilie Janes, Resource Conservationist for the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Registration required Call 708-354-3276 or email aitc2@cookcfb.org to reserve your spot

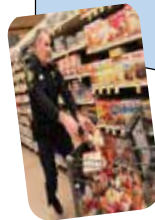
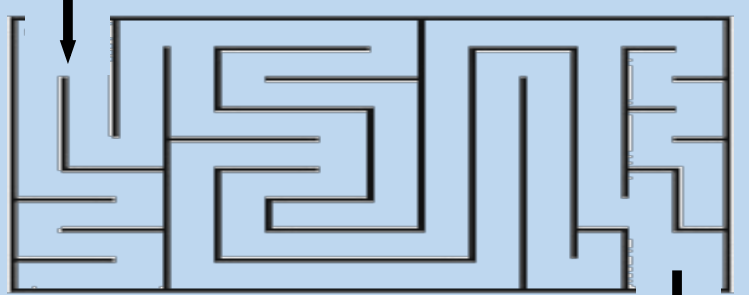
Location:
Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

Agriculture Adventures for Families

THANK YOU

We all have causes near and dear to our hearts and welcome the chance to share with you, our loyal Ag Adventure readers, the route from Farm Bureau to Food Checkout Day. You've been with us every step along the way through your donations of pop tabs, money, food and volunteerism. The pantries have been filled through the generosity of others, and for that we thank you!

The Care Mobile provides backpacks to children, complete with school supplies, ready to prepare food items and even some goodies such as gloves and hats. Farm bureau loaded school donations to get them to the people who fill the packs. Help guide the Care Mobile to the children!



Trivia

- How many pounds of pop tabs have been collected since our first Food Checkout Day?
A. 21,000 B. 26,000 C. 31,000
- How many pounds of food did our participating schools collect this year?
A. 2,485 B. 3,317 C. 4,526
- The Police won the Chicago Scavenger Hunt in this years Food Checkout Day?
A. True B. False
- Can you name the 4 Ronald McDonald Houses located in Cook County?

Answers:

1- C. 31,000 2- B. 3,317 3- A. True

4 - RMH near Advocate Children's Hospital
RMH near Loyola University Medical Center
RMH near Lurie Children's,
RMH near UChicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital



Cook County schools have brought truckloads of donated items from canned goods to laundry items to individual snack foods. Farm bureau has proudly accepted and transported the boxes to the Ronald McDonald Houses to share with their families in need. Contests have challenged schools to donate the most pounds, meet the Wishlist requested or decorate the best boxes.

Our programs are in regular need of volunteers and we encourage you to contact us if you or a family member would like help. Opportunities range from helping at our Giant Pumpkin Contest to stuffing envelopes for school programs. Our needs change throughout the year as programs evolve so please drop us a note if you'd like to share your talents as needs arise.

Choose your prize:

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

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

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau
Ag Adventures Word Search
6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525
Fax to: 708-579-6056
Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2019 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!

March Word Search

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

Backpack	Members
Care Mobile	Pantry
Children	Pop Tabs
Collection	Pounds
Donation	Schools
Family	Thank You
Food Checkout Day	Volunteer
Helping	Wishlist

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Last Month's Word
Search Winner Is

Bronislawa Kalemba



Modern Moms, Manure and Monarchs Mainstream, Unusual Mix on the Farm

You could call me a modern, mainstream mom at times: I use grocery pickup services. The touch of a smartphone app locates my 13-year-old's missing cell phone. And home-delivery subscriptions supply our household's toilet paper and laundry detergent.

Almost equally, abnormality fills my day. For instance, my fitness tracker auto-logged my physical activity to scoop manure from the hen house as "outdoor biking." A few days later, a skunk sprayed near an air-intake pipe, releasing the signature stench through every furnace duct of our home. And my minivan has more off-road cred than most American SUVs. Routinely, I thumb-rub the back-up camera, removing residue from our sloppy gravel road throughout the thaw of March.

But soon, the furnace will stop running. My Fitbit will track hand-hoeing in the garden as time on an elliptical, and I'll deal with more dust than mud on the minivan doors. About that time, the monarch butterflies will make their comeback, too. It seems an unlikely thought that farmers would ever respect a plant with "weed" in its name. Yet, mainstream, monarch-supporting farmers now welcome milkweed. At our farm, you'll find the traditional weed with its namesake milky sap in cattle pastures, fence lines and grassy knolls.

