



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. 4

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

April 2019

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL 2019

- 8 Teacher Professional Dev Wrkshp pg. 6
- 23 Essential Oils Pg. 12
- 30 Wills & Trusts Pg. 12

MAY 2019

- 1 Book Club Adults and Educators Pg.1
- 4 Spring Planter Workshop Pg.12
- 7 Emotions and Essential Oil 102 Pg.12
- 7 & 8 Defensive Driving Course Pg.12
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JUNE 2019

- 19 Cubs vs. White Sox Pg.1

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.



Congratulations to financial representatives from the Orland Park Country Financial Agency! This agency won the "Tipping the Scales" contest by contributing food and cash donations to this year's Food Checkout Day. Thank you to everyone for your support!

Here is part of the Orland Park agency following a luncheon in their honor. Front row: Leslie Lapp, Liana Mierendorf, Terry LaMastus, Joel Wrzesinski, Kelly Evans (Ronald McDonald House), Bona Heinsohn. Back row: Bob Rohrer, Janet McCabe, Tom Geraghty, Jim Andresen, Mike Skrabis, Cary Tate and Scott Vergara.

CCFB members, our Country Financial and schools partnered to donate \$6,700, 5400 pounds of food and 59 pounds of pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House to celebrate food nutrition and affordability and the farmer's role in providing. More details can be found at www.cookcfb.org.

Question of the Month

What long time Country Financial Rep and friend of CCFB recently was inducted into the Country Financial Hall of Fame?

☆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)**

March winner is **Maria Ostrowski**

What "Stinky" critter is invading North east Illinois and other places in the Midwest?

Answer:

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Farm Bureau Members are Invited to Watch the Chicago Cubs Take On the Chicago White Sox!



Wrigley Field • Wednesday, June 19, 2019 • 7:05 pm

Tickets go on sale April 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

CCFB members can purchase bleacher tickets for \$82.88 per ticket! (4 ticket limit per membership)

To order tickets or if you have questions, call the CCFB office at 708-354-3276.

VERY LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE! These tickets will SELL OUT!

Master Gardener Resource Center to Re-open in April

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. Beginning Monday, April 15th, the master gardeners will be back in the Farm Bureau office to answer questions from members and the general public related to gardening and horticulture. This program will run through mid-November of 2019.

Master Gardeners will be available in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside Illinois, during the office hours of 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Mondays and Thursdays of each week. The master gardeners will be accessible by contacting the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or by emailing mastergardener@cookcfb.org.

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.

Book Club for 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.

We'll be reading *The Last Great Adventure of the PB&J Society* by Janet Sumner Johnson and *What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio.

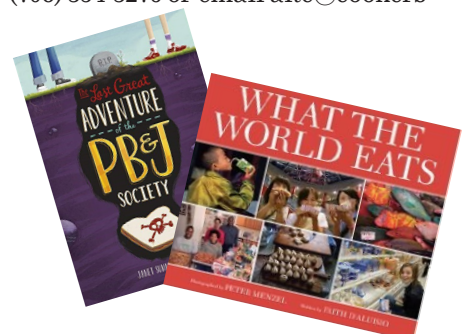
Program will include:

- 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
- Join us on these Wednesdays at 7 - 8:30 PM:

May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22.

Location: Oak Park Public Library (Main Library)

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



What's Up?

During a recent Member Relations Team meeting, members, Financial Reps and Staff were asked the question:

What type of farmer would you want to be? Why?



Tony Munno:
A hog Farmer, I love Bacon!



Sharon Stemke:
I think I would have to say a Tree Farmer. Trees and forests are important to our environment and having positive impact on that would be appealing.



Jack Smith:
A Grain Farmer, so I could take some time off.



Jerry Anderson:
Maybe a vegetable farmer because my wife has a large garden and loves to freeze and can them. Or a Hemp farmer because of the new laws and a lot money to be made.



State Representative Fran Hurley (pictured at center) met with Cook and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus prior to the Statewide Legislative Reception in Springfield. Pictured left to right are: Tim Stuenkel, Ruth Zeldenrust, Janet McCabe, Representative Fran Hurley, Victoria Hansen (Stephenson County Farm Bureau®), Christina Nourie (Illinois Farm Bureau®), and Bona Heinsohn.

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.

Apple Fun Facts!

- Apples were brought to the United States by the Pilgrims in 1620.
- Archeologists have found evidence that humans have enjoyed apples since at least 6500 BC.
- The world's top apple producing countries are China, United States, Turkey, Poland, and Italy.
- The apple tree originated in Central Asia.
- It takes four to five years for an apple tree to produce its first fruit.
- After an apple blossom is pollinated, it develops into an apple.
- Typically, apple trees blossom in spring with fruit maturing in autumn.
- Apple trees can live for more than 100 years.
- Most apple trees are grown by grafting or budding onto already existing rootstocks.
- Most apples are still picked by hand in the fall.
- Apples ripen up to 10 times faster when left out than when refrigerated.
- It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.
- Apples contain Vitamin A, C, B6, B12 thiamin and niacin, as well as five grams of fiber!
- Apples float because 25% of their volume is made up of air.
- The Gold Rush apple, a sweet-tart yellow apple, is Illinois' State Fruit.



From the Illinois Agriculture in the ClassroomSM 2018-19 Calendar for Teachers



John Doherty, Country Financial Rep from the Chicago Northwest Agency, was recently inducted into the prestigious Country Financial Hall of Fame. Congratulations, John!



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...

- The Foundation Fun'Raiser Planning Committee (Gerry Kopping, Janet McCabe, Mike Rauch, Tim Stuenkel, Jim Gutzmer, Karen Biernacki, Heidi Yunker, Sharon Stemke, Nora Beverly and CCFB staff) for great efforts to put together an outstanding fundraising event to benefit agriculture literacy and scholarships through the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation.
- The many Fun'Raiser attendees, donors, and sponsors supporting the event and for understanding the importance of teaching youth and adults where their food comes from. Thank you also to Jane Zeien for her purchase of the Scottish Blackface lamb described in an article she shared here: http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/livestock/zeien-places-to-go/article_ee9ab14a-473e-11e9-85d7-b3acc79460f7.html
- Jessica Scheeringa for her photo taking talents during the Fun'Raiser.
- Mike Bavier and Evelyn Nelson for saying nice things about the new look and timeliness of The Co-Operator for 2019.
- Our many FB ACT members that have sent comments on the EPA's proposed clean water rules and to Janet McCabe and Mike Rauch for sending detailed comments on the rules impact on their farm operations.
- Our many members who recently renewed their Farm Bureau membership for another year!
- Donors and supporters of our Annual Food Checkout Day benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities® and to the Orland Park Country Financial Agency for winning the Tipping the Scale challenge.
- The many members that provided a gift to the CCFB Foundation as a memorial to our friend Kathy Bloomstrand, who passed away recently.



Co-Operator

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“The Building of an Organization—Decade 2, Growing Pains”

Cook County Farm Bureau will achieve the 100-year milestone in March of 2020. 100 years is a magical number and we have been researching the organization's history in anticipation of the celebration.

