

CCFB history: 1950-59

1950

- The board approved a resolution that provided for the tax objection service through the Farm Bureau for members and nonmembers.
- 7 townships in northern Cook formed a Soil Conservation District.
- The board approved a committee to meet with Campbell and Libby regarding farmer vegetable production contracts.
- Federal legislation (the Brannan plan) was being considered to create a separation between the Farm Bureaus and the Farm Advisers that are a part of the Extension Service.

PALATINE FARMERS SQUASH TAX BOOST

A group of alert Palatine Township farmers headed by long-time residents Harold Bergman, Ernest Hahn, Louis Freise, Irvin Rohde, Emil Schroeder and Henry Mochling acted with dramatic speed to stop an unjustified increase in their property taxes. Mr. Bergman and Mr. Rohde agreed that "this is one of the most constructive steps that farmers have taken in this township for several years."

This group of men, all responsible farmers, knew that a movement was on foot to create a township park district by adding the farmers' property to the present village park district. A look at the village park district tax rate convinced them that a farmer with an assessed valuation of \$8,000 would have to pay a tax of \$10.56. This group also knew about the proposition that was going to be put to the voters which would provide for another five cents to be added to the tax rate. This addition, which was passed by a vote of 88 for levy, 68 against, would cost another \$4.00; this makes a total of \$14.56. After Louis Freise had stated that "this new township park district wouldn't offer much in way of service to our farmers' kiddies," Ernest Hahn and Emil Schroeder said that they "believed that any construction done by a township park district would be done inside the village and that it looked like the only reason for hooking the farmers' property into the district was for the purpose of getting their taxes without giving them any service in return."

The course of action was now clear. The committee retained competent counsel, circulated a petition to almost every resident in the proposed district, and spent long hours explain-

ing every detail of the rural district to people who lived in the area. Non-farmers were left out of the district so that they would not be injured in any possible manner by the forming of this rural district. When the election on the district was held, 97 out of the 98 people who participated voted "yes" to form the new district. This was an overwhelming vote of confidence for the committee.

After the election Henry Mochling declared, "There can be no question about the need for this new district. The farmers in this area would have been saddled with an additional tax amounting to \$14.56 on an \$8,000 assessed valuation and they would have been getting little if any service for their money. I am in complete accord with Mr. Hahn and Mr. Schroeder. This practice of including farm land in a taxing district just to get the farmers' tax dollar has to stop somewhere. The farmers in this rural park district have saved thousands of dollars by acting before it was too late."

The farmers in Palatine Township who formed and helped set up the rural park district have set a pattern which other farmers could well follow. These people have set up a desirable example in their acting courageously to prevent the setting up of a new taxing body by a special interest group. The success enjoyed by the Palatine farmers can serve as a blueprint for other farmers to follow in the effort to stop the further extension of high taxes by districts that provide no service to farmers and their families, but always manage to include the farmers "in" so that they have to pay the tax bill of the district.

1951

- Mr. C.F. Mees was hired to serve as farm advisor beginning January 1, 1951 to replace Mr. C.A. Hughes.
- Charles Erickson was elected President, taking over from L. W. Pohlman.
- It was announced that farmworkers can now be covered by Social Security. The CCFB provided guidance to farmers to help in the understanding and administration of the new rules.



