



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. 5

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

May 2019

Mark Your Calendar

MAY 2019

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MARCH 2020

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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.

Question of the Month

How many female farmers are in Cook County according to the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture?

☆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)**

April winner is
Lee Johnson

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

Answer:
John Doherty



Todd Price (center), CCFB Board member, presented information about sheep and wool during the April 17th Ag Day program for 3rd graders. Price followed his presentation with a demonstration showing the process of combing and spinning wool using a spinning wheel he made as a youth in 4-H. The program was held at Wagner Farm in Glenview and 350 third graders attended.

Webinar: How to Grow a Giant Pumpkin

Tuesday, May 14 • 5pm-6:30pm

Join us from the comfort of your home, tractor, or favorite coffee shop as the Farm Bureau presents a Webinar on How to Grow a Giant Pumpkin. Topics to include seed, soil, planting tips, dealing with harsh weather, cultivation and harvest. The webinar will be presented by George W Hamilton, Ext Field Specialist, Food & Ag, UNH Extension, and will include award-winning pumpkin growers that will share their stories and tips!

Participants will be mailed Giant Pumpkin Seeds to grow a winner to enter at the CCFB Giant Pumpkin Contest on October 5th!

Register for the webinar info by calling 708-354-3276 or by logging into your account at the Member Center.



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 is included in the test kit. 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 April 15 through mid-November, for additional information.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$22 | 2 sample kits: \$30 | 3 sample kits: \$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.

100 Year Anniversary Celebration Open House

Help Us Celebrate 100 Years!

We are collecting videos and photographs from members who are interested in wishing the Cook County Farm Bureau a "Happy 100th birthday!"

If you or your family wants to participate, simply send in a short video wishing Cook County Farm Bureau happy birthday or send a photo of yourself with your message. Happy birthday messages can be sent to ccfb@cookcfb.org.

The videos and photos will be used during the 2020 celebration on social media and our publications leading up to and following the centennial event scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Cook County Farm Bureau office at 708-354-3276.

... HOLD THE DATE! ...

Saturday, March 28, 2020
9am to Noon

Cook County Farm Bureau Building,
6438, Joliet Road, Countryside IL
Activities include—

- Light refreshments • Historical farm & organizational artifact display • 1920s period Ford Model T & tractor • 100 year anniversary coffee table book • Time capsule ceremony • 10-year brick patio ceremony • Member recognitions • Agriculture in the Classroom activities for families and kids • Giveaways

Please plan on being a part of this special event!

What's Up?

Is a monthly feature in The Co-Operator publication in which CCFB members are asked a question and responses are re-printed in the publication for readers' enjoyment. This month, we asked a question of some of our Young Leaders:

What concerns you the most about the future of farming?



Rebecca Biernacki:

Maintaining the pathways which allow farm produce to be supplied to all communities, including those currently with limited access to fresh and healthy food options.



Mark Hamman:

That young children don't grow up wanting to be farmers.



Jessica Biernacki:

The decline in farmland and the increase of people we need to feed.



Blake Lanphier:

Increasingly smaller population of people involved in agriculture. Climate, water resources, growing population to feed commodity prices, nutrient loss reduction.



Kristen Yunker:

One of my biggest fears is that the voice and face of America's family run farms will slowly fade as large corporations overpower the industry.



Thomas Poole:

What concerns me about the future of farming is having the workforce to meet the needs of supply and demand.



Doug Yunker:

What I am concerned about most about the future of agriculture is the disconnect between the consumer and the farmer and how this will affect the way we farm in the coming years.

Department Of Ag Clarifies Hemp Licenses, Rules Approved By JCAR



The IDOA recently altered proposed rules for industrial hemp production and processing, adjusting proposed licensing fees and adding flexibility for crop rotation and changes in cropping plans. (Photo courtesy of Tennessee Hemp Farm LLC)

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) altered proposed rules for industrial hemp production and processing and submitted those rules to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). JCAR legislator members will make the final decision on the rules.

The state legalized industrial hemp production Aug. 25, 2018. IDOA published license regulations for hemp cultivation and processing Dec. 28 and accepted public comments through Feb. 11.

Farm Bureau urged IDOA to ensure the proposed state rules align with new federal requirements in the farm bill. Jeff Cox, head of IDOA's medicinal plant bureau, told FarmWeek that IDOA made changes and even added language about negligent violations taken from the farm bill.

"The changes better align Illinois regulations with the requirements of the 2018 farm bill," said Bill Bodine, IFB associate director of state legislation.

During the comment period, application and license fees had raised concerns. A major change was IDOA's deletion of a 90-day period for a farmer to submit a license application before planting.

"IDOA made changes," Bodine said. "The end result is a licensing process that looks reasonable for the state of Illinois."

Cox explained, "We will accept applications on a rolling basis, first come, first served. We don't have a maximum number [of awarded licenses]. As we receive [applications], we will process them. We have tried to treat this like a commodity as much as possible."

IDOA also adjusted proposed license fees and added flexibility for crop rotation and changes in cropping plans.

The fee to apply for a license is \$100. The license fee for each noncontiguous

Continued on page 4

Corn Fun Facts!

- There are several types of corn. The most common types are field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn.
- Corn is actually a grain, not a vegetable, and is part of the grass family.
- Each corn plant produces just one or two ears of corn and is ready for harvest after approximately 120 days of growth.
- Tassels, stalks, husks, ears, leaves, roots, and kernels are all parts of a corn plant.
- A kernel is the yellow seed on an ear of corn. One ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows.
- A tassel is the tuft at the top of the corn plant that contains the pollen.
- The long silky threads at the top of an ear of corn are the silk.
- One bushel of corn weighs 56 pounds.
- At harvest, a combine separates the kernels from the ear and the rest of the corn plant.
- Each corn kernel contains four major components: starch, protein, oil, and fiber.
- Corn is called maize in most countries, which comes from the Spanish word for corn 'maiz.'
- Field corn is also known as dent corn and is higher in starch and lower in sugar than sweet corn.
- An acre of corn will give off 4,000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.



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...