We are 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. 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 hundreds of issues of the publication (the world of black-and-white), seeking organizational history, and recording member stories that capture the longevity, success, and human side of your County Farm Bureau organization.

Fortunately, the organization doesn't throw away much paper; we just have to find time to read and digest it! Last month, I wrote about the fledgling formation of the Cook County Farm Bureau in 1920 and some of the challenges and successes the organization initially enjoyed during its first decade of life. I could see personalities emerging and policy positions established. I could see the ups and downs of membership recruitment I could see the creation of new affiliated companies including Country Financial and FS.

Reading the documents in the 2nd decade (1930 through 39), I can see the

newness and excitement of creating an organization was wearing off and the need to get down to business to serve members emerged. Understandably, growing pains set in. I could see the highs and lows of member involvement and volunteerism. I could see financial challenges for farmers but also for the Farm Bureau organization as the country and its people suffered through the Great Depression.

The board, during this 1930's timeframe, decided to begin sending a publication, then called Country Side, out to members; we still have copies of most of the issues. I have found it amusing that some of our archive publications copies have holes in the middle of them where articles and photos were cut out. A sign of the times, I guess, with no copy machines or smart phones to capture the information or images.

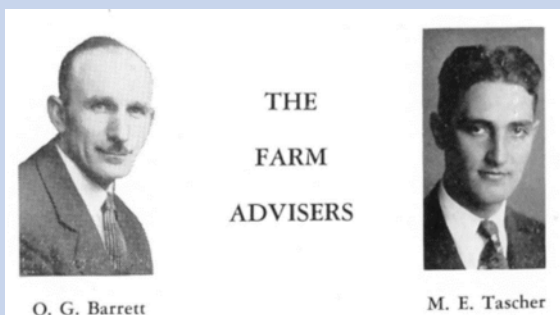
Of course, it is great to read about momentous action, decisions that improved the farm economy, and how history blended into the organization's fabric. However, I found it equally enjoyable to read about items of day-to-day life like the purchase of typewriters for \$5, providing 2000 calendars to members, gate signs with the members' names on them, and various farm experiences in Cook County!

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the sidebar of some of the CCFB history in the 1930s...

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

1930-39...The Second Decade of CCFB

1930: O. G. Barrett was the Farm Advisor. In order to support and grow the 4-H club program, the CCFB Board hired M. E. Tascher as assistant Farm Advisor (salary was \$2,000 plus automobile). The Farm Bureau created a tax committee (Mr. Watson, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Verduin) to address high farm property taxes in the county. The board approved action to begin publishing a newsletter to go out to members; the first issue Country Side went out on December 3, 1930. Membership dues were \$10 with half the dollars going to the IAA. The board went on record as opposing a proposal to abolish the County Assessor. The Farm Bureau created a new company, Gardener's Supply, to sell truck farmers' seeds and insecticides. The 5 County Farm Bureau employees offered to withhold their wages during May until sufficient funds were available in the treasury.



THE
FARM
ADVISERS

O. G. Barrett

M. E. Tascher

1931: The Farm Bureau sought additional information on the creation of a Cook County Fair and also looked to create a vegetable grower's market. The Farm Bureau began distributing Illinois Farm Bureau calendars to members. The Farm Bureau leased office space to Gardener's Supply in Blue Island for a storefront and established a Farm Bureau office. The 1931 Annual Meeting featured a Country Life/Farm Bureau beauty contest with 12 contestants (Miss Laura Schoenbeck finished 1st).

“THE DINNER BELL MUST RING”



President D. A. Nietfeldt and members of his family dine on the huge float entered by the Farm Bureau in the Fourth of July Celebration. Geraldine Eitema reminds people that Prosperity for America must begin with the farmer by ringing the dinner bell.

1932: The Farm Bureau developed a committee to meet with the National Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association for development of a more suitable market in the Chicago area. The Farm Bureau worked closely with a new affiliate Gardner's Supply, providing administrative services. The concept of an associate member was created (applied to Cook County Farm Bureau staff). The board recommended that the organization's women organize a program focused on foods, clothing, shelter, and child welfare (Home Bureau).

1933: Mr. Barrett and Ms. Towne volunteered to reduce expenses/wages to help balance the budget of the Farm Bureau. The board voted to cut their expense reimbursement in half. Committees were created including publicity and advertising, 4-H club, property and equipment, insurance, Gardner's Supply, markets, picnics and entertainment, farm supply, taxation and legislation, projects, membership, and finance.

1934: The board supported a merger of Gardner's Supply with Lake-Cook Farm Supply Company. C.H. Mills was hired as County Organization Director (a new position in conjunction with the IFB). The Farm Bureau created a plan for the purchase and distribution of straw and hay. The board bought the building in Blue Island for \$7000 for office space. A study by the marketing committee to improve conditions for all growers of truck crops was approved. What...The CCFB had a baseball team?

1935: After a very deliberate discussion as to the sale of beer and other intoxicating liquors at meetings sponsored by the Farm Bureau, a vote was taken in support. However, alcohol would not be allowed in any Farm Bureau business or educational meetings. There were 4,025 farmers listed in Cook County according to the Census of Agriculture with nearly 2,400 practicing intensive methods of farming, truck farming, greenhouse, mushroom growing, and poultry, with the remaining 1,600 working as dairy farmers and/or grain farmers. A piano was purchased for \$5 for the Farm Bureau building hall.

1936: The board approved action to buy signs for the members with their names printed on them. Soil PH testing equipment was purchased. M. E. Tascher resigned as assistant farm advisor to assume the duties of farm advisor at the Grundy County Farm Bureau. Mr. Chas Glover of Chicago Heights was selected as his replacement. The Illinois Farm Bureau established a quota for Cook County of 250 new members. The Cook County Farm Bureau board encouraged the Illinois Farm Bureau to hold their annual meeting in Chicago (which it did). The board contacted WLS Radio regarding holding the Barn Dance Show in La Grange. The organization continued to work to improve the U.S. Agriculture Adjustment Act as it related to truck gardening and onion sets.

1937: The board approved action to purchase the Arlington Heights State Bank building for offices for \$12,000. The Farm Bureau rented space to the Soil Conservation Association. The Farm Bureau became a distributor for DeKalb Hybrid seed corn. O. G. Barrett, farm advisor, submitted his letter of resignation to open a farm advisory service following 11 years of service (C. A. Hughes from Waterloo, Illinois was hired as his replacement).

1938: The first record of a budget being approved was recorded. Accepting teachers as members was discussed for those seeking auto insurance. The Farm Bureau sponsored a meeting of horseradish growers.

1939: A resolution was approved that expressed appreciation to Cook County Assessor, John S. Clark, for his impartial attitude in bringing about



Cook County Farm Bureau Tax Committee
Ezra McClaughry, Harvey Adair, A. W. Sodman, D. A. Nietfeldt, John Watson, Tax Expert, I.A.A., Dan H. Bergman, Chairman.

a better balance between city and rural real estate valuations. The change in valuation saved Cook County farmers an estimated \$100,000. The organization also expressed appreciation to the Chicago Mayor for reforms made on the Randolph Street market for a better market for vegetable growers of Cook County and adjoining counties. A request was made for the state highway department to cut weeds before they go to seed.