For the last few years, Midwestern farmers collectively have allowed

milkweed to proliferate. They join a concerted conservation effort to preserve and plant this crucial food source for the monarch to keep the pollinator off the endangered species list. Mainstream farmers mow around more milkweed. They sometimes intentionally plant it and let the blossoms seed out, a cringing thought in yesteryear farming.

Consequently, the kids and I more easily find monarch caterpillars munching milkweed in the pasture. Grandma sees more orange-and-black-winged beauties in her flower gardens. A sunflower farmer texted me a photo of hundreds of monarchs attracted to his farmstead. By late last summer, the kids spotted several of them on a single flowering plant in a road ditch near our house.

Mexico – the unofficial monarch authority – has noticed, too. Experts report a 144 percent increase in the population of monarch butterflies wintering in central Mexico compared to last year, according to the Associated Press. The land area that monarchs covered in 2018-19 ranked the largest in more than a decade.

Evidently, butterfly nets would make a good addition to my kids' Easter basket idea list, a digital list accessible from my smartphone.

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

Visit the Cook County Farm Bureau Booth at the goodfoodEXPO

on Friday, March 22rd at the UIC Forum in Chicago!

Greet spring and celebrate our region's growing local food community! The 15th Annual Good Food EXPO is two dynamic days that connect people active in the Good Food community – CCFB members and farmers, food producers, investors, trade buyers, policy makers, activists, families, and Good Food lovers. Join us March 22 to learn, network, and expand Good Food!

Expo details found at <http://cookcfb.org/events>.

USDA to Release New Food Labeling



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue recently announced the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. The Standard is the result of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law, which was approved in 2016. The law directed the USDA to establish nationwide, mandatory labeling standards for foods that include bioengineered ingredients.

The standard defines bioengineered foods as those that contain detectable genetic material that has been modified through certain laboratory techniques and not created through conventional breeding or found in nature.

The label will go into effect on January 1, 2020. Smaller food manufacturers have until January 1, 2021 to implement the label. Mandatory compliance is required by January 1, 2022.

The goal of the label is to increase transparency in the nation's food system.



The spring issue of Illinois Farm Bureau Partners magazine should have arrived in your mailbox. A special treat in the latest issue is the special feature on the local Cook County Farm Family of Smits Farm. Also, be sure to check out the various farm feel-good articles, great places to see in Illinois, local food facts, recipes, nutritional information, gardening tips, financial information, and the special Cook County Farm Bureau page. More information, articles, and past issues are available at www.ilfbpartners.com.

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Farm Bureau Submits Comments on Industrial Hemp Production

Cook County Farm Bureau® submitted the following comments on Illinois Department of Agriculture’s proposed rules for the cultivation, storage and processing of industrial hemp:

Provided below are Cook County Farm Bureau’s (CCFB) comments on the proposed rules for industrial hemp in Illinois.

Cook County Farm Bureau’s policy has long supported the legal production of industrial hemp. Farm Bureau supported the passage and ultimate signing of the Illinois Industrial Hemp Act. We appreciate the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) publishing the proposed rules on first notice. However, like our colleagues at the Illinois Farm Bureau® we are concerned that any delays in the rulemaking process will mean that Cook County and Illinois farmers will be unable to secure a license in time

to begin growing industry hemp in 2019.

Farm Bureau also supported the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, which amended federal law to further reduce the regulation of and the production of industrial hemp. To streamline the process, we urge IDOA to ensure that Illinois’ rules align with the requirements of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Specific to Illinois’s draft rules:

Section 1200.20- General Provisions

Paragraph a) prohibits any person from cultivating industrial hemp in the State without a license. The license requirement in the proposed rule is overly broad and may create confusion. The proposed rule appears to require the farmer, any family member, or employee who may be planting, growing or harvesting industrial hemp to be licensed. This requirement should be clarified so that family members or employees may

assist with cultivation activities under a single license and single license fee.

Similarly, Paragraph b) prohibits any person from processing or handling industrial hemp without receiving a processor/handler registration from IDOA. Again, the proposed rules appear to be unnecessarily broad and require any person or employee who may process, possess, transport, or store industrial hemp to be registered with IDOA. This requirement should be better defined.

Given the definition of “handle” in the proposed rules, the rules appear to create a registration requirement in order for a farmer to store industrial hemp on-site where it was grown. “Cultivate” does not include storing the crop, so a farmer would be required to get a registration to store industrial hemp even on

Continued on page 11



Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, pictured right, met with Cook County Farm Bureau® President Janet McCabe during the Statewide Legislative Reception. Stratton, a Chicago resident, expressed strong interest in Cook County agriculture and its role in the local economy.