- Jill Drover for 5 years of quality service as an employee with the Cook County Farm Bureau.
- Our Young Leaders group that is growing and becoming more involved.
- Linda Tobias who came in to work for us between jobs to help us get more organized with our history and archives.
- Our Ag in the Classroom presenters as they approach the end of the school year; they probably look forward to summer as much as the kids do!
- Our staff members that are working more evenings and weekends than in recent memory to provide great programming support and delivery of programs to benefit members.
- Historic Wagner Farm for being the host site for our Ag Day North Program on April 17th.
- Our many fantastic speakers at our many recent Workshops on Industrial Hemp, Beekeeping, Earth Day for Teachers, Essential Oils, Preparing Wills and Trusts/Transferring Non-titled Property and the Master Gardener training. Bravo!

Co-Operator

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“The Building of an Organization—Decade 3, War Years”

In March, my lovely and loving mother sent my wife a birthday box. My mom's birthday box is a cherished tradition. We love mom's birthday boxes because they always come packed with unique gifts, trinkets and random odds and ends that bring smiles to our faces. While the items are typically not fancy or expensive, many items are associated with childhood favorites. My birthday box could contain something that mom sewed, shoe string potato chips, lemon drops, pocket knife, fish lures, beef jerky, bit-o-honey; I love opening those boxes!

Even though it was my wife's birthday, Mom did not forget her favorite offspring (if my siblings are reading this, that would be me)! There was a bag with a note in my wife's birthday box that said: *Bob – I found these caps in*



the machine shed so washed them. I think you might need more choices in cap wear! Spring is near! Enjoy love mom

Why do I find it so touching that my mom, while walking through the barn, found two dust filled hats and thought of me? Equally touching was that she washed them before sending them to me! Thanks, Mom!

As the 100-year milestone anniversary of the Cook County Farm Bureau® draws nearer (March 2020), we continue to research the history of the Cook County Farm Bureau. This past month, I spent time reviewing 10 years of minutes and publications (The Co-Operator) from 1940 through 1949. What struck me about these years was the huge impact that World War II had in so many ways on the local agricultural community and how the Farm Bureau played a big role in providing knowledge, information and support through those years. Also important were the years that followed the war's end as farm product demand

and pricing fluctuated greatly. Added to the mix were soldiers from local farms returned from war (some did not return), attempting to re-integrate on the farm.

Many of the issues of today's Cook County Farm Bureau were apparent 70 to 80 years ago: local property taxes, urban intrusion into farming, government regulations, insect/pest control and soil fertility, trucking regulations, zoning ordinances, farm income and markets, etc.

The Co-Operator published in the 40s, included a sample agreement for a father to use with a son or daughter who wanted to borrow and drive the family car. It amused me as I used a similar agreement with some of my children (the ones that would sign it!). I will always remember when one of my kids argued that “Life is not a contract, Dad!” as I enforced the provisions of that signed agreement. Ahhh, good times!

Enjoy reviewing the 1940–49 decade of history below...

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

CCFB History: 1940-49

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.
- 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. Formation began of a “Home Bureau” to serve homemakers of the organization. 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. 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.
- WWII: 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”. 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”.
- A new mimeograph machine was purchased for the Blue Island office for \$98 and a small Kodak camera was purchased so that Farm Bureau staff could take pictures at night. The European corn borer and Japanese beetle insect pest had grabbed the attention of local farmers and state entomologists.



1942

- WWII: 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 to 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 increased 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

- WWII: Two rounds of war meetings were held around Cook County for farmers to discuss their part in the nation's 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. 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 were contracted to provide members with legal consultation for a fee of \$2 for a verbal legal opinion. A goal of having 3,000 Farm Bureau members was set by the Cook County Farm Bureau Board.

1944

- WWII: The Farm Bureau held discussion meetings about probable increases in the creation of cheap 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.
- Call back phone numbers in the Cooperator classified ads looked like this... Oaklawn 1523 – J – 2, Chicago Heights 5123 – Y – 3, Harvey 2754 – R, Orland Park 230 – W. The Insect Control Guide from circular 522, U of I College of Agriculture, was annually reprinted for members.

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.
- 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.

1946

- Post-WWII: Information was provided to local veterans for farm on-the-job training programs, vegetable experimental station field trips and field meetings. 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.
- Information about the general post war farm outlook for 1946 was provided to members...
- An Illinois constitutional amendment to allow the changing of old tax laws was supported by the organization. On Farm Bureau's Fire and Auto insurance companies changed their official names so as to include the word “Country” in them.

1947

- The Farm Bureau lead 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 asked 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.

The Farm Bureau laid out a number of concerns regarding a \$6 million bond issue to build to tuberculosis hospitals in Cook County exclusive of Chicago.

1949

- 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. The Board of Directors purchased \$4,000 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. 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.
- 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





More than 50 farmers and ag producers attended the Industrial Hemp Meeting at the Farm Bureau on April 2nd. The program included panel presentations on Hemp Agronomy, Hemp/CBD Markets, Seed, Regulatory, Legislation, and Bi-Product opportunities, as well as Farmer experience with Hemp. Thank you to the panelists who did a terrific job: (left to right photo) Randy Miles, Total Cannabis Solutions (TCS), Jarrett Burke, Jade House Genetics, William Moss, TCS, Zach Grant, U of I Extension Educator, Small Farms., Philip Alberti, Extension Educator, Commercial Ag, Garrett Thalgott, attorney, IAA Office of General Council.

Department Of Ag Clarifies Hemp Licenses, Rules Approved By JCAR

Continued from page 2

area or indoor cultivation center is \$375 for one year, \$700 for two years and \$1,000 for three years. IDOA eliminated a \$200 alteration fee to provide some flexibility for farmers who may need to move industrial hemp production. However, farmers will need to inform IDOA about the locations of hemp fields, Cox noted. The processing license fee is \$1,000 for each address.

“The department has provided flexibility by allowing farmers to choose a one-, two- or three-year license and by eliminating the alteration fee,” Bodine added.

IDOA also considered comments about licensing everyone involved in hemp production, transportation and processing. Cox explained the department’s intention is to address those concerns and to license a farming operation.