Next month, we will knock the dust off some more of the organizational history archives to take a look at 1940-49!

CCFB Foundation Scholar Winners Announced

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® has selected 7 individuals as recipients of the 2019-2020 Scholarship Program. Thomas Poole of Chicago was awarded the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship. The additional recipients received general farm and food scholarships. A total of \$15,000 of scholarship funds were distributed.

Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship

This scholarship is designed to honor Mr. Howard Paarlberg, the first President of the Foundation and President of the Farm Bureau for 17 years. The recipient

carries the prestige of being the top-rated applicant and a greater financial reward for the individual.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation was established by the Cook County Farm Bureau to carry out charitable, literary and educational work in Agriculture. The Foundation Board established the Agricultural Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance to students pursuing education for agricultural careers and to encourage the best and brightest young minds to return to Agriculture as their chosen career.



Colleen Elzinga

Elzinga attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Veterinary Medicine. She is an aspiring veterinarian planning on going into a mixed practice of small animals and agricultural species. Colleen is the daughter of Dean & Mari Elzinga of Evergreen Park.



Daniel Macina

Macina attends Michigan State University with a major in Animal Science and Integrative Biology. These degrees will allow him to achieve his goals of doing research on farm animal behavior. Daniel is the son of David & Michelle Macina of Mt. Prospect.



Thomas Poole

Poole attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana as he seeks a Master's in Business Administration with an Agricultural Focus after receiving a Bachelor's degree in Crop Sciences. He has been a member of the FFA Program and an active member of the CHSAS Horticulture Greenhouse Team. Thomas is the son of Thomas and Susan Poole of Chicago.



Aleksander Jura

Jura attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Chemistry and minor in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Aleksander's career goal is to aid in growth and production of livestock through studying the variety of nutrients that are being fed to the animals. Aleks is the son of Wieslaw & Malgorzata Jura of Glenview.



Jonathon Poole

Poole attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Food Science and Technology. He has been a member of the FFA Program. Jonathon is the son of Thomas and Susan Poole of Chicago.



Aidan Walton

Walton attends Illinois State University with a major in Agribusiness and a Spanish minor. His goal is to work for an Agribusiness that helps people across the nation and possibly the world. Aidan is the son of Leah Walton of Westchester.



Andrew Smits

Smits will attend Purdue University where he will study landscape design. Andrew's goal is to have his own landscaping company as part of Smits Farm. He is the son of Carl & Debra Smits of Chicago Heights.

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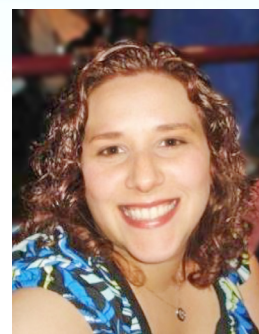


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Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

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

Sarah Koukol



- We welcomed Sarah to our team of presenters in the fall of 2015.
- Sarah was the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year for 2013.
- Sarah is a complete boy mom, living with her husband Mike and their three sons. Their adventures keep her busy.
- She and her family grow a considerable garden. They enjoy growing grapes which harvested into juice and jelly to share with their family.

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

I love when students ask a question about a current event or makes a comment on something they know about agriculture above what we talk about. It shows that they are listening to the message we are coming in to give.

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

I learn something new and interesting every time I attend a workshop or conference. One of my favorite things to share with students is that there is one silk for each corn kernel on an ear of corn- I love finding symmetry in nature and for me that is a perfect example.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AG IN THE CLASSROOM?

My love for Ag in the Classroom began in 2003. I was a student teacher and was able to attend a teacher workshop hosted by Ag in the Classroom. Every year I was a teacher after that, I always had AITC present for my students. In 2015 when I decided to leave the classroom full-time, it was the best opportunity given to me that now I could become one of the presenters in a program that I learned so much from.

IF YOU CAN BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?

I love picking apples and blueberries in the fall so maybe one of those.

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

I think it is so important for people to understand how much they depend on agriculture for things they do every day. I think what we teach kids helps them understand their connection to the earth and that is exciting to be a part of. I also love being able to meet so many wonderful teachers and appreciate they let us come into their classroom and share some time with their students.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

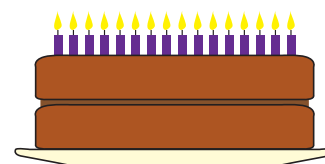
I was able to walk a llama at one of the National conference trips I attended. That was pretty amazing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY?

Pizza

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.



Farming for Our Future Fun'raiser Plants Seed Farm and Food Literacy

Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Set to Put Funds to Use in Ag Literacy/Scholarships

Farming for our Future Fun'Raiser, "Sowing the Seeds of Greatness", received high marks from participants of the March 9, 2019 event. The Fun'Raiser held at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, featured tasteful dining, great entertainment by The Windy City dueling pianos, both a live auction and a silent auction, as well as other fundraising activities. While attendees were having a great time, the event served to achieve the goals identified by the planning committee.

Goals/ Objectives Achieved

- 245 people attended!
- Our fundraising goal of \$20,000 was exceeded!
- We expanded our message of the importance of knowledge about food and farming in our urban area!
- We showcased the programming efforts of the Cook County Farm Bureau Agriculture Literacy Program and the Foundation!
- We expanded our broad-based support of our efforts with

increased involvement from members, farm and food entities, influential people in the community, and affiliated leaders!

A sincere thank you to the Fun'Raiser Committee:

- Gerry Kopping Chairman
 - Janet McCabe
 - Jim Gutzmer
 - Mike Rauch
 - Heidi Yunker
 - Tim Stuenkel
 - Karen Biernacki
 - Sharon Stemke
- As well as...
- The Board of Directors for the Farm Bureau and the Foundation
 - The Cook County Farm Bureau Staff
 - Donors and buyers for the Silent and Live Auction
 - Sponsors

For more details and results about the event, go the Foundation section of the website www.cookcfb.org.

Presenting Sponsor



Harvest Sponsors



Bob & Jayne Rohrer

Planting Sponsor



Earth Sponsors



Mark Olander Attorney at Law

The Poole Family

Todd & Laura Price



Our guests were greeted by Janet McCabe, CCFB Foundation President, Gerry Kopping, Chairman of the Fun'Raiser, and Mike Rauch, Vice-President of the Foundation.



Mike Rauch served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Farming for our Future Fun'Raiser benefit for the Foundation.



Don Banks did a great job as the Auctioneer during the live auction.



Country Financial Representative Robert Barron and his guests in the Foundation's farm photo booth.



A Horse eraser was the "entry symbol" for the Heads and Tails game. Everyone showed off their horse before picking their anatomy for the coin toss!



"Where are they Now?" banners of a few past Foundation Scholarship recipients.



Country Financial Representative Gwen Shaw and friends enjoyed the photo booth as part of the event.

A Bit About Our Fun'Raiser "Presenting" Sponsor...Ted's Greenhouse



Ted's Greenhouse, Inc., a family owned and operated agricultural greenhouse and farm is located in Tinley Park.

