

Sidebar: Cook County Farm Bureau history 1940 through 49

1940

- This was the 20th anniversary of the Cook County Farm Bureau. The original foundation on which Farm Bureau was organized back in 1920 was to bring the findings of our state agricultural College on soil and crop improvement to the farmers of Cook County. Over the 20 years, many additional services were added including dairy herd improvement, 4-H club support, automobile insurance, farm supply company, tax work, marketing services, farm accounting, representing local farmer interests and more.
- The Farm Bureau began soliciting interest from members regarding the setup of a meat locker plant in Arlington Heights.
- The Farm Bureau worked with officials to make improvements to the hours and delivery process to the Randolph Street produce market
- The formation of a “Home Bureau” within the Farm Bureau to serve homemakers of the organization began.
- Information was provided about a new Cook County zoning ordinance and its effects on local farmers.
- The Cook County onion crop was especially good.

1941

- The Board sent Farm Bureau leaders to Springfield to get information regarding income taxes and then held meetings on the north and south ends of the county to share that information with local farmers.
- A special edition of the cooperator was published to commemorate the 20 years of significant events in the organization and agriculture since the Farm Bureau had been created.
- At the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Baltimore, Maryland, Cook County Farm Bureau was awarded a bronze bell as a trophy for having the largest membership in the Midwest region.
- the board approved purchase of a small Kodak camera so that the Farm Bureau manager could take pictures at night.
- The Farm Bureau received a telegram from Mr. Earl Smith, Illinois Farm Bureau Pres., requesting information on the farm labor situation due to the draft.
- Farmers were concerned about farm prices, inflation and government policies to control the future farm economy in light of the “disastrous result following World War I”.

COOK COUNTY CORN HUSKING CONTEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1941

WALTER SENNE FARM

on Palatine and Rohlwing Roads

1 mile NE of Palatine



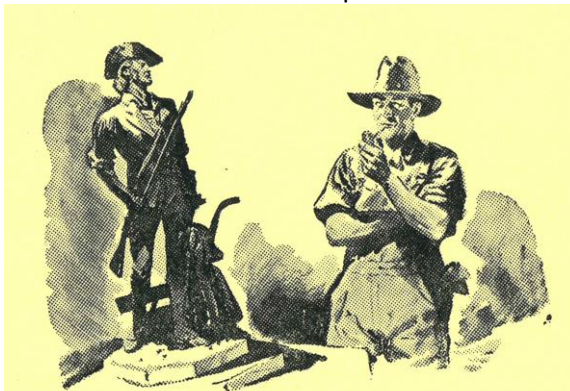
1940 CONTESTANTS

Reading left to Right—Carl Bockendahl, Harold Lyle, Paul Malchow, Lloyd Bonkoski, Henry Roesslein, Robert Freise, Elmer Graham, and Leslie Carr.

- A new mimeograph machine was purchased for the Blue Island office for \$98
- The European corn borer and Japanese beetle insect pest had grabbed the attention of local farmers and state entomologists.
- The Farm Bureau passed a resolution that said, “resolved that the Cook County Farm Bureau support our government in its request for increase production of certain farm products for defense during this war emergency”.

1942

- The March cover of the Co-Operator stated...

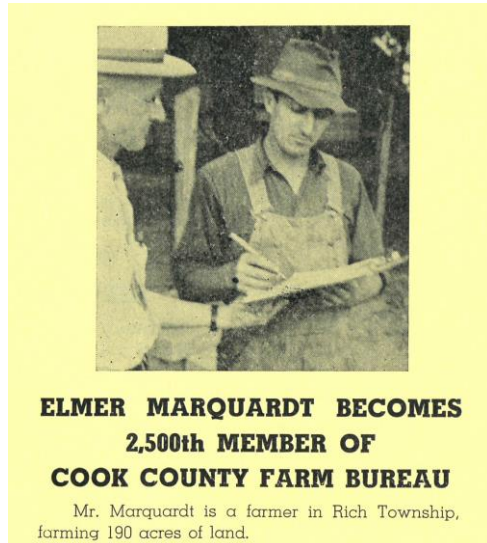


Farmers always have and will respond during National Emergencies. Few are now called on to do more — none will do their part better.