Several public comments focused on hemp seed certification. While IDOA kept a requirement that hemp seed must be certified according to the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies standards and guidelines, the department added an alternative of hemp seed accompanied by an analysis certificate from an accredited certified laboratory in a state with a regulated industrial hemp program that certifies the hemp grown will not contain more than 0.3 percent THC (tetrahydrocannabinol).

IDOA has removed a requirement for licensed growers to submit a report 30 days prior to planting. While a licensed grower must still report to IDOA at least 30 days before harvest, the proposed requirement now includes “to the best of the licensee’s ability” and removes a requirement to report what processor will buy the crop.

The Illinois General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules approved the rules for the license application process to grow industrial hemp on April 9, 2019. The Illinois Dept. of Agriculture has stated that they will make the license applications available as soon as possible. However, we do not know an exact date yet.

Members interested in applying for a license should monitor the IDOA’s website for an announcement of the license availability. The website is <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pages/default.aspx>



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 ...

Amy Toth

- Amy came to us after a teaching career and combines her passion for education with our Ag in the Classroom programming. She can be found doing a 4th grade presentation one day and a STEM fair the next night.
- Amy loves spending time with her family and also loves baseball.



WHAT YEAR DID YOU START PRESENTING WITH AG IN THE CLASSROOM?

I started presenting with Ag in the Classroom in 2015.

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

I enjoy seeing the excitement on their faces when I walk into their classrooms and when a student tells me how much they learned after I am done giving a presentation.

IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF A FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?

I think I would be a soybean farmer because my great uncle and cousin have a 1000 acre soybean farm.

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

I have learned so much about agriculture. Teaching kids about agriculture just reminds me each and every day how much we are affected by it in so many aspects of our life.

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

The kids keep me going back every single time. They bring me joy and a lot of laughs from the observations they make. I love being a presenter!

WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO VACATION?

My favorite vacation places are Siesta Key, Florida and New Buffalo, Michigan. After visiting the Wisconsin state fair last year, I’m hoping to go to a state fair every summer.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

My favorite farm animal is the cow.

Illinois to Consider Changes to Income Tax

Illinois Governor, J.B. Pritzker’s plan, which his administration has titled the “Fair Tax,” is to have six different levels of income tax rates between 4.75% and 7.95%. It is being estimated by the Governor that this plan would generate \$3.4 billion.

To that end, the Illinois Senate approved an amendment to allow the state to implement any kind of income tax. The amendment does not specify a rate and it does not specify graduated or non-graduated tax. The language also makes an adjustment to the personal/corporate rate to say that the highest corporate rate shall not exceed the highest rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of eight-to-five.

It is expected that the Senate will not take action on the amendment until implementation language establishing the actual income level brackets and tax rates for each level is ready to be acted upon. Farm Bureau assumes that any implementation language will be linked to the voter approval of a constitutional amendment allowing any form of income tax.

Farm Bureau policy supports a flat rate income tax and opposes removing the eight-to-five ratio personal/corporate rate tax limit. Farm Bureau opposes the amendment. Members are encouraged to contact your state senator and representative to voice opposition to this proposal. To find your contact, go to: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>



Members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® along with the DuPage, Kane, and Will County Farm Bureaus and Illinois Farm Bureau® met with U.S. Congresspeople Sean Castens and Lauren Underwood to discuss the importance of the U.S. Canada and Mexico trade. The meeting was part of the Farmers for Free Trade motorcade for trade.



Cam Davis (standing), Commissioner on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, spoke to the board about the District’s efforts and footprint, and offered to work with the Farm Bureau in areas of mutual interest. Tammy Halterman (right), District 5 Illinois Farm Bureau board member, provided the CCFB board with an update on state issues, Farm Bureau efforts and responded to questions.

Census of Ag: Farmers Aging, Number of Farms Decreasing

Illinois' Ag Census data mirrors nationwide trends while... Cook County Agriculture shows signs of strength



The 2017 Census of Agriculture data, released last month, shows the average age of Illinois farmers continues to increase while the total number of farms in Illinois is decreasing. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

By FarmWeek/Cook County Farm Bureau

Following a nationwide trend, the average age of Illinois farmers continues to increase, according to 2017 Census of Agriculture data released in April.

The data also showed a decrease in the total number of farms in Illinois between 2012 and 2017. However, there was a nearly 40% increase in farm size 1 to 9 acres.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, captures information about a variety of topics — from land use practices and crop insurance to the use of fertilizers and farm labor. New questions attempted to capture changing farming demographics, including veterans, women, as well as new and beginner farmers.

Census highlights from Illinois include:

- The average age of Illinois farmers increased to 58 — up from 56.3 in 2012. Nationwide, the average age of farmers was 57.5, up from 2012.
- Young farmers, 35 or younger, represent about 9.5 percent of all Illinois farmers. That mirrors nationwide statistics.
- About 24 percent of Illinois farmers are new and beginning farmers (have 10 years or less experience). Nationwide, 27 percent of all farmers fall into that category.
- The number of farms in Illinois dropped to 72,651 in 2017 — about 2,430 fewer than in 2012. The average size of them increased to 372 acres. Iroquois County had the largest number of farms in the state, according to the census, followed by LaSalle and McLean counties.

The census defines a farm as “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agriculture products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.”

- The number of farms sized 1 to 9 acres increased during that five-year period, as did the number of farms with 2,000 acres or more. All other sized farms declined in numbers.

Meanwhile, more than 2,500 farms in Illinois totaled 2,000 acres or more in 2017, and consist of corn, soybeans and wheat.

- Illinois was the highest-producing soybean state in the country in 2017, with 36,681 farms growing 10.6 million acres.
- Illinois was also the largest producer of pumpkins and horseradish.
- Illinois was the second-highest producer of corn in the United States and ranked second in total crop sales.
- Illinois had the fourth-largest hog inventory with 2,153 farms raising more than 5 million hogs.

Also worth bragging about: Illinois had the highest response rate for the census at 78 percent.

The next Census of Agriculture will be conducted in 2022.

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.