In 1948, the seed of Ted's Greenhouse was planted by Ted Biernacki in Blue Island, IL. It grew there until 1957 when the greenhouse was transplanted to its present location in Tinley Park, where it is still owned and managed by the Biernacki family.

Now, 70 years later, Ted still spends a portion of his time overseeing the family business. Today, his son Dan and Dan's wife, Karen, manage the day-to-day operations and the business continues to grow under their direction and leadership. The family leadership team has over 100 combined years of experience in growing and shipping of plants.

Ted's Greenhouse offers the finest plants in the area all carefully nurtured from the best seed and stock available, and skillfully managed until they reach their final destination. They carry a wide variety of annuals, perennials, biennials, herbs,

vegetables and specialty stock. A portion of the 100,000 square feet of greenhouse includes the Midwest's largest selection of cacti and succulents, some only available at Ted's due to the expertise required to produce them. Dan says, "We have for sale what we think is the finest selection of cacti & succulents east of the Mississippi, including some rare and unusual varieties. It is truly a unique combination of knowledge, dedication and desire to bring you the finest stock available."

With 70 landmark years of quality under their belt, Ted's Greenhouse looks forward to serving your needs with the quality products and customer service that patrons have come to expect. For more information about Ted's Greenhouse, call the Biernacki family at 708-532-3575 or go their website at www.tedsgreenhouse.com.



Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

AG LIT BIT: What a Waste

By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

I don't order a lot online because when I do, there's usually some crazy problem or it takes forever to get to me. Case in point was a sticker I ordered as a stocking stuffer that took 8 weeks to arrive (which was well after Christmas). I'll take the blame as I didn't notice it was being sent from halfway around the world.

My latest purchase was a Cubs Custom Shirt that I didn't notice takes about three weeks...which will be one week after my sister's birthday event.

I did, however, have a successful delivery last week when a store I visited didn't have my item in stock. They offered to order it online and have it shipped to me free. How can you pass that up? A few days later, I came home to see a box on my porch, certain it couldn't be that item. It was!

As you can see by the photo, it made no sense to me at all. One of the reasons this situation stuck with me so much was that my mind had been on Earth Day which falls on April 22nd. As I reflect on how to share Earth Day lessons with educators and how to reduce, reuse and recycle, I was staring at this huge box and wondering how many of these boxes make it back into recycling bins. With the explosion of e-commerce, my little example is clearly no reflection on the scope of the situation.

As an agriculture educator, Earth Day lessons typically revolve around soil health, best management practices being used by farmers, feeding a growing population with less land, pollinators and a host of other topics. Oversized boxes aren't usually a part of the conversation, but trees are certainly a part of it. Also, a part of it are the ways agriculture is contributing to efforts to be better stewards of the land.

Agriculture continues to use science and technology to improve their impact and to create renewable resources such as corn and soy-based products including many soybean car parts, corn starch packing peanuts and wheat-based food service items. Earth Day is a good reminder to consider how every decision we make impacts many things beyond that choice. I feel bad about the waste of a tree with that box, but know it will go into our recycling bin and am left to wonder how many other boxes never make it that far.

Diane can be reached at aitec@cookcfb.org.



Amazing Ag Day South

Chickens, pigs, plants and soybeans were just one part of our Ag Day South educational event held in honor of National Ag Day. Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

We welcomed 350 students and their teachers to The Children's Farm in Palos Park where they rotated through eight learning stations to understand agriculture in Cook County. In addition to seeing the farm's animals including piglets, chickens, calves, sheep and horses, local farmers Mike Rauch and

Mark Yunker taught on the growth and uses of corn and soybeans. Horticulturist Greg Stack led an engaging station on plant parts and foods we eat from those parts. U of I Extension Horticulture Educator Nancy Kreith (and her volunteers) presented on the topic of worms and composting at our vermicomposting station.

Our Ag Day program increases student awareness of horticulture and farming and create connections with science, engineering and math for their teachers. Our 4th grade school visits reinforce the concepts introduced during Ag Day and provide more opportunities for connecting ag professionals with educators. We thank all volunteers including Station Presenters, Group Leaders and the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation for funding this experience.



Greg Stack, Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy team Member, had the students engaged as they identified parts of a plant and foods that may be seeds, roots, flowers, stems, leaves, or fruits.

Mini-Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following schools who are recipients of our new Special Project Mini Grant that was offered to K-12 educators to expand awareness of agriculture in their schools through literacy projects. The themes of the projects all related to horticulture through the study of soil and plant science and hydroponics. We can't wait to see the results! Our thanks

to the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation and the Fund for Rural America for supporting these schools.

- Brooks Middle School, Oak Park
- Kellogg School, Chicago
- Komarek School, North Riverside
- Reinberg Elementary School, Chicago
- Council Oak Montessori School, Blue Island



We were excited to be a part of the Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 Family STEM Night. Our AITC activity included identifying the fruit or vegetable pictured and matching the correct seeds to the plant. Families then prepared a germination bag to take home their own seeds. Feedback received stated, "The event was a HUGE success, with over 200 participants in attendance each raving about the variety of engaging activities presented."

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

SPRING LESSONS: POLLINATORS PLANTS SOIL

Registration required Call 708-354-3276 or email aitec2@cookcfb.org to reserve your spot

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



Get your students ready to dig into new lessons while you earn 2 free PDCH

Ag Careers Exploration

"If you are looking for a college major that will lead to a job, food science is the place to look," stated Mr. Luke Vanee as he hosted a student tour during a Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Careers Experience Day for Food Chemistry students from East Leyden High School in Franklin Park. Founded in 1950, The Vanee Foods Company manufactures shelf stable entrees, gravies, sauces, soups and soup bases and serves a diverse customer base from three facilities in the suburbs of Chicago. In addition to touring a processing plant, students also spent lunch learning the college and career path offered by the company including the importance of using the chemistry and science classes that are a part of the high school curriculum. Vanee stated, "There's never been a better time to enter this industry with advancements in technology and increasing demand for quality food products."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Cager Stone from OSI Group in Chicago shared similar advice as he explained the jobs

at his company. OSI is the premier global supplier of custom value-added food products to the world's leading foodservice and retail food brands and is one of the largest privately held companies in the United States. Mr. Stone explained careers in engineering, maintenance, production, operations and quality assurance, and discussed the qualities they seek in candidates they hire. OSI's commitment to continuously improve their sustainability impact was also reviewed with students. Both tours provided outstanding connections from farm-to-table by showing students food production from raw materials to packaged goods. Seeing pork belly go from raw meat to sealed and packaged bacon bits, was just one example of the many end products students saw being processed. The trip was funded by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Fund for Rural America in order to provide outreach to urban students on the vast connections between urban and rural agriculture opportunities.



OSI Group concluded their tour by giving students gift bags.



Students learned about some of the Vanee Food Products

Agriculture Adventure for Families

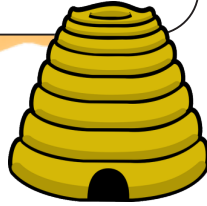


This month we introduce some basic facts about honey bees known for producing delicious honey and beeswax. Beekeeping has become a very popular hobby and business opportunity right here in our county. We even have a beekeeping class for beginners that runs April 6th and 7th. Enjoy buzzing through the month of April.