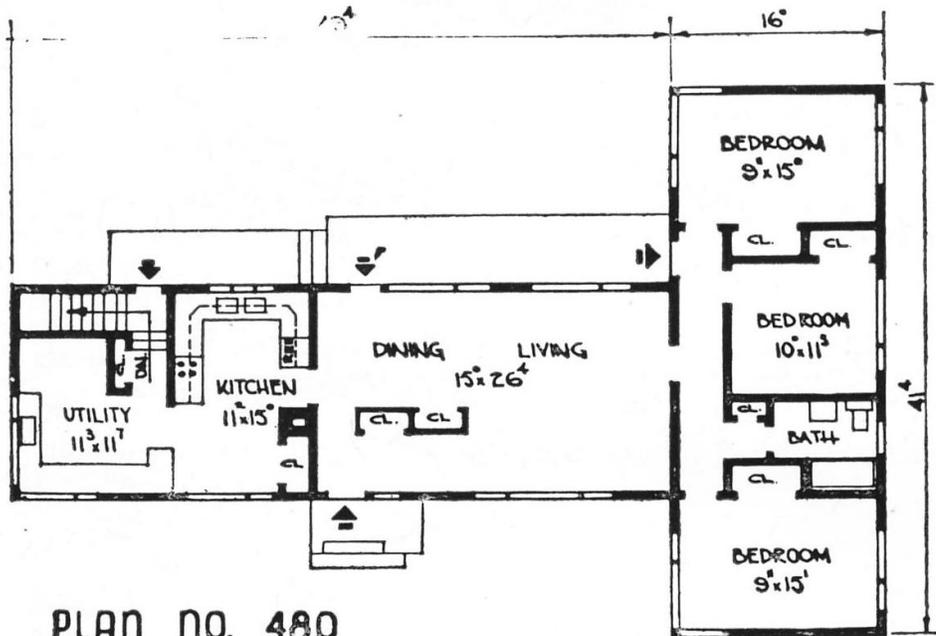
THIS PICTURE was taken when your Committee of truck gardeners and Farm Bureau members met with Campbell's to talk about tomato and carrot contracts for 1951. The new tomato contract price that resulted is \$36 for No. 1 and \$22 for No. 2. The carrot contract will be \$26 for No. 1 and \$19 for No. 2. Seated left to right in the picture are: C. W. Paarlberg, John Wetterman, C. F. Mees, Teunis Verduin, Ed Koehler and Arnold Dalenberg, Sr. Standing left to right: Grant Walbolt, Marvin De-Young, Jos. Zikmund, Jake VanDer Giessen, Richard Biesboer and James Gouwens.

- 68 4-H members, parents and leaders took a tour of the Chicago Union Stockyards.
- The CCFB soil technician, H.L. Cletcher, reported that his lab had between 4,000 and 5000 soil samples to analyze in 3 weeks.
- The CCFB board announced the purchase of 2 unimproved lots in Tinley Park for the purpose of building a new Farm Bureau building.

1952

- The CCFB encouraged farmers to vaccinate their hogs with hog serum to prevent deadly cholera.
- Details were provided to members on new truck license fees and rules in Illinois. At one point, the new trucking regulations were ruled unconstitutional. Then they went into effect. Then, a judge granted an injunction to prevent the Secretary of State from enacting. The state police began arresting truckers that were not properly licensed. Farmers were in a state of flux not knowing what to do.

- The CCFB provided members with plans about the “basic farmhouse” no. 480 which featured conveniences and an economical layout



- The board went on record as opposing the South Cook Mosquito Abatement District due to the tax burden it would place on members and universal military training for all young men due to the duration and labor challenges it would provide on the farm.
- Farmers in Rich and Bremen townships protested a proposal to take 6,000 acres to develop a military airfield.
- The CCFB announced completion and held an open house for members to view the new Farm Bureau building built in Tinley Park area because it was more rural and agricultural than the Blue Island location.

Our Dream Comes True

Blue Island Farm Bureau Office Moves to Tinley Park May 15



- The CCFB concluded a tax service as the costs were exceeding the benefits of providing for members.
- The Board of Directors went on record as opposing the Cook County Forest Reserve in purchasing food agricultural land for forest preserve purposes.

1953

- The state truck license regulations debacle from 1952 continued with farmers more confused than ever regarding the law on license and plate fees regulated by the Secretary of State. Legislation was proposed in an attempt to clarify and provide relief.
- FB members Donald Doctor, Oil and Park; James Heatherwick, Orland Park; Cornelius Rietveld, Chicago Heights; and William Stelter, Tinley Park were elected as charter directors to the South Cook Soil Conservation District.
- A livestock outlook meeting was held to provide information about how the Korean war truce would affect farm prices, how the drought in the Southwest would impact cattle and sheep markets, and how raising the federal debt ceiling would impact farmers.