2017 Cook County Census of Agriculture Highlights...

Meet the Cook County Farmer (324 Farm Producers Reporting)

- 110 female | 214 male
- 36 have Military Service
- 116 are new farmers with less than 5 years working on a farm
- 29 are under the age of 35
- 59.3 years is the average farmer's age
- 19.1 years is the average length of time a farmer has worked on a farm

Info regarding the Cook County Farms (182 Farm Reported)

- 11, 903 total farmed acres
- 65 acres is the average size farm
- Average income per farm is \$11,877
- Market value per farm is \$108,186
- 38 farms offer agritourism & recreation
- 86 farms employ payroll labor equaling \$8,682,000
- Crop sales reporting at \$17,626,000
- County Farm Crops Harvested
- Corn - 17 farms - 2,504 acres harvested
- Hay - 26 farms - 1,256 acres harvested
- Oats - 4 farms - 118 acres harvested
- Soybeans - 25 farms - 5,168 acres harvested

- Wheat (winter) - 3 farms - 254 acres harvested
- Christmas Tree - 4 Farms - 18 acres harvested
- Greenhouses (various crops) - 20 farms - 641,608 sq. ft of glass
- Orchards - 23 Farms
- Vegetables (various crops) - 37 Farms - 713 acres
- 3 Organic farms

County Farm Livestock Stats

- 741 equine on 45 farms, valuing \$1,599,000
- 1,337 colonies of bees on 48 farms with \$317,000 in honey sales
- 1,180 chickens on 30 farms
- 108 cattle on 17 farms
- 28 pigs on 9 farms
- 72 sheep on 13 farms
- 56 goats on 16 farms
- 32 alpacas on 7 farms
- Geese, ducks, peacocks, peahens, guineas and aquaculture farms reported

2017 Census of Agriculture for Cook County showed notable increases in the number of female farmers and increased vegetable production in the county.



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Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

AG LIT BIT

By Diane Merrion



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

My children travel a great deal and I often live vicariously through them as the thought of a 15+ hour flight doesn't seem enjoyable to me any longer. I feel a sense of pride that something we did along the

way inspired their love of travel and curiosity to learn about other cultures in the world.

When they return from their trips it is interesting to hear about their adventures which always include food experiences typically "locally grown and sourced". They don't have to look far to understand where the food comes from as "supermarkets" are usually not part of the landscape.

As my one son was in Pursat, Cambodia, he stayed with a family and shared, "I saw how people without running water, refrigeration, or grocery stores live locally and off the land. Ice for cooling was cut from long blocks on the bed of a pickup truck; protein came from their pigs and chickens raised in the back yard; papaya, bananas and coconut trees grew around the house; and rice was harvested throughout the village and sold in the market about a mile away. Almost nothing is processed/packaged and little wasted (thanks to the pigs' voracious appetites)."

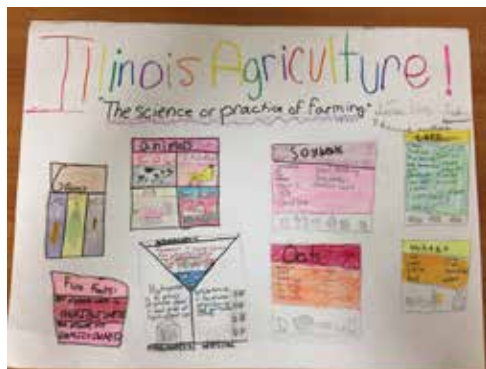
Their trips are a wonderful way to learn about new foods and connect some of the things they see in our stores with where they are grown.

As Ag in the Classroom prepares our summer programs, we will be focusing our efforts on educating youth about agriculture and the farmers who grow the food. You don't have to travel the world to gain access to fresh food, but it can be difficult to understand how food grows when you are not near a farm, do not have a home garden or may not have easy access to a farmers' market or fresh produce.

During our programs, we may even steal some of our favorite lessons from Mr. Greg Stack who blows everyone away with his match the plant with the by-product game which educate adults and kids on the connection between a plant and food item. He brings the concepts to life with lemon trees, coffee plants, raspberry plants and papaya plants to name just a few. The success rate of matching the plant to the product is usually around the 50th percentile showing how little we know about how our food grows.

We're excited to expand some minds this summer and learn from others along the way. Happy travels to you this summer whether it's to your local library or far-away places. Share any interesting foods you experience by emailing me at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Throughout the school year we receive letters from students thanking our presenters for visiting their classroom and sharing a few thoughts on what they learned.



Family Fun

Families filled the Thornton Township Senior, Youth, & Family Services Center on an April Saturday morning to learn about the importance of agriculture in Cook County. When asked how agriculture was a part of their day by 10 a.m. that morning, a fun-filled discussion began with the topic of maple syrup and pancakes that one child enjoyed for breakfast. Did that syrup come from a tree or the corn I was holding in my hand? During the hour we passed around many examples of farm commodities that are produced right near Riverdale by farmers in Cook

County. The participants determined there were no soybeans in the granola bars that were served as snacks until a volunteer read the ingredients off his discarded package and saw soy lecithin as the last ingredient. The beans on his table were indeed in his snack! Learning continued during a few rounds of Cook County Ag BINGO and a short Q&A session. Our program was the kickoff to the summer STEM camp for local students that will be held at South Suburban College, 6/10-8/1/19. Information can be found by contacting India at 708-596-6040, ext. 2015.



Ag Day North



We returned to Historic Wagner Farm on April 17th for our annual Ag Day North event. As the buses unloaded 300 students from St. Luke School, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Walt Whitman Elementary, Iroquois Community and Lincoln Elementary, our volunteers were ready to go! This year's learning stations included horses, pigs, chickens, plants, sheep, corn/soybeans, soil and cows. Our Ag Day event is often a student's first experience learning about farming, horticulture and agriculture which was evident watching their reactions

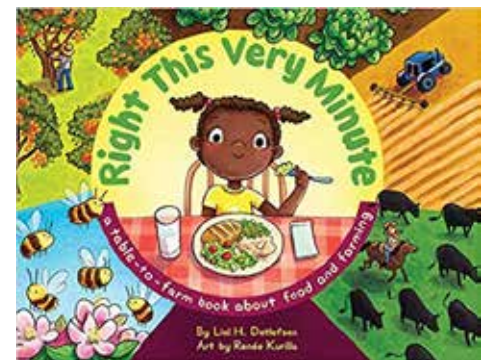
to the sights, smells and sounds of the farm. Some takeaways from the students included, "Chicken eggs come in many different colors," "Horses don't eat just hay," "Sheep oil is good for your skin," and "Pork is made out of pigs!" Thank you to all the staff and volunteers from Historic Wagner Farm, American Ag Insurance, University of Illinois Extension North Cook County and Nutrients for Life along with Luke Allen (FCAE) and Amy Toth (CCFB). Our Ag Day events are funded by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation.