Senator Bill Cunningham, pictured center, discusses upcoming legislation with Cook County Farm Bureau® President Janet McCabe, pictured left and Secretary/Treasurer Ruth Zeldenrust during this year’s Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference. Members discussed Senate Bill 154, which regulates exotic animals, including many non-farm animals that may be at agritourism sites throughout Illinois. Farm Bureau is opposed to Senate Bill 154.

Farm Bureau Seeking to Clarify Questions Surrounding Organic Certification

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to local farmers’ markets:

Farmers’ markets have sprung up throughout Cook County, and many people are enjoying the opportunity to purchase and consume fresh, local produce. However, it’s come to our attention that there is confusion about organic certification and labeling.

Organic Products

Products can only be labeled “organic” if they meet the following requirements:

- Produced without excluded methods (i.e. genetic engineering, ionizing radiation, or sewage sludge).
- Produced using allowed substances as listed on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.
- Certified by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program-

authorized certifying agent, following all USDA organic regulations.

Overall, if a grower wants to claim that its produce is organic, the grower needs to be certified by an authorized agent. If a grower is not certified, they cannot make any organic claim or use the USDA organic seal or a reasonable facsimile of the USDA organic seal. Falsely representing products as certified organic violates the law and federal regulations. Using fraudulent documents to market, label, or sell non-organic produce as organic is punishable by fines up to \$11,000 for each violation. Producers who sell \$5,000 or less are exempt from certification requirements.

“Private” organic certification is not available.

A searchable list of USDA National Organic Program Authorized Certifying Agencies is available

at: <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/Certifiers/CertifiersLocationsSearchPage.aspx>

Organic Standards

USDA National Organic Program Authorized Certifying Agencies are responsible for making sure that USDA organic products meet all organic standards. There are five steps to organic certification:

1. The farm adopts organic practices, after a transition period of 36 months, selects a USDA-authorized certifying agent, and submits an application and fees to the certifying agent.
2. The certifying agent reviews the application to verify that practices comply with USDA organic regulations.
3. An inspector conducts an on-site inspection of the

Continued on page 11

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

The seating of the 101st General Assembly combined with the turnover on the Cook County Board, Cook County Farm Bureau® has 27 new legislators to share the importance of Cook County agriculture and to build relationships with. Many of the new legislators represent highly urban areas and have a limited knowledge of agriculture. Our role as advocates calls on us to communicate with legislators about agriculture and Farm Bureau’s priority issues.

Farm Bureau’s 2019 state legislative priorities include building relationships and expanding existing relationships with legislators. This year, legislators with little agricultural knowledge will likely consider a variety of taxation issues. One of Farm Bureau’s legislative priorities is to support tax policies that build a positive business climate, including supporting agricultural sales tax incentives, the Farmland Assessment Law, and a flat statement income tax rate. Illinois sales tax law provides that agricultural inputs, such as crop seed and animal feed and some equipment are tax exempt

at the time of purchase. The intent of the Illinois sales tax law is to tax the final retail sale of goods produced, not the inputs used to create the final product. All of Illinois’ neighboring states, and most states across the nation, provide sales tax incentives for production agriculture.

Two Illinois jurisdictions already have a higher minimum wage than other areas. Chicago’s minimum wage will increase to \$13 per hour on July 1 and Cook County’s minimum wage was increased to \$11 last year. Farm Bureau policy opposes increasing the minimum wage. Smaller farmers are more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of a minimum wage increase because they lack the scale to profitably mechanize and are more likely to face obstacles securing financing. There has been some discussion about geographical minimum wage rate changes, but proponents of a \$15 per hour minimum wage have stated that it is a non-starter.

A leading priority of Farm Bureau is maintaining a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture. Agriculture is one of the largest sectors of Illinois’ economy and accounts for \$120 billion in economic activity or 9.6% of Illinois’ total economy. The department plays an important role in

regulating and promoting the agricultural sector. To maintain the department’s viability, funding levels for agricultural programs should be maintained within Illinois’ current tax structure. Programs that have historically been under fiscal pressure include but are not limited to soil and water conservation districts; environmental services, land and water resources; and the University of Illinois Extension.