1954

- The CCFB Vegetable Marketing Committee met with officials from Campbell Soup and Libby Companies to discuss the upcoming growing season canning contracts for farmers.
- Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson spoke to the members at the IAA Annual meeting in Chicago at the Sherman Hotel.
- Representatives from CCFB and other area County Farm Bureau's met with the Illinois Tollway commission on several Tollway proposals and communicated to members about the projects.

1955

- The CCFB announced it would assist members in filing property tax protests.
- Significant information on weed prevention, fertilization, insect control and production of crops was shared with farmers on a monthly basis by the organization through the farm advisers. Additional advice on hay, silage and pastures was offered.
- The board went on record of opposing the extension of the Chicago sanitary sewer system resulting in the formation of a new drainage district.
- The Organization conducted a field study and report of Michigan specialty production and marketing seeking ways to help local farmers sell and market to consumers.

1956

- Informational workshops and meetings on the topics of wills/estates, policy development, property taxation and beautifying the landscape of homes were held for members.
- Information was provided to farmers on the new federal "Soil Bank" program that was making its way through Congress.
- The CCFB helped 50 + vegetable growers in the North Cook area organize a new vegetable marketing cooperative, the Arlington Valley Growers, Inc.
- The CCFB assisted members in reclaiming federal gas taxes paid that were used on the farm.

1957

- The CCFB provided information regarding the potential of incorporating farms to limit liability, simplify transfer of ownership, continuity in in case of death, increase efficiency and tax impact.
- A new group, the Cook County Women of Farm Bureau Committee, was formed with 20 members (chaired by Mrs. Clarence Heinkel). Mrs. Harold Bergman served on the Illinois Farm Bureau committee.

1958

- Henry Eichholz was elected as the new President of the CCFB.
- The IAA delegates approved moving the organization's state headquarters from their building at 43 E. Ohio in Chicago to 1701 Towanda Ave. in Bloomington. The Illinois Farm Bureau headquarters had been in Chicago for the first 43 years of the organization's existence. CCFB was opposed to the proposal.
- A University of Illinois farm economist reported that the average farm family of five needs \$7,000 of net income for an adequate standard of living.
- G.W. Blanchard was named Sec. of Organization for the Cook County Farm Bureau, succeeding G. H. Mills.
- Jim Fizzell, assistant farm advisor, provided information to members about Dutch Elm disease, trees, horticulture and lawncare.



CHICAGO MEAT PROMOTION

Albert Nickol, Farm Bureau director from Wheeling township, second from right, checks various meat cuts at the recent one day Chicago meat promotion visit. Shown with Nickol are four other farm people and a representative of the packing industry. Nickol's group visited the Neisner stores where they were shown the various adver-

tising and promotion methods of this chain of stores in using meats.

Nesiner Stores are one of the larger lunch counter operations in the city and suburbs and are responsible for many tons of meats used weekly. Daily features on the stores' menus are meat items according to information received by Nickol.

Altogether there were men and women representing every county Farm Bureau in the state who took part in one day affair, starting with breakfast in the morning and ending with a banquet at night. Every segment of the consuming public was represented by industry.

1959

- The Arlington Valley Growers met with Chicago Mayor Daley regarding making improvements to the Randolph Street Market.
- The CCFB backed a drive for more dairy record-keeping on the farm.
- Information was provided to members about the new poultry inspection act and egg regulations.
- CCFB members became more involved in the statewide organizations sports' festival including trap shoot, bowling and softball.
- The CCFB opposed subsidy to the Chicago Transit Authority based on the need for new and increased taxes.
- Cook County farmers were up in arms regarding a hearing on amending the Cook County zoning ordinance that would eliminate farm property as a classification.

- The end of an era... Armour and company announced it would discontinue slaughter of hogs in Chicago, the last national packer to operate a facility in the city.
- The organization provided members with discounted pricing on “no trespassing” and “no hunting” signs.
- Illinois Farm Bureau Pres., William Kuhfuss, served as the keynote speaker for the County annual meeting attended by a record-setting 1,000+ members.
- Country Mutual and Country Life Insurance Companies offered a drawing for a new Jeep and many other prizes for member feedback regarding new trademark logo.