Right this Very Minute

by Lisl H. Detlefsen

"For the farmers who work so hard to feed us all" is one of the dedications as you open Right this Very Minute, a newly published book from Feeding Minds Press, a publisher of accurate and engaging books about agriculture. The book uses the reoccurring theme "Right this very minute" to show how farmers are producing our food every single minute. It takes familiar daily food choices and uses simple words and pictures to show where the items originated such as maple syrup from a tree, apples from an orchard and

strawberries from a farm, and tells the reader that they can think like a farmer and start their own garden too.



Teachers Dig into New Lessons

Insects and soil were the hot topics at our April Ag in the Classroom workshop. Haley Siergiej, Illinois Regional Representative at Nutrients for Life, presented a series of soil related lessons and resources that focused on soil types, plant and soil interactions and water quality. Each participant made a Soil Surprise Box to take back and use with their students (photo left). The boxes contained items students could 'dig for' that showed important nutrients for healthy soils. Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes from the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District discussed native plants and pollinators including

an Insect Detective Activity. Teachers all participated in pinning an insect and identifying its' body parts (photo right). Great observation skills were needed to determine the number of wings, waist and eye size and other defining characteristics of insect groups. All material presented was adaptable to varying grade levels with a focus on environmental science. This was our last after school professional development program for the 2018-19 school year. Look for our fall workshop dates in the September Co-Operator. Additional resources can be found at <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>.



Agriculture Adventure for Families

Our Family Adventure this month focuses on the role of earthworms in getting your soil ready for planting. Earthworms are one of the main contributors to the soil ecosystem because they help restore soil nutrients, improve soil structure and allow water and air to enter the soil. If you don't find any worms in your garden, you may need to research the causes. If there are few earthworms in your garden it could mean that the soil is compacted or low in organic material. Take your family out into the garden and start digging. What a fun adventure! If you need advice on your soil or worms, feel free to call our Master Gardeners here at the farm bureau on Mondays or Thursdays from 9am-1:00pm.

Spring showers bring flowers.....
and earthworms!

Worms breathe through their skins. They don't mind the soil around them being wet, but if their tunnels are flooded, they come up to the surface to move around more easily.

When it's very hot and the soil gets too dry to slither through, a worm will wriggle down to where the soil is still damp, curl up, and wait for rain.

When it's very cold, a worm will wriggle down even deeper, below the frost level, and curl up with other worms for warmth.

Source: *Yucky Worms* By Vivian French

Do worms have teeth?

Earthworms are considered good friends of farmers and gardeners, and have proved to be helpful in agriculture. They enable farmers in effective plowing, manuring, and harrowing. They till the ground and create small tunnels that allow air and moisture to pass through, which, in turn, helps in plant growth. Tunnels store water that can be used by plants and allow the air to pass, which causes bacteria to break down organic matter within the soil. After they digest food, they produce excreta that is known as 'casting' or 'vermicompost', which functions as a good soil-conditioning material. It improves the porosity of soil and helps it retain moisture.

Source: www.animalsake.com/earthworm-facts

Worms cannot really chew their food like you do. They do have something inside of them close to their mouth called a gizzard. You might have heard this word before because birds, including chickens and turkeys, have a gizzard almost like worms. As they eat their food, some grains of sand and soil get into their gizzard. These grains of sand and soil push against each other, mix with moisture and grind the food into tiny pieces (kind of like their own personal food processor). When the food leaves the gizzard, it goes into the intestine. The food is dissolved there and absorbed into the blood. Then it is carried to all parts of their body to keep them strong, healthy and slimy.

Source: www.extension.illinois.edu/worms/anatomy/anatomy

This classic by Doreen Cronin, is written from the perspective of a worm. He lives with his parents, plays with his friends, and even goes to school. There are differences, however, such as he never has to take a bath, he gets to eat his homework, and he can't chew gum. Enjoy this book whether you are young or old as the lessons taught are presented in a humorous, engaging way. A farm bureau favorite here in Cook County.

No, worms do not have teeth.

A worm has ridged muscles all along it's body. To move, it pushes it's front end forward,

And uses it's bristles to hold that end in place while the back catches up.

The bristles on the back end keep the worm from sliding backward.

While the front end tunnels forward again into the earth.

May Word Search

Bristles
Casting
Farmers
Garden
Gizzard
Ground
Moisture
Plants

Showers
Sliding
Soil
Spring
Tunnels
Water
Worms
Wriggle

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

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!

Last's months word
search winner is...

Yay! Daniel Curcio

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.

Family Farm and Food Bytes

LLAMA, LLAMA, WHERE'D YOU GO? (NBC News) – The release of last week's Ag Census not only showed farmers are aging and farm numbers are decreasing – it also showed the nation's llamas are disappearing. In 2002, there were nearly 145,000 llamas in the U.S.; by 2017, however, there were fewer than 40,000. "Once the industry got beyond the novelty and breeding aspects, the question became: what do you do with them?" said Robert Van Saun, a professor of veterinary science at Penn State University.

CHUCK KNOWS BEEF (Associations Now) – "Chuck" is the new virtual assistant released by the National Cattlemen's Association designed to bring beef knowledge to your nearest smart speaker or phone. On April 1, the NCBA released "Chuck Knows Beef" to offer beef-cooking tips to users exactly when they need him. Chuck works with Amazon Echo and Google Assistant by providing recipe ideas, information about different types of beef, safe cooking tips, and details on standard practices in the industry. For those who do not have a smart speaker handy, a text-based version of Chuck is available on the Chuck Knows Beef website.