On the national front, a leading priority of Farm Bureau is approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Farmers need Congress to enact the USMCA in order to recapture lost market demand, end retaliatory tariffs, and build new overseas markets.

Integral to every priority is building new and expanding existing relationships with legislators. None of Farm Bureau’s priorities will be successful unless members, volunteers, leaders, and staff commit to communicating the importance and viability of agriculture to legislators and their staffs at all levels of government. Every one of us can be advocates for agriculture and Farm Bureau’s priorities. Join me and advocate for Cook County and Illinois agriculture.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.

Essential Oil 101 Rollerball Make & Take Workshop



- Feeling stressed and want to feel calm?
- Seasonal threats making you want to claw your eyes out?
- Elusive sleep is becoming your enemy?
- Bad case of the Monday's and need to focus?
- Picked up a box and now you feel like you need to be in traction?
- Skin has betrayed your age?
- Energy levels sinking like the Titanic?

CCFB is hosting a class on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 7-9 PM. Join us as dōTERRA Wellness Advocate Heather Holtz teaches us all about essential oil basics and how you can naturally help support the needs of your body. Each attendee will make 1 FREE rollerball blend based on their needs with the option of making more. Additional rollerballs are \$5 each.

Call the CCFB office to register for the event at 708.354.3276.

Address: 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside IL 60525 • Email: ccfb@cookcfb.org • Web: www.cookcfb.org

Upcoming Events to Attend



Spring Planter Workshop at VanDerGriends Farm Stand

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 10am
Fee: \$25.00

2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd, Lansing 60411.
Class size limited.

Make a spring planter to display on your porch, patio, or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from experts. Includes 5-6 plants, soil & container. Your planter will sure to be the envy of neighbors.



Defensive Driving Course

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and Country Financial will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on May 7 & May 8, 2019 from 10:00 am to 3:00pm at the CCFB office in Countryside. Both days must be attended to receive the certification. Cost for the class is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members (includes course materials and lunch both days).

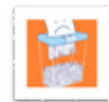


Succulent Planter Workshop at Goebbert's Farms & Garden Center

Friday, May 17, 2019 at 10am Fee: \$35.00.

40 W. Higgins Rd. South Barrington, 60010. Class size limited.

Make a succulent planter to display indoors or out! Workshop includes soil, standard container, 3 succulents and top dressing. Upgraded containers and additional plants will be available for purchase during the work-shop.



Shred Day

Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 10am to 12 noon at the Rolling Meadows Country Financial Building located at 4190 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows. Please call the CCFB at 708-354-3276 to make your reservation.



Generation Law - Family Feuds

Simple ways to keep your kids from fighting while you're going and after you're gone Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 7-9pm at the Cook County Farm Bureau 6438 Joliet Rd. Country-side, IL 60525.



The 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is looking for your favorite recipes that you prepare using the freshest locally grown ingredients. Recipes submitted will be included in a special drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to a member Farm Stand or grocery retailer near you. Send your recipe along with your name and phone number by March 20th:

Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org,

Mail: Cook County Farm Bureau/Recipes, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525



Cook County Financial Representatives of the Month

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



Arelly Canchola

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Arelly Canchola has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. Her office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave, Suite 280, in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-7770. Arelly has been a Financial Representative since October 2018.



Devontae Beale

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Devontae Beale has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. His office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave. in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-248-2627. Devontae has been a Financial Representative since January 2018.



Lawrence Jachec

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Lawrence Jachec has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-794-1044. Lawrence has been a Career Financial Representative since September 1988.



Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2018. His office is located at 25 NW. Point Blvd., Ste. 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8851. Ibrahim has been a Financial Representative since January 2017.



Michael Weinstein

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Michael Weinstein has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. His office is located at 5 E. College Dr., Arlington Heights, IL. His phone number is 847-749-1740. Michael has been a Financial Representative since November 2003.



Renata Bondarowicz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Suite 930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



Gwen Shaw

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Gwen Shaw has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. Her office is located at 820 E. 87th St., in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-487-0919. Gwen has been a Career Financial Representative since October 2014.



Ed Beavers

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Ed Beavers has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2019. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., #150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-588-1404. Ed has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.



Tim Hartnell

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Tim Hartnell has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2019. His office is located at 1938 E. Lincoln Hwy, Unit 217 in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is 815-462-0023. Tim has been a Financial Representative since January 1993.



Kevin Gardner

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2019. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone is 708-425-2251. Kevin has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



Kyle Stevens

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Kyle Stevens has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2019. His office is located 30 S Ash St. in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-9018. Kyle has been a Financial Representative since December 2005.