The Three Honey Bees

Three different kinds of honeybees live inside all beehives. There is one **queen**, a few hundred male **drones**, and thousands of female **worker bees**. The queen is the largest of the honeybees, and she can live the longest - from three to five years. All the other bees in the colony live for about 2 months, except over winter, when they live a few months longer.

Source: "The Honey Markers" By: Gail Gibbons



Honey bees are social creatures. They form highly structured groups called colonies. In a colony, as many as 50,000 or more bees live together and work at their own special jobs. Many honeybees like to make their homes in dark, enclosed places. Often a colony of wild honeybees builds its hive in a hollow tree. Honeybees cared for by today's beekeepers live in box-shaped wooden hives.



Source: "The Honey Markers" By: Gail Gibbons

In the hive, each bee has a responsibility. Most of the adult honey bees in any colony are female worker bees that tend the young, gather and store nectar and pollen, make honey, royal jelly and beebread, produce wax, and care for the queen and drones. The male members of the colony, the drones, make up only a small percentage of the hive population and exist only to mate with the queen. The queen's primary duty is to lay eggs...up to 3,000 a day! The queen also produces pheromones that tell the bees that she is on the job. Her pheromone inhibits the development of other queens - hence, only one queen. She is fed and cared for by worker bees and only leaves the hive to mate. She maintains the sperm she collected during mating in a special pouch in her body, and can continue laying eggs for up to 2 years.

Source: "The Honey Files: A Bee's Life" National Honey Board

Honey's Journey

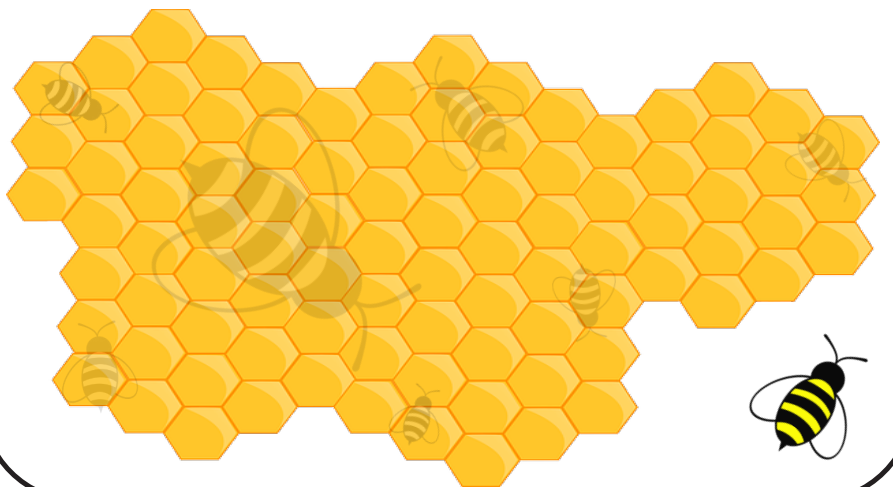
Take the journey from flower to table

- Flowers produce nectar
- Honey bees collect pollen and nectar from blooming flowers and plants and store it in honeycombs inside their hives. These honey bees are called worker bees, and are exclusively female.
- Bees fan the nectar by beating their wings to evaporate, the sugars thicken into sweet honey.
- Beekeepers pull frames out of beehives. They take off the wax that covers the cells.
 - Beekeepers put frames in a machine called an extractor. It spins the frame very quickly, and the honey comes out.
 - Honey is sealed in jars and bottles.



Source: IL Ag Mag Pollinator

Try to find all 7 bees hidden in the honeycomb



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!

April Word Search

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

Beekeeper

Bees

Buzz

Colony

Drones

Hive

Honeycomb

Insect

Mate

Nectar

Pheromones

Pollen

Queen

Sweet

Wax

Workers

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

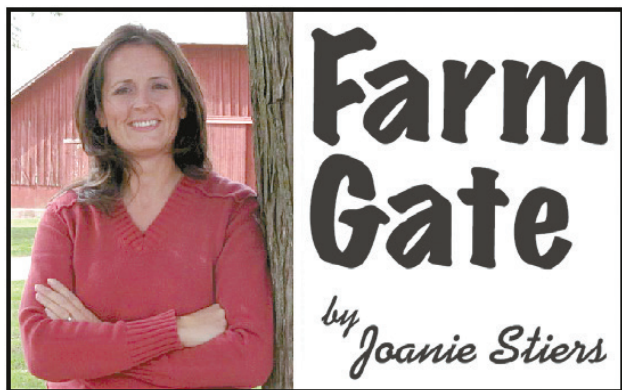
___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Last Month's Word Search Winner Is...

Maureen Keller



Bud Not Such a Buddy Super Bowl Ad Infuriates Farmers

The Super Bowl beer advertisement brewed belly-aches in my living room full of corn farmers. For a pain-staking 60 seconds, we watched Bud Light knights transport an oversized and unwanted barrel marked “corn syrup” in its medieval-themed advertisement. The knights traveled to the Miller Lite castle and then to the Coors Light castle to present the mistaken delivery to its rightful owner.

Their message: Bud Light doesn't brew with corn syrup. The ad directly attacked the smaller brands that do all while offending the farmers who grow the grain crop.

Social media exploded with disgruntled farmer football fans. Two weeks later, bartenders in Louisville talked about it during the National Farm Machinery Show. The Commodity Classic national farm event in March served only Coors Light and Miller Lite at a concert. And the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture even mentioned the commercial during his speech at the event. This disparaging commercial struck more nerves than tariff talk.

No doubt, Bud Light beverages would have lubricated the drain of my kitchen sink on that Super Bowl Sunday had anyone held the beer brand in hand. I sighed and thought to myself, “What are you doing, Bud Light?” Here agriculture goes again with a misleading and irreversible fear-based marketing tactic detrimental to our industry. The one-minute skit tossed more fuel on the fear fire, insinuating that corn syrup likened its vilified step-sister, high-fructose corn syrup. Different product. Different sugar. And a topic for a different time.

Supposedly, brewing beer requires

sugar for the fermenting process, and corn syrup does the job. Bud Light brews with rice, and that works just fine, too. I commend Bud Light for its recent voluntary commitment to ingredient labels, the root of the story here. However, in the beer maker's attempt to differentiate its recipe from rivals, it indicated the competitor's sugar choice as inferior. Interestingly, the parent company uses corn syrup to brew some of its other brands. I guess it depends which label lingo tantalizes your beer-buying habits.

Fear-based marketing has increased over time, changing the way consumers shop and inadvertently the way American farms operate. Green bean cans state non-GMO, while there's no such thing as a GMO green bean. By federal law, no meat sold can contain traces of antibiotic, regardless of what the label states or does not state. Orange juice contains no gluten and popcorn no genetic modification. Yet, those well-placed labels persuade the uninformed consumer to think positively of an omitted (or never present) ingredient.