NEW ONLINE FARM GAMES (FarmWeek) - the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has launched updates to four of its My American Farm online games including:

- Where in the World – students in grades 3 through 5 explore world geography through agricultural facts
- Wild Water Adventures – 4th grade students strengthen English language arts comprehension through stories and questions on water usage
- Equipment Engineer – 4th grade students strengthen English language arts, writing and spelling skills by correcting sentences related to 3 aspects of agriculture
- Farmer's Market Challenge – students in kindergarten through 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade increase math skills by working through questions and scenarios at a farmer's market

Visit www.myamericanfarm.org for these and other resources.

NORTH AMERICAN CONSUMERS WILLING TO SPEND MORE ON GROCERIES (FarmWeek) - According to data from Nielsen, Americans are willing to pay a premium for meat, seafood, coffee, tea and dairy. Specialty Food News reported 33 percent of North American consumers increased grocery spending during the past five years, based on Nielsen data. Consumers are often cost-conscious and look for bargains but are willing to pay a premium for certain categories. Thirty percent of North American consumers are willing to pay a premium for meat and seafood, 25 percent for coffee and tea and 22 percent for dairy.

ORGANIC PRODUCE SALES HIT \$5.6 BILLION IN 2018 (FarmWeek) - In 2018, fresh produce represented 26 percent of total store organic sales and a growth rate of 8.6 percent equal to total store organic sales. Blueberries increased the most, followed by prepackaged salads. Organic bananas, apples and grapes all exceeded \$20 million in growth. However, organic produce wasn't a guaranteed success. Conventionally grown strawberries and tomatoes experienced far greater sales growth. Prices played an important factor. On average, prices were much higher for organic tomatoes and strawberries compared to conventional: \$3.38 compared to \$1.97 to per pound for tomatoes, and \$4.26 compared to \$2.26 per pound for strawberries. More organic strawberries are anticipated. California organic strawberry acreage has increased to more than 13 percent of total strawberry acreage during the last two years, even as the total organic acreage remained fairly constant.

BEEscape HELPS ASSESS HIVE LOCATIONS (FarmWeek) - Identifying ideal locations for beehives can be difficult since scientists are still learning

about factors that affect populations and because bees travel so far from a colony or a nesting site to collect food. At Beescape.org, beekeepers select a possible apiary location on an online map. The Beescape model then provides a score based on information about pollinator forage quality, nesting habitat quality and insecticide load for a 3-mile range. This online tool provides apiary site scores based on pollinator forage quality, nesting habitat quality and insecticide load. Anyone who provides pollinator forage or refuge is encouraged to use the website. Users may also share data on the health of their bees to improve the model used to calculate the landscape scores. Beescape was



developed by entomologists from Penn State University in partnership with the University of Illinois, Purdue University, the University of Minnesota and Dickinson College.

Beescape online tool will allow beekeepers and anyone who provides pollinator refuge and forage to assess the safety and suitability of an apiary's location. (Purdue College of Agriculture photo)

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL GRADS LEAVING (FarmWeek) - Nearly half of Illinois high school graduates pursuing 4-year degrees enrolled in other state colleges in 2017, the Illinois Board of Higher Education reported recently. 48.4% of public high school graduates enrolled in 4-year out-of-state institutions in 2017, up from 46.6% in 2016. Illinois community college enrollment proved to be a bright spot enrollment growth of 2477 students in 2017 over the previous year.

MORE, PLEASE (State Journal-Register) – The IDOA is asking for a \$9.3 million budget increase, most of which would be used to pay for regulating recreational marijuana programs if Illinois lawmakers approve them. IDOA Acting Director John Sullivan told lawmakers he doesn't know what the agency's role will be when it comes to recreational use of marijuana, but he thinks it will be significant. Illinois Farm Bureau policy opposes legalization of recreational marijuana.

About Family Farm and Food Bytes: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.



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Growing To Serve You Better



Pete Soltész and Kim Kultón of the Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association conducted a weekend Beginning Beekeeping Class at the Farm Bureau. More than a dozen bee enthusiasts will soon launch into the world of bees!



Cook County Farming: What's it all about?

If you like to eat, then you need farmers. Farmers grow healthy, nutritious food including fruits, vegetables, and grains like corn, soybeans, and wheat. They also raise animals.

Cook County farmers are committed to caring for their land and animals in order to grow and raise safe and healthy food for their families and for yours. Some farmers specialized in organic while others use the latest technology and farming practices, including biotechnology. This diversity gives consumers the choice of what to feed their families.

Many farmers grow corn, soybeans, and wheat. Using modern tools and technology, farmers grow more grain per acre while ensuring a stable, reliable supply of food, feed, fuel, and fiber. Today each farmer feeds 232 people. In 1960, a single farmer fed only 25 people.

Many farmers specialize in local foods. Consumers can often find local produce at area farmers markets, grocery stores, and roadside stands.

Almost a third of the food we eat is the result of honey bee population.



Horses dot Cook County's landscape. They along with bees, alpacas, beef cattle are the most common livestock animals in Cook County.

What's Growing Out There?



Yes, it's corn, but it's not the sweet corn you munch as corn on the cob. Much of the corn growing in farm fields is dent corn, which is different from sweet corn. Sweet corn is harvested earlier while the kernels are soft and the plants are green. This field with yellow tassels won't be ready to harvest until the leaves and stems turn brown. Dent corn, upper left, is used to make ethanol. Illinois is the third largest producer of ethanol in the nation. The corn is also used for animal feed and human food products.



A combine harvests soft red winter wheat in the summer. Wheat grown in Illinois is not used in yeast bread, but it is an ingredient in cereals, cakes, cookies, and pretzels, pastries, pancakes, crackers, ice cream cones and many other foods. Most of the states wheat is grown in the southern half of Illinois. After the wheat is harvested, farmers bale the remaining stems for straw that is used primarily for animal bedding. Some bales of straw are sold for fall decorations and landscaping purposes as a ground cover. Many times after the wheat is harvested, a second crop, such as soybeans, can be planted and harvested in the fall.



A greenhouse is a building where all types of plants can be grown. Greenhouses vary in size from a small garden shed to the size of several football fields. Farmers grow a variety of plants including herbs, vegetables, flowers, and cactus in greenhouses. Many greenhouses have heating, cooling, and lighting systems that can be controlled by a computer. Greenhouses enable farmers to grow year-round because they allow farmers to control the temperature.