Charmaine Toney-Adkins

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Charmaine Toney-Adkins has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2019. Her office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is 708-381-4010. Charmaine has been a Financial Representative since November 2017.

Classifieds

All ads that we receive for The Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling 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

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

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

Handicap Ramp- wheelchair ramp with steel risers- \$950 or best offer 4 feet wide, 12 feet long (in 3-foot sections to shorten length as needed) adjustable height for the steps and landing of your home's entrance contact Dan at (630) 204-8022 for more information.

20KW Kohler generator, 1985 natural gas, manual switch start, new battery, transfer switch included. Excellent condition \$1800 or best offer. Call Bob at 847-636-8913.

John Deere Hit & Miss 1.5Hp, model E, gas engine complete, hot mag, Repo, cart, loose, not running. \$725 or best offer. Also, just in time for "plow days" Farmall Cub, 193 plow

complete with lift handle, dog bone, and coultter \$195. For details call Bob at 708-774-5817.

Kobalt 175 psi 30gal Air compressor very good condition \$300.00. Hospital bed drive medical model 15315n 54"W 88"L with mattress good condition \$1500.00. 6ft Oak church pew good condition \$100.00. Call Dave at 708-932-2112.

Vehicle

2009 Fat Bob, miles 13355, vivid black 96ci Cam Engine, new tires installed fall of 2017, new mirrors, grips, chrome clutch and brake handles, washable air filter, and fluids get seat made for two this motorcycle is one great ride and sound great. Always getting compliments on how it looks and sounds! It's all cleaned and ready to ride. Asking price \$7,999.00 or best offer. Call Michael at 708-710-7867.

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

Wanted

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

ANY OLD TOYS, G.I. JOES, LUNCHBOXES, OLD TOY SOLDIERS, COWBOYS, INDIANS. ALSO, TONKA, BUDDY L, SMITH MILLER, ETC. TOY TRUCKS, OLD HOTWHEELS AND MATCHBOX CARS. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

Hiring

Melka Landscaping and Garden Center looking to hire in Mokena IL. Three positions available, Full, Part-time, or Internship. • Landscape Design & Sales • Garden Center Sales & Inventory management • Greenhouse Designer, Grower & Sales associate. For detail information visit our website at <http://www.jimmelkalandscape.com/Resources/> or you can email all resumes to jmelkajr@jimmelka.com office is located at 11606 179th St., Mokena IL 60448, PH:708-349-6989

Farm Bureau Submits Comments on Industrial Hemp Production

Continued from page 9

on the site already licensed for cultivation. Industrial hemp is often left in the field to allow the hemp fibers to break down through a process called "retting." This requirement must be clarified so that farmers licensed to grow industrial hemp are not required to be additionally registered to store industrial hemp.

Paragraph i) requires each non-contiguous land to have a separate license fee. We appreciate that the license fee is good for three-years, however, farmers may wish to rotate their industrial hemp fields, much like they do with other crops. While Section 1200.60 Paragraph a) allows an alteration to the application for a lesser fee, it is unclear if that would include a change to a separate non-contiguous land area.

Section 1200.30- Application and licensure Paragraph a) requires the applicant to submit a license application at least 90 days prior to planting. This amount of lead time is excessive and should be reduced. Paragraph d) of this section requires IDOA to approve or

deny the application within 30 days, so the 90 days of lead time is not needed for IDOA to consider the application. This is of great concern with the 2019 growing season. Under this scenario, if the proposed rules are not approved until after April 1, 2019 and a farmer applies immediately, s/he will not be able to plant until after June 30, 2019. Depending on a farmer's location, a June planting date may be beyond the normal planting window and negatively impact the crop. CCFB would suggest that the application lead time be shortened to 60 days.

As the county's largest general 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.

Members are encouraged to contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 for additional information.

Former IFB President Passes



Harold Steele led the IFB as president from 1970 to 1983

Illinois Farm Bureau lost a remarkable man and great leader with the passing of Harold Steele on Friday, February 1, 2019. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in the European Theater during World War II. Rising to the level of captain, he was

awarded the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal and European Theater of Operations Medal as well as two battle stars. Harold served as a board member and president of the Bureau County Farm Bureau from 1956 to 1968. He was elected Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) president in 1970 and served until 1983. He was on the American Farm Bureau Federation board from 1971-1983, serving two years on the executive committee. After leaving IFB, Harold served as chairman of the board to the Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D.C. from 1989 to 1992. He led the Illinois Farm Bureau through a period of growth, but also challenging times.