- Farm labor was a challenge, especially in light of increased production demands, as the draft took key men from the farm. The Farm Bureau set up employment agencies in the offices to bring labor from suburbs and cities to help on the farm, especially with vegetable production.
- A farmer's war board was set up by Cook County (chaired by Carl Bormet from Tinley Park) to help work with local farmers to collect scrap iron, farm labor, collection of paper, substitute

options for rubber and increase farm production. The “front line” was in Cook County’s backyard.

- In response to the government’s call for more sugar, farmers in Cook County increase their sugar beet acreage 40% which added nearly 9 million pounds of sugar, enough to fulfill the ration cards of 360,000 people per year for “Food for Victory”.
- Experimental trials with local sweetcorn producers were held to “ice” corn in the field and to sell it under a special tradename in hopes of higher prices.
- The Farm Bureau spent \$2,000 to put a new roof and tuck pointing the Arlington Heights building and insulating the Tinley Park building and invested \$4,000 for future organizational needs.



1943

- 2 rounds of War meetings were held around the county for farmers to discuss their part in the nations war effort.
- War Savings Bonds were promoted as a way to help both the country and as future insurance against the next financial depression for a farmer’s future.
- The Farm Supply Committee reported the situation as to the supply of feed and gasoline both critical. Also, they indicated that there was a need for additional employees of the company to replace those lost to service and other changes.
- A goal of 3000 Farm Bureau members was set by the Cook County Farm Bureau Board.
- Victory gardens were promoted as an American symbol of our determination to beat the Axis and basic guidance was provided to members on how to grow vegetables.
- Attorneys Edward Fritz of Arlington Heights and Robert Gilson of Blue Island was contracted to provide members with legal consultation for a fee of \$2 (verbal legal opinion to a question)
- During the annual meeting, Organizational Director Mr. Hughes read the words of the song “A Soldier in Overalls”, composed by Marie Jensen, a Cook County member. The film, “Soldiers of the Soil”, was presented.

1944

- The Insect Control Guide from circular 522, U of I College of Agriculture, was reprinted for members (All very much pests today!)

- The Farm Bureau held discussion meetings on the subject of probable increases in the creation of subdivisions in Cook County following the war. Concerns included sewage handling, farm drain tile protection, water quality, pressure on school districts, road traffic, farm trespassing, and the changing farmland values that affect taxes.
- Classified ad phone numbers read like this... Oaklawn 1523 – J – 2, Chicago Heights 5123 – Y – 3, Harvey 2754 – R, Orland Park 230 – W

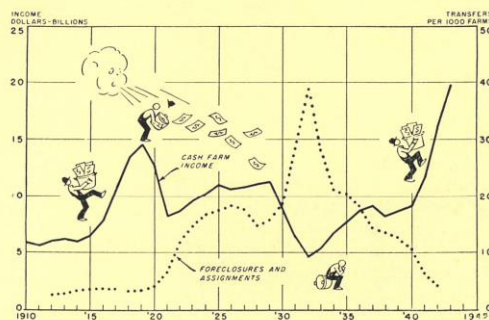
1945

- The Farm Bureau provided information to farmers regarding the Federal Farm Census to be completed every 5 years.
- An income tax bookkeeping school was held for members on both the north and south side of the county.
- Cook County Farm Bureau set up a soil lab to serve vegetable, dairy and the general farmer. Using the results of the tests, the Farm Bureau could provide fertilizer and soil management recommendation for crop yields.
- The Farm Bureau provided information to members on the safety that milk pasteurization provides to prevent undulant fever.
- 2 pieces of legislation were introduced in the state legislature to address difficulties that farmers were experiencing with cheap subdivisions. The legislation gave the county board authority to set up standards for streets, drainage, building materials and water supplies.
- The Farm Bureau celebrated its Silver Anniversary during its annual meeting at the Lagrange Masonic Hall on December 13

1946

- On March 1, Farm Bureau's Fire and Auto insurance companies changed their official names so as to include the word "Country" in them.
- Information about the general farm outlook for 1946 was provided to members...