During that dreadfully long 60-second commercial, the corn syrup barrel kept re-appearing, costing about a million every time it did. CNBC reports a record-high \$5.25 million price-tag per 30-second Super Bowl commercial spot this year. Months from now, the ho-hum game won't earn a mention. But farmers and their friends likely will think twice at the beer cooler before the next summer barbecue.

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.



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION 2019 BOOKMARK CONTEST ‘AGRICULTURE IN YOUR DAY’

Design a bookmark illustrating how agriculture affects our lives each day. Whether it's enjoying a glass of milk from a cow, eating apples from a local grower, wearing clothes made from cotton, eating cereal made with wheat or reading a newspaper printed using soy ink. Show us how farmers impact our lives.

Enter our bookmark contest (up to age 12) and children everywhere will be using it in libraries and classrooms throughout Cook County.

A First Place winner and three runners up will be selected. The First Place winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, Runner Up winners will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. The winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution this summer at local libraries and park district events hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Entries must be received by 5/1/19 via email or mail. Judging will be completed by 5/15/19

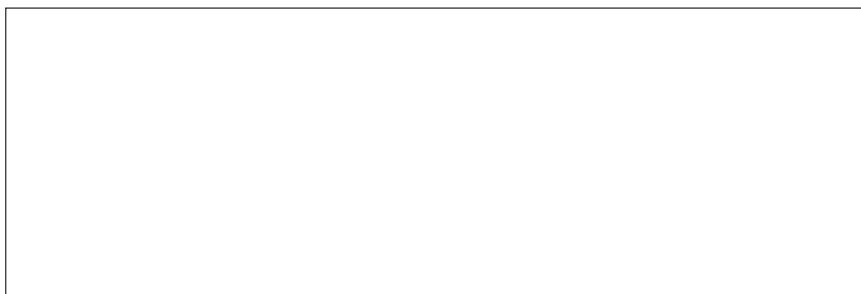
Mail entries to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Bookmark Contest,
6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525
Email entries to: aitc@cookcfb.org - Subject: Bookmark Contest

*Please print carefully

Participant's Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Phone no. _____ Email Address: _____
Parent's Name: _____

*By submitting your bookmark artwork to this contest, you give the CCFB the right to reprint and distribute your bookmark design at local events hosted by the CCFB.

Use the template below or use the same measurements on a white sheet of paper: Size is 7 1/2" x 2 1/2"



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RESTORE HORSEPOWER
EXTEND ENGINE LIFE

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- Extends fuel pump and injector life

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Your South Holland Agency

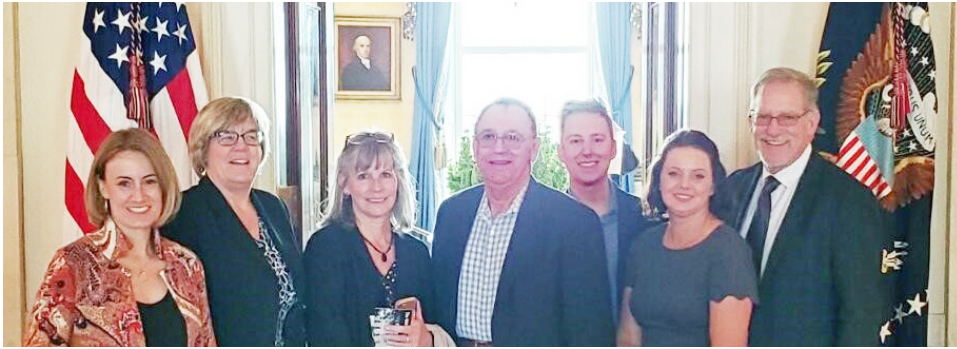
 Jeff Orman Agency Manager 708-560-7777	 Andrew Carrell South Holland 708-596-3999	 Jim Verduin South Holland 708-596-0008	 Randall Cox Matteson 708-679-1870	 Elliot Day Matteson 708-679-1870
 Gary Molenhouse Matteson 708-679-1870	 Josh Van Namen Worth 708-361-3925	 Jim Pathemore Orland Park 708-745-5151	 Tim Perchinski Steger 708-754-7300	 Bob Smith Homewood 708-798-4844
 Paul Turay Mokena 708-478-0423	 John VanGennep Mokena 708-478-5500	 Bob Deenik Lansing 708-474-5600	 Tim Van Zuidam St. John, IN 219-365-1781	 Mike Cerf Oak Forest 708-560-7777
 Charmaine Toney-Adkins Oak Forest 708-381-4010	 Mel Flowers Oak Forest 708-560-7777	 Sherman Williams Oak Forest 708-381-4011	 Joe Scialabba Oak Forest 708-381-4020	

Helping you protect what matters most

2019 State Legislative Priorities

Farm Bureau established the following legislative priorities:

- Work with the large number of new legislators elected to the General Assembly in order to educate and share the importance of agriculture to the state of Illinois. As well as to build working relationships with newly elected constitutional officers and their new staffs.
- Support a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- Maintain funding at adequate levels for agricultural programs within the current tax structure.
- Maintain a balanced process for siting livestock farms through the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) that protects both the environment and farmers' ability to raise livestock.
- Support state tax policies that build a positive business climate; this includes supporting agricultural sales tax incentives, the Farmland Assessment Law, and a flat state income tax rate.
- Implement transparency and efficiency in the Illinois Endangered Species Act that will incentivize farmers to be involved in habitat conservation and species' protection.
- Oppose an increase to Illinois' minimum wage that is believed to be inflationary and would negatively impact Illinois' business climate.
- Implement the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act in Illinois to preserve landownership and avoid forced sales in tenancy-in-common property, resulting in lost land ownership.



At the conclusion of Farm Bureau's recent fly-in to Washington, D.C., Cook County Farm Bureau participants toured the White House. Pictured left to right are: Amy Hansmann, Janet McCabe, Kim Morton, Jim Bloomstrand, Thomas Poole, Bona Heinsohn, and Mike Rauch.



Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders meet with numerous Congressmen and their staffs to discuss Farm Bureau priorities including free trade, infrastructure improvements, and Farm Bill implementation.

Horse Carriages

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to Cook County legislators on the House Transportation: Vehicle and Safety Committee:

Cook County Farm Bureau® is opposed to HB 3339 due to the burden it would place on state agencies and horse owners.

Points of concern include:

- The burden placed on the state for regulation of horse carriages. The bill involves the Secretary of State, Department of Transportation, State Police, and Department of Agriculture in rulemaking.
- Licensing requirement for all horse carriage operators even if they are operating on a part-time or limited basis.
- HB 3339 stipulates the tack horse carriage operators can use. Tack decisions should be made by the horse owner and carriage operator who know the horse and its training.

- The bill also stipulates that the horse must be shod and the type of shoes the horse must wear. This decision should be determined by the horse owner and the Ferrier. Shoeing needs are best determined by professionals with knowledge of the horse's needs and environment.

- HB 3339 also requires the horses to be stalled, which is a decision best made by the horse owner. As is whether or not the horse should be blanketed.

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.