The Illinois Farm Bureau posted a tribute video online at https://youtu.be/ILo_cLOCbEM.

Farm Bureau Seeking to Clarify Questions Surrounding Organic Certification

Continued from page 9

applicant's operation.

- The certifying agent reviews the application and the inspector's report to determine if the applicant complies with the USDA organic regulations.
- The certifying agent issues organic certificate.

During the 36-month transition period, a farm cannot represent itself as "organic" or display the USDA organic seal.

To maintain organic certification, the certified organic farm will go through an annual review and inspection process.

The organic certification process is rigorous, time

consuming, and expensive. Annual certification costs vary widely depending on the certifying agent, size, type, and complexity of the farm. Certification costs may range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Typically, there is an application fee, annual renewal fee, assessment on annual production or sales, and inspection fees.

Organic Certificates

We encourage you to verify that the farmers who sell organic produce at your market are certified organic by requesting a copy of their organic certificate or by visiting <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/Integrity/>.

BOOK CLUB

ADULTS AND EDUCATORS

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

Program will include:

- The Last Great Adventure of the PB&J Society by Janet Sumner Johnson
- What the World Eats by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio
- Discussion on food insecurity services and issues
- Presentation by a local farmer
- Volunteer evening at a local food pantry
- Skype discussion with PB&J author, Janet Sumner Johnson
- Teachers will be provided lesson ideas and guided reading tips

Dates

- May 1
- May 8
- May 15
- May 22

7 - 8:30 PM

Location: Oak Park Public Library
(Main Library)

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

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

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Growing To Serve You Better

Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts and Transferring Non-Titled Property

When: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 from 6:30-9 p.m.
Where: Country Financial Building
 25 NW Point, Suite 850
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Cost: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members
 \$10 per person for non-members
To Pre-register: Call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.
Register by: Tuesday, April 23, 2019—Limited seating!

administration, taxation, corporate transactional work, business planning, asset protection, residential and commercial real estate transactions and antenuptial agreements. Mr. Holland’s business planning practice includes representation regarding the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, including ownership agreements, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and not-for-profit planning.

Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa’s Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa’s pocket watch, or even Grandma’s pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue; deciding what you want to accomplish; deciding what the word “fair” means in your family; identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences; and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.

Speakers and Program Descriptions

Estate Planning and Trust Administration

Presented by Caroline Hecht, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Ms. Hecht concentrates her practice in estate planning for high net worth clients, estate and trust administration, estate and gift taxation, guardianships, contested estates, and complex probate matters. Ms. Hecht also represents business owners with respect to the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

Presented by Robert A. Holland, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Mr. Holland concentrates his practice in estate planning, estate and trust

Soil Testing Kits Available

Cook County Farm Bureau offers members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. 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.

To purchase a test kit, contact the Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276. Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as well as mailing information included in the test kit and members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks. Members are encouraged to contact the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Resource Center, available at the Farm Bureau office starting April 15th to November, for additional information.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

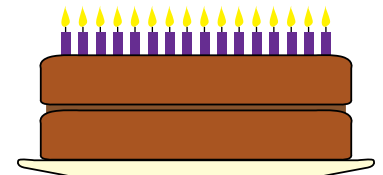
- 1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$22
- 2 sample kit: \$30
- 3 sample kit: \$45
- 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$48
- 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$40.

Non-member rates are also available. Soil Kits are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau for by phone at (708) 354-3276 using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover at no additional charge. Costs are subject to change.



Help Us Celebrate 100 Years!

In March 2020, Cook County Farm Bureau will be celebrating its 100th year as an organization. We are collecting videos and photos from members that are interested in wishing the Cook County Farm Bureau a “Happy 100th Birthday!” If you want to participate, simply send in a short video of yourself or family wishing CCFB Happy Birthday or send a photo with your message. Happy Birthday wishes can be sent to ccfb@cookcfb.org. The videos and photos will be used during 2020 on social media and our publications leading up to and following the Centennial celebration of Cook County Farm Bureau. Should you have questions please call the office at 708-354-3276.



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Advance reservations required
1-877-670-7088
IFB #8000002027

If you need assistance with obtaining your Cook County Farm Bureau® membership number, please contact us at (708) 354-3276.

Download the app or sign up today at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>.