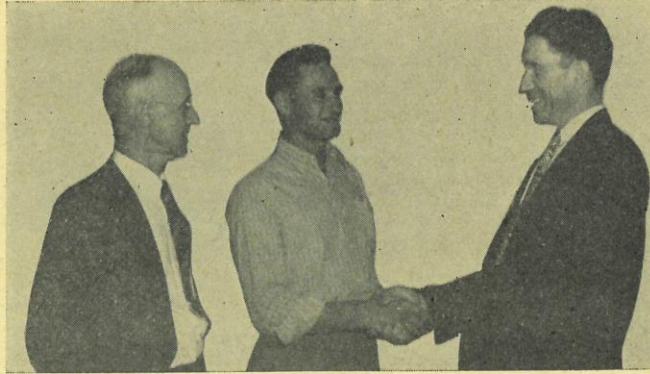
Let's look where we're going in 1946-1950



Farmers, 1946 is the beginning of the Post War Period—use it to get ready for the rough road ahead. What are the facts—how can we best protect ourselves against another "Boom and Bust"? In a series of meetings planned in February we will bring you opinions of leading agricultural economists on the outlook. You have prospered during recent years—readjust now to post war probabilities.

- Information was provided to local veterans for farm on-the-job training programs, vegetable experimental station field trips, and field meetings.

Corporal Richard Nesler 3,500th Member



Corporal Richard Nesler, Hanover Township, after five years service, returned to farm with his father, Fred Nesler, and became the 3,500th member of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

To celebrate the occasion, Corporal Nesler and Mr. Mills went to the I. A. A. office and fixed the membership agreement before Mr. Charles B. Shuman, president of the I. A. A.

- With the market generated by the government purchasing large volumes of vegetables to be shipped abroad and delivered for the military no longer available, and farmers producing at record levels as a result of the ramp-up for the war, overproduction and oversupply was hurting local producers.
- An Illinois constitutional amendment to allow the changing of old tax laws was supported by the organization.

1947

- The Farm Bureau was leading efforts to create a Soil Conservation District for Cook County which required an affirmative vote by over half the farms in the county.
- Robert Benck of Worth and Robert Knoll of Glenview provided weekly vegetable crop reports for a radio programs carried by radio stations WILL, WMAQ, WCFL, and WGN.

1948

- Cook County farmers donated a 30 - ton carload of flour and grain as well as over \$4000 to give to the Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train to provide charity relief for the suffering of the poor people of Europe.
- The board ask the Mr. Chas E. Sauers, General Manager of the Cook County Forest Preserve to meet with the board regarding concerns by farm residents of Bremen Township about expansion of the forest preserve properties and wild animals, dogs and weeds.
- Information was provided to members on a \$6 million bond issue to build to tuberculosis hospitals in Cook County exclusive of Chicago. The Farm Bureau laid out a number of concerns.

1949

- Mr. Jack Everett was hired to be the first special insurance agent to serve Wheeling Township.

- The Farm Bureau joined a suit to restrain extension on taxes for the tuberculosis hospital district and employed a full-time employee, John O'Brien, on taxes to assist members. Members paid their proportionate tax share under protest and members also filed tax rate objections at the same time.
- Mr. Jim Drake was named to head the insurance department in Cook County, replacing Mr. E Carncross
- the Farm Bureau challenged members to guess the prices of farm commodities 10 years previously...