Farm Bureau leaders met with Bradley Doorn from the Earth Science Division of NASA to discuss NASA's role in tracking soil moisture and crop health. Pictured left to right are: Amy Hansmann, Jim Bloomstrand, Janet McCabe, Thomas Poole, Mike Rauch, Bona Heinsohn, Bradley Doorn, and Kim Morton.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

The history of Washington, D.C. is tied to its role as the capital of the United States. Like many issues, it was created and designated through compromise and consensus.

This system of compromise and consensus holds true today. The best outcomes are the result of compromise.

Farm Bureau leaders had the opportunity to influence the legislative, regulatory, and rule-making processes in March. Leaders discussed not only the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill but the need for free and open trade, investment in infrastructure, and the clarity offered by the proposed Clean Water Rule.

Leaders traveled to the Canadian embassy to discuss trade, specifically Illinois-Canada trade. In 2017, Illinois exported \$1.5 billion worth of agricultural products to Canada including \$295 million in food preparations and \$270 million in prepared cereal products. Illinois, on the other hand, imported \$1.8 billion from Canada including \$146 million in fresh, chilled or frozen meat. Canada is the United States' second largest trading partner behind China. Illinois' trade relationship with Canada provides over 344,000 Land of Lincoln jobs.

Transitioning from the priority of trade to the priorities of year around E-15 use and water regulations, leaders met with officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Leaders discussed the clarity provided by the Clean Water Rule as opposed to the muddy and messy regulations created by the Waters of the U.S. rule. The Clean Water Rule ends years of uncertainty over where federal jurisdiction begins and ends. Members are encouraged to text 'WATERS' to 52886 to express their support for this clarity.

Leaders traveled to The Hill to meet with Congressmen as well as their staffs to discuss the importance of trade and to lobby for investment in infrastructure improvements. Members met with Congressmen Casten, Davis, Kinzinger, Lipinski, Rush, and Underwood, as well as Senators Duckworth and Durbin. In addition to carrying the message of trade, infrastructure, E-15 year around use, and regulations, members also lobbied for improvements to the H2A visa program for agricultural workers. Many farms, including Cook County farms, rely on immigrant guest workers for labor. Those farms bear the cost of workers' housing, transportation, insurance, and salary. However, the process is in desperate need of streamlining a message that was also carried to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue.

No agricultural fly-in is complete without a visit

to the USDA. Members met with leaders from the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Risk Management Agency, National Resources Conservation Services, Rural Business Service, and the Farm Service Agency before carrying the message of free and open trade to the White House Council of Economic Advisors. The message of free and open trade was echoed again when leaders met with Farmers for Free Trade, which is a coalition built to inform the public about the benefits of free trade and to mobilize farmers to act to support beneficial trade agreements.

Leaders also met with the Earth Science Division at NASA to discuss ground water and crop condition monitoring. Through a variety of tools including satellites, instruments on the International Space Station, airplanes, balloons, and ships, on land Earth Science researchers collect data about land cover, land use and vegetation, ocean currents, temperatures and upper-ocean life, and ice on land on sea. Leaders rounded out their fly-in with a visit to the White House, which is not only the oldest public building in the District of Columbia, but 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is the most famous address in the U.S. It is truly a building built on compromise and was an appropriate conclusion to a fly-in that was built on advocating for priorities while building members' knowledge and confidence on issues.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.



Sharon Stenke,
Country Financial
Agency Manager
Chicago Northeast

From the Country Be Prepared For Tornado Season

Tornado season begins in April and lasts through June, but actually tornadoes can and do occur in every month of the year. That's why it is important to always be prepared.

The first step of tornado safety is to know the difference between a watch and a warning. These terms often confuse people. A watch always comes before a warning and indicates weather conditions are ideal for the development of a tornado. A warning means a tornado has definitely formed and has been sighted. The best way to remember the difference is to think of a watch as an advisement to be on guard.

The best time to take action is during a tornado watch. Once a tornado warning has been issued, you may not have enough time to get to safety.

If a storm hits while you are outside

- NEVER try to outrun a tornado. Tornadoes can change directions quickly and can easily lift vehicles and toss them around, making vehicles potential deathtraps. Always get out and away from vehicles.
- Take shelter inside a building immediately, if possible.
- Find the lowest point possible. Lie in a ditch, ravine or low area or crouch near a strong building and cover your head and neck, if you cannot take shelter inside.
- Leave mobile homes and get to a safe place. Mobile homes, like vehicles, can be tossed around by heavy winds.
- Be aware of potential flooding.

Once you have taken shelter in a building

- Go at once to the basement, storm cellar or lowest level of the building. Go to inner hallways or smaller inner rooms without windows, such as bathrooms or closets if the building has no basement.
- Stay at the center of the room and away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- Be mindful of where there is heavy furniture or appliances on the floor directly above you because heavy winds can weaken walls and floors.
- Get under sturdy furniture (i.e. workbench, heavy table) and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Monitor the news from your local radio station for emergency information and instructions. Make sure the storm is completely over before leaving shelter. Tornadoes often hit in groups, and it is possible that only one of many tornadoes has passed.

For more information on tornado safety visit the COUNTRY Financial website at www.countryfinancial.com. Sharon can be reached at Sharon.stenke@countryfinancial.com.

Recipe of the Month: *Bean Cakes*

2 c beans, black or pinto (dry stock or canned)
1 small onion chopped
1 carrot chopped
½ c peppers diced - any type
1 egg
½ t sea salt
½ t black pepper
¾ to 1 c unbleached flour
¼ c canola oil or bacon grease
Garnish: fresh herbs, tabasco, sour cream

In blender or food processor mix beans, onion, carrot, peppers and egg to a pulp. Transfer to mixing bowl, add salt and pepper. Add enough flour to be able to form patties. Add oil to a skillet over medium-high heat and ladle formed patties into oil. Fry until golden brown. Remove and garnish as desired.

Recipe reprinted with permission from member, Mike O'Brien of Summit, found in our 2018 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

To receive a copy of the soon-to-be-released 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure, email membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276.

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 do I search for hotel discounts?

A: We have two Franchises to choose from on our website www.cookcfb.org using the member benefits/travel locator.

Choice Hotels - save up to 20% Call 1-800-258-2847 or visit Choice Hotels online Rate plan: 00800614

Wyndham Hotels - save up to 20% Call 1-877-670-7088 or visit Wyndham Hotels and Resorts online Rate plan: 8000002027



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.



Illir Numani

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Illir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy, #200 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Illir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



Sylwia Grochowska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. Her office is located at 3933 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



Tim Hranka

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Tim Hranka has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste B in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-1540. Tim has been a Career Financial Representative since January 2011.



Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. 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.



John Doherty

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
John Doherty has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. His office is located at 10A W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-9922. John has been a Financial Representative since May 1992.



Renata Bondarowicz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 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.



Alonzo Nevarez

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Alonzo Nevarez has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2019. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave., in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-284-5762. Alonzo has been a Career Financial Representative since June 2018.



Ed Beavers

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Ed Beavers has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 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 February 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.



Dan Gallivan

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Dan Gallivan has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for February 2019. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-381-4015. Dan has been a Financial Representative since January 2018.