A soybean field is a common sight across the state. Soybeans grow about waist high and turn brown and drop their leaves then ready for harvest. The pale yellow beans are formed in fuzzy pods. The ones shown upper right are ready for harvest. Soybeans are used to make oil, protein and biodiesel. Illinois ranks fourth in the nation for biodiesel production. Soybeans also place nitrogen back into the soil, reducing the application of fertilizer the following year.



A round bale of hay lies in a field awaiting storage. Farmers make hay from grass, clover, alfalfa and other plants. The farmer, upper left, is cutting alfalfa, which will be allowed to dry before it is baled. Hay is fed to animals. Clover and alfalfa put nitrogen back into the soil, reducing the application of fertilizer the following year.



Over 700 Cook County acres are dedicated to growing vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and pumpkins. Vegetables are grown on traditional and urban farms.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

For years, my mom refused to tell her friends that I was a "lobbyist" for the Farm Bureau. When asked, she'd say that I was helping farmers or that I simply worked for the Farm Bureau.

She, like many people, envisioned "lobbyists" as backroom wheelers-and-dealers who chain-smoked cigars and sipped whiskey while rubbing elbows with the government's elite. I, on the other hand, don't drink whiskey and have never tried a cigar. I have, though, sat around a negotiating table and discussed Farm Bureau's position or advocated for a change to a statute or code.

The old, iconic view of lobbyists is just that, old. Basically every industry employs lobbyists from accountants to heavy equipment operators, from farmers to bankers. The role of these individuals is essentially the same: to advocate for the interests

of their members. Having said that there's a couple of things that lobbyists, Farm Bureau lobbyists included, would like members to know:

Lobbying takes time. There is nothing quick in government. Nothing. Government is designed to be slow. Anyone remember Schoolhouse Rock! and their hit "I'm Just a Bill"?

"I'm just a bill. Yes, I'm only a bill. And I'm sitting here on Capitol Hill. Well, it's a long, long journey to the capital city. It's a long, long wait while I'm sitting in committee, but I know I'll be a law someday, at least I hope and pray that I will, but today I am still just a bill."

Government is designed by the Constitution and chamber rules to be slow. It may take years for an idea to even be considered in committee.

Lobbying isn't a desk job. Information is the most important currency a lobbyist ever deals in. Much of lobbyists' time is spent in or around meetings. And not to be cliché, but sometimes it's just as important for lobbyists to "be seen" by legislators

and legislative staff as it is for them to engage with them. This goes directly to the next point.

Lobbying doesn't fit in a typical eight-hour workday. Legislators are in Springfield or Washington, D.C. for a limited time, so lobbyists must be available during that same time to squeeze in as many meetings as possible. When I worked in Springfield, it wasn't unusual for my day to begin at six a.m. with paperwork and a meeting over coffee and to end after committee and an evening reception.

Given that lobbying takes time, it comes as no surprise that sometimes the results of the effort aren't easily seen. When's the last time you saw a news conference about an idea that never got pursued or a bill that was held in committee?

Yes, it may take years for that bill sitting on Capitol Hill to become law, but Farm Bureau's advocacy on issues is critical. Without individuals willing to contact legislators there would be no one protecting Farm Bureau's interests.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture



Visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member Farm, Greenhouse & Garden Centers for all your planting needs this Spring! Their plantings, flowers, trees and shrubs are gorgeous and of the highest quality. For all your landscaping needs, skip the big box stores and patronize your fellow Farm Bureau member businesses this spring.

For a listing of Greenhouses and Garden Centers, please visit:

<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-products-locator>.

- Exclusive Member Discounts available at the following member farm, greenhouse and garden center for all your Spring planting needs!

✓ **Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center** | 847-428-6727

40 W Higgins Rd, South Barrington

10% off any purchase of bedding plants, flowering plants, produce, vegetables and fall festivals.

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

✓ **Ted's Greenhouse** | 708-532-3575

16930 S. 84th Avenue, Tinley Park

CCFB members receive 10% off their total retail purchase including perennials, annuals, ferns, shrubs, cactus, succulents, fruit and vegetable plants. *Restrictions may apply.

✓ **Zeldenrust Farm Market & Greenhouse** | 708-758-5085

1001 Glenwood-Dyer Rd, Chicago Heights

10% discount on Flowers and Christmas Items (discount excludes vegetables)

Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- The annual meeting of The Chicago Farmers is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019 at noon at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2030 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60604. To register online, go to www.chicagofarmers.org
- The Illinois Farm Bureau is hosting the 2nd annual Taste of Illinois at this year's Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 8 from 5 to 8 pm. The organization is seeking farmers and products for locally produced and sourced ingredients for the meal/event that will be featured for the 2,500 members attending from throughout the state. The Palmer House Chef will prepare the menu. If you are interested in providing food, drink and or centerpieces for this event, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 and we will help coordinate with the Illinois Farm Bureau.

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.

Recipe of the Month: *Rhubarb Berry Coffee Cake*

1 pkg yellow cake mix (regular size) divided
 ½ c packed brown sugar
 2 T butter
 2/3 c chopped walnuts
 1 c (8 oz) sour cream
 2 eggs
 ¼ c all-purpose flour
 1 ½ c finely chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
 1 ½ c sliced fresh strawberries

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

In small bowl, combine 1/2 cup cake mix and sugar; cut in butter until crumbly. Add walnuts; set aside. In another bowl, combine sour cream, eggs, flour, and remaining cake mix; beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium for 2 minutes. Fold in rhubarb and strawberries. Spread into greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. If desired, drizzle with frosting or serve with ice cream. Yield 12-15 servings.

Recipe reprinted with permission from member, Joyce Holste, Midlothian, from our 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

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: I heard you have a car wash special?

A: Yes, we do. We have offers for Delta Sonic Car Wash here at the Cook County Farm Bureau. There are 3 options to choose from:

- Super Kiss Car Wash
- Deluxe Car Wash
- 10-minute Interior Cleaning

Depending on the size of your vehicle prices may vary. You can visit our website at www.cookcfb.org for the nearest location. To purchase a voucher, call our office at 708-354-3276.

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.



Mirsad Kljucanin

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Mirsad Kljucanin has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2019. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave, Ste 280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-728-3041. Mirsad has been a Financial Representative since February 2010.