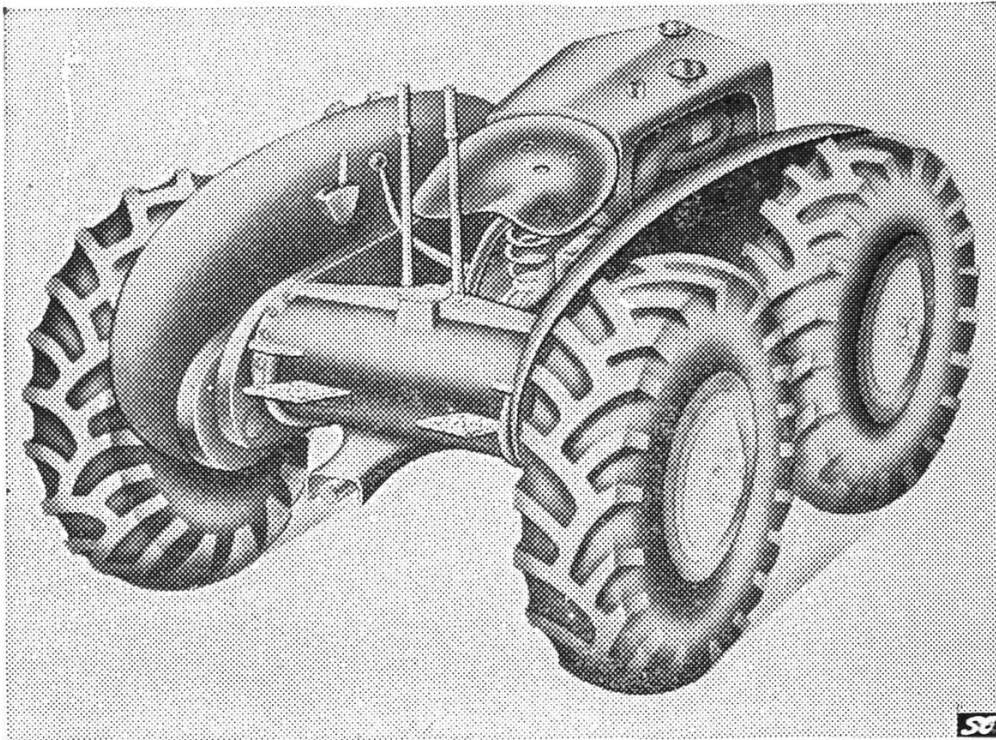
1939 FARM PRICES

These are the August prices of farm commodities in 1939 — ten years ago:

Corn, per bu.	\$.38
Soybeans, bu.	.60
Oats, bu.	.24
Wheat, bu.	.57
Hogs, Cwt.	5.50
Beef cattle, cwt.	7.70
Milk, cwt.	1.50
Milk cows	60.00
Butter fat, lb.	.21
Chickens	.13
Turkeys	.12
Eggs, doz.	.13

- The Board of Directors purchased \$4000 in class C stock for the Chicago Irondale terminal elevator owned by the Illinois Agricultural Association and provided information for members to purchase stock as an investment opportunity.
- Cook County Farm Bureau led the state in membership with 4188 members
- Fly control on the farm was an increased focus.
- Farm Advisor Hughes reported on the likelihood of legislation separating the Extension Service and Farm Organizations.

New "Contraption" For National Farm and Garden Show



Designer's drawing of new 4-wheel drive tractor to be introduced at National Farm and Garden Show in Chicago Coliseum November 27 - December 4. Novel mechanism with engine in rear is said to drive like a team of horses, with "gee" and "haw" levers, and to do work of ordinary tractors in two hours less time per day.



THIS COOK COUNTY EXHIBIT was pronounced the outstanding display at the County Fair at Soldier's Field last August. It showed the two major farm interests—dairying and vegetable farming close to Chicago. In the wings Chicago people were surprised to learn there were "3,700 dairy, vegetable, and general Farms," and "Gross Farm Sales of \$25,000,000." The exhibit was placed by "Cook County Vegetable Growers" and "Cook County Farm Bureau."

"We will have to give Mr. Elmer Steil of the Vegetable Growers credit for this fine exhibit, because he did most of the work while our 4-H Shows were on," states Farm Adviser Hughes. "A lot of Chicago people, realized, for the first time, there were extensive agricultural interests in Cook County."