Paul Malito

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Paul Malito has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for February 2019. His office is located 30 S Ash St. in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-0123. Paul has been a Financial Representative since December 1995.



Sherman Williams

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Sherman Williams has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for February 2019. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-381-4011. Sherman has been a Financial Representative since November 2018.

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.

Shark Ninja Vacuum & attachments \$100.00. Attachments in unopened bag appliance wand, duster crevice, mini brush and more. Call Susan at 708-278-4168.

Vehicle

2010 Chrysler Town and Country stone white clear coat

dark slate/ light shale leather trimmed bucket seats 4.0liter v6 6 speed auto transmission 17 city 25 highway heated seats, moonroof, dual screen dvd, keyless entry, remote start, backup camera, fog lamps and many more terrific options. Call Michael at 708-710-7867.

1976 M.G. Midget runs great no rust, new carb, gas tank and top. Moving to Florida garage kept. \$2900.00. Call Louis at 847-361-9292

1995 Ford Mustang convertible, red, tan interior and top. V6 engine, 170,450 miles, 5 speed, new tires, new clutch, runs great. Needs minor body work. \$3000 or best offer. Call Pat at 708-898-0108.

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.

Wanted to buy Yorkie puppy. After 13 years we lost our Mona Lisa due to old age she had a good home with us. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

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

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

The Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the spring Tree and Fish Sale. Order forms are available on the District Website (<https://will-scookswcd.org>) and can be picked up at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District office during business hours. U.S. Mail, email and fax copies can also be requested by calling 815-462-3106 x 3.

The District has a wide variety of plants, grasses, shrubs and trees available. Stock ranges in size from 10 inches to 6-foot linear stock. Plant pickup is scheduled for Friday, April 19 from 10am to 5pm and Saturday, April 20 from 7am to 11am, at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox.

Fish varieties for sale include Channel and Albino Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Hybrid Sunfish, Fathead Minnows, Bluegill, Black Crappie, and Triploid Grass Carp. Grass Carp must be ordered by April 4th. All other orders must be received by Monday, April 15th. Orders are pre-paid only.

Fish stock will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 20th, 7am only, at the at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox.

For more information on the sale or to register for the Workshop, call 815-462-3106 ext. 3 or email info@will-scookswcd.org.

This article is for local farmstands, farmers' markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations that are hosting farm-related activities, events, workshops, and gatherings that will occur soon.

To promote your activity, email membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276 by the 15th of the month. Please include your name, the event date/time, a one-sentence description of the event, and how a reader can obtain further information in the email. We will edit submissions based on space allowances in the publication.

In addition, we will post farm, garden, or livestock related photos on our social media platform if you forward those to membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

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.



Meet the 2019 Cookfresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients:

Imperial Towers Community Garden, located in Chicago, is a community garden set in a concrete urban setting. Residents look to foster personal connections and add beautification to their property through individual and cooperative growing spaces with the purpose of bringing fresh produce, herbs, flowers, and learning opportunities to its gardeners, as well as peaceful observation to all residents. Grant funds will be used to purchase seedlings, tools, plantings, and supplies for the garden.

Urban Autism Solutions-Growing Solutions Farm, located in Chicago's Near West Side neighborhood, is an urban ag and vocational learning site that is specifically designed for young adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is a 1.2-acre farm with over 100 raised beds, fruit trees, cooling, and hoop house with classroom space. Grant funds will be used to purchase seedlings and mulch for the garden's beds.

Roots Community Garden is located in Palatine. The garden is a collaboration among many community businesses, churches, agencies, schools, and volunteers providing food for the underserved in Palatine while providing educational opportunities and hands-on activities for all volunteers. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plantings, flowers and gardening supplies to be used in the garden.

Smart Farm of Barrington is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run educational farm with an annual garden that provides produce to neighbors in need while educating the community about the benefit of local food, sustainability, and a healthy lifestyle. Grant funds will be used to purchase seed, soil, and mulch for the garden.

Sankofa Community Garden, located in Chicago's Wrightwood neighborhood is a new community garden created to provide space for community members to learn gardening practices and grow healthy food for themselves and their families in an effort to support education, nutrition, exercise, fresh food availability, and more in their neighborhood. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants, seeds, tools, and materials to support plant life.

Sauk Village Community Garden will join families to learn about gardening: healthy eating and cooking: and planting to harvesting fresh vegetables, herbs, and fruits while learning horticulture techniques. The garden looks to add more beds to extend their vegetable production. Grant funds will be used to purchase fresh soil, tomato cages, mulch, and garden tools.

Cookfresh® is an assistance program designed for Community Gardens in Cook County to beautify their "places and palates." The Cookfresh Community Urban Garden Grant program offer six \$300 grants to support urban agriculturists seeking assistance with a community garden. The community gardens will receive the money in the form of Cook County Farm Bureau "Cookfresh Funds."



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Upcoming Events to Attend

Register by calling the office at 708-354-3776 or register online at cookcfb.org unless otherwise noted.



Essential Oils

The Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a class on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 7-9 PM. Join us as dōTERRA Wellness Advocate Heather Holtz teaches us how we can naturally support our emotions and uplift our mood with essential oils. Each attendee will make 1 FREE rollerball blend based on their needs with the option of making more. Additional rollerballs are \$5 each.



Build a Board Night The Cook County Farm Bureau

will be hosting a night of pallet painting at the CCFB Build a Board Night on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6:30-9 pm! Choose from 3 designs with step by step guidance. No artistic experience required. Admission is \$30 for members (non-members \$40). Admission includes all painting supplies, snacks and soft drinks. Please go to <https://bit.ly/2V8cDKq> to purchase tickets.



Preparing Wills and Trust and Transferring Non-Titled Trust

The Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 from 6:30-9pm. At the Country Financial Building 25 NW Point, Suite 850 Elk Grove Village. No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members, \$10 for non-members. Register by: Tuesday, April 23, 2019— Limited seating!



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 is 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 workshop.



Spring Planter Workshop at VanDerGriends Farm Stand

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 10am Fee: \$25.00 2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd, Lansing 60411. Class size is 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.



Shred Day

The 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 to make your reservation.



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)..



Generation Law

The Cook County Farm Bureau is hosting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 7-9pm, call today to register. Generation Law Protecting your Families future. Family Feuds simple ways to keep your kids from fighting while you're going and after you're gone.



Emotions and Essential Oils 102

CCFB is hosting a class on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 7-9 PM. Join us as d TERRA Wellness Advocate Heather Holtz teaches us how we can naturally support our emotions and uplift our mood with essential oils. Each attendee will make 1 FREE rollerball blend based on their needs with the option of making more. Additional rollerballs are \$5 each.

But Wait—There's More!

- We have too much to deliver to members for the confines of this 12page publication. Go to www.cookcfb.org for more detail about programs, workshops, benefits and activities including...
- Mike Rauch letter regarding Clean Water Rules
- Family Farm & Food Bytes
- Food Price outlook for 2019
- Editor Note from 1st ever CCFB publication in 1930
- Photo's- Result of Food Checkout Day 2019

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