Sylwia Grochowska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 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.



Larry Jachec

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



Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 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.



Zachary Youngblood

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Zachary Youngblood has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2019. His office is located at 10A W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-3595. Zachary has been a Financial Representative since February 2002.



Renata Bondarowicz

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



Dan Jemison

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Dan Jemison has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2019. His office is located at 6438 Joliet Rd., # in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 708-937-0024. Dan has been a Financial Representative since September 2016.



Brian Zielinski

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Brian Zielinski has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2019. His office is located at 106 Stephen St. Ste 102A in Lemont, IL. His phone number is 630-257-6100. Brian has been a Financial Representative since May 2016.



Tyler Hesh

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Tyler Hesh has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 2019. His office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park Ave. Ste. C & D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone is 708-381-4015. Dan has been a Financial Representative since January 2018.



Kyle Stevens

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Kyle Stevens has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 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.



Mel Flowers

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Mel Flowers has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 2019. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-560-9078. Mel has been a Financial Representative since September 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

2017 Bullet Premier 24RKPR, lived in for a year and a half, no pets, non-smoking. Includes; power tongue jack, tinted windows, thermal package furnace, detachable propane grill attachment, surge guard already installed, water pressure regulator included, Rhino hoses included, title in hand, I used the pallets to create an insulation barrier around the base of the camper. Asking \$17,500 or best offer. Call Ryan at 708-515-5979.

Vehicle

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

For Rent

Steger IL, for rent small 2bedroom apartment in 2unit building, refrigerator, stove, garbage & water included. No pets.

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.

Old balloon tire bikes, also 20" models, also old outboard motors no more than 7HP, and old toys. 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.jimmelkalandscaping.com/Resources/> or you can email all resumes to jimmelkajr@jimmelka.com Office is located at 11606 179th St., Mokena IL 60448. PH:708-349-6989



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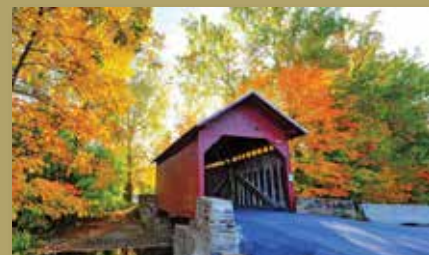
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Mayflower Tours

Discount Code: ccfb16

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- Direct: 630-435-8201 (9:30 am—6:00 pm)
- Email: kayla@mayflowertours.com
- Visit: www.mayflowertours.com



Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL

Tickets bought directly from

Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$52.00**

Tickets DO NOT INCLUDE Hurricane Harbor but are VALID for Fright Fest.

Online 1-Day General tickets are \$56.95

No Processing fee; a minimum of 2 tickets must be purchased through ilfb.abenity.com



Raging Waves, Yorkville, IL

1-Day General Admission Tickets: \$19.00 Ages 2 and under are FREE

Tickets only available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office



Santa's Village, East Dundee, IL

1-Day: \$19.49 Ages 2 and under are free.

Tickets only available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office

For pricing and to order tickets online for King's Island, Cedar Point and Other theme parks go to <https://ilfb.abenity.com/perks/>

To order tickets by phone call (708) 354-3276.

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Upcoming Events to Attend Register today for the following great programs by calling the office at 708-354-3276 or visiting the website at www.cookcfb.org unless otherwise noted.



Spring Planter Workshop at VanDerGriends Farm Stand
 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.
 Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 10am
 Fee: \$25.00
 2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd, Lansing 60411
 Class size is limited



Succulent Planter Workshop at Goebbert's Farms & Garden Center
 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.
 Friday, May 17, 2019 at 10am
 Fee: \$35.00.
 40 W. Higgins Rd. South Barrington
 Class size is limited



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).



Shred Day
 The Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 10am to 12pm at the Rolling Meadows Country Financial Building located at 4190 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows. Please call the office to make your reservation.



Emotions and Essential Oils 102
 CCFB is hosting a class on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 7-9 PM. To learn more 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.



Generation Law – Bullet Proofing your Estate
 The Cook County Farm Bureau is hosting this class on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 7-9pm, Workshop includes simple ways to bullet proof your estate to keep your kids from fighting while you're going and after you're gone.



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.

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...

- Richard Johnson graduates from ALOT
- Historic Wagner Farm to host Dairy Breakfast
- Farm Bureau to host Staff Exchange Program
- Farm Bureau provides comments on proposed Clean Water Rules

Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2018/2019 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2018/2019 Lincoln vehicle.

Enjoy valuable savings on your choice of vehicles from our comfortable and capable lineup! Take advantage of this exclusive special offer today by visiting our home page at www.cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

**Must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days to take advantage of the Ford/Lincoln program.*

Ford is giving away another 2-year lease on a new Ford vehicle. 2nd and 3rd place prize winners each receive \$1,000. The winners will be announced in October. Marketing materials are listed on the leaders portal at this link:

<https://ilcfb.org/promote/marketing-resources/member-benefits/>

2019 Sweepstakes

Don't forget about the Built Ford Proud Sweepstakes* for your chance to win a 2-year lease on a new Ford vehicle! Text the word SWEEPS to 46786** to enter. Or enter using this link: <https://www.fordspecialoffer.com/FarmBureau/Sweeps>

Disclaimers:

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENT OF U.S. OR D.C., 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE TO ENTER AND A CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBER. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/2019. For entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details, visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

Master Gardener Resource Center Re-opened 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. On Monday, April 15th, the master gardeners were back in the Farm Bureau office to answer questions from members and the general public related to gardening and horticulture.

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 each week throughout the growing season. 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.

This program will run through mid-November of 2019.

Mark your Calendars!

FARM CRAWL

Saturday, September 14, 2019

**Cook County Farm Bureau®
 Passport to Agriculture
 Farm Crawl**



The Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting its 3rd annual FARM CRAWL on:

Saturday, September 14, 2019

The Farm Crawl is self-guided with no set schedules allowing members and the public flexibility to choose the farms and agri-businesses to visit during the CRAWL times.

Full program details, and participating farms and business information will be available in the coming issues as well as on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy. We hope to see you on the farm on Saturday, September 14th!