



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. 7

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

July 2019

Mark Your Calendar

JULY 2019

11	North Riverside Children Library Program	pg. 12
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SEPTEMBER 2019

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28	13TH Annual CCFB Family Picnic	Pg. 10

Centennial Photo Contest	Pg. 5
Centennial Patio Paver	Pg. 5

HOLD THE DATE!

100year Anniversary Celebration Open House
 Saturday, March 28, 2020
 9 AM to noon
 CCFB Building
 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside IL.

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.



Farm Bureau awarded Bobby a John Deere pedal tractor as part of this year's Dairy Breakfast celebration. The Dairy Breakfast was held on June 8 at Wagner Dairy Farm in Glenview IL. Cook County Farm Bureau® is a sponsor of the Breakfast and Stock Show. The Dairy Breakfast celebrates the nutritious and tasty contributions of Illinois dairy farmers.

Question of the Month

The annual Family Picnic and Activities event hosted by the Member Relations Team is moving to a new location, Odyssey Fun Farm in Tinley Park. What is the date of this year's event?

☆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)**

June winner is
Paula Matzek

The Illinois Agricultural Association Credit Union (IAACU) recently announced that it will begin offering members with businesses what kind of loans?

Answer: Commercial Loans

Rain Reigns in Farm Country, Cook County in 2019



Photo by Catrina Rawson, IFB

Farm fields across the Midwest, throughout Illinois and throughout Chicagoland have been overly saturated with water due to unrelenting rainy conditions. The rain has caused stress levels in farm country to rise as farmers face low commodity prices: a trade war with China: escalating prices in fuel, fertilizer, seed, equipment, and taxes. With the growing season shortening by the day, area farmers are evaluating the pros and cons of putting a corn or soybean crop in the ground, switching to another crop, or just leaving the ground fallow.

Continued on page 4



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 available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office and

online too at <https://santasvillagedundee.centeredgeonline.com/retail/item/2166>.

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.

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 some of our Ag in the Classroom presenters to share a question/comment from students during a classroom presentation this past year.



Linda Schaeffer
• "What would happen without farms?" • "Why are cucumbers and tomatoes fruit?"



Sarah Koukol
• "Are almond, soy and rice milk types of dairy milk?" (I explained how they are non-dairy and there is no milk inside an almond.)



Amy Toth
• "If there are 2 kinds of cows, are there 2 kinds of pigs?" • "Can we learn more?"



AITC Coordinator, Diane Merrion added one that stands out in her mind: "How did I not know any of this?"



Kathy Lesser
• "Why does Illinois produce so many pumpkins?" • "Does chocolate milk come from brown cows?"

CCFB members can enjoy Sunflower Days at M&D Farms in Homer Glen from August 1-August 31, 2019. Members receive \$2 discount. Discounted pricing: M-F for \$3, Sat-Sun for \$5 (includes 1 sunflower). Additional sunflowers are \$1.50 each. 5 & ↓ are free—sunflower not included.



M&D Farms, 14946 S. Bell Rd., Homer Glen. Hours: M-F 9 am to 6 pm, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. Bring this coupon to receive discount.

Maxson Named Chicago South Agency Manager



Jeff Maxson, Chicago South Agency Manager, Country Financial

Mr. Jeff Maxson was recently named Agency Manager for the Chicago South Agency of Country Financial. Maxson grew up in Wausau, WI and started his COUNTRY career in Las Vegas, Nevada after working for Case IH and Caterpillar. Jeff converted to career Rep in two years.

In 2014, he accepted an offer to transfer with COUNTRY Financial to take over as Agency Manager for the Minnesota South Agency which covers all of Southeast, Minnesota, including, Winona, and greater La Crosse, WI area. For five consecutive years, the agency was an All-American Agency and received Agency of the Year recognition three consecutive years.

Maxson started working at age 13 as a farmhand on weekends and during summer breaks. He continued to work through high school and college (everything from sweeping floors at a local JI Case plant to managing a movie theater). He is married to Jeanene and has 3 children in their 20s, Jarod, Emily and Zachary, as well a family dog, Bailey.



Cook County Farm Bureau® along with COUNTRY Financial representatives discussed the nutritional benefits of dairy products with families at the annual Wagner Farms Dairy Breakfast in Glenview. Volunteers and consumers looked at nutrition labels, discussed available GMO crops, and reviewed food labeling terms like "natural" and "grass-fed".

Chicken Fun Facts!

- Egyptians had domesticated, or tamed, fowl that laid eggs for man to eat by 3000 B.C.
- More than 300 breeds of chickens exist, but only a few are used for meat-type production.
- The term poultry refers to chickens, turkeys, ducks, ostriches, emus, quail, pheasants, geese and pigeons raised for meat or eggs.
- Chickens need grit, which is a mixture of angular, hard crushed rock in their diet to produce eggs.
- Chickens are omnivores. They eat seeds and insects but can also eat larger prey like small mice and lizards.
- All nine essential amino acids that your body needs, but cannot produce, are found in eggs.
- Each year, Illinois produces nearly 128-million dozen eggs!
- Eggs have six grams of protein that help sustain mental and physical energy.
- Eggs are used in vaccines, paints, shampoo, conditioners and animal feed.
- Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.



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...

- Farmers in Cook County for remaining optimistic and determined in the face of Mother Nature as well as the many people and businesses that support this crucial industry in our state.
- The Young Leaders Group for providing such a great group to volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children food pack day.
- The top 5 membership recruiting financial reps in April and May...
 - Gwen Shaw, Chicago South Financial Rep, 38 new and reinstated members
 - Alonzo Nevarez, Chicago South Financial Rep, 34 new and reinstated members
 - Martha Dominguez, Chicago South Financial Rep, 28 new and reinstated members
- Ilir Numani, Chicago North Financial Rep, 27 new and reinstated members
- Kevin Welch, Chicago North Financial Rep, 26 new and reinstated members
- Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview for being such a strong advocate and partner in agricultural education.
- The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners for providing such great support and volunteer efforts manning the Master Gardener Service Center at the Cook County Farm Bureau office.
- Those members that stop in to the office or call in to say "hi", conduct Farm Bureau business, chat with office staff and make our day brighter!

Co-Operator

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“A Historical Connection”

When I was a kid, I did not realize that there was a difference between Extension and Farm Bureau. My mom frequently attended Homemaker Extension programs at the Farm Bureau office. My father frequently attended Extension Advisor crop and livestock programs at the Farm Bureau office. Many times, they would drag me along. I can only imagine what a pain I was during those meetings, “Mom, I’m bored” ...” Dad, when can we go?” I’m sure they were no more pleased in those moments than me.

I recently received a question from a Cook County young farmer inquiring about the history and relationship between the Extension Service and Cook County Farm Bureau. It is complicated, but I will try to simplify 150 years in 1,000 words or less!

Years ago, there was not a lot of differentiation between the local Extension Service and the local County Farm Bureau. They felt like one in the same. The offices were many times in the same building and seemed to serve the same people and purpose. Would the average rural family be able to explain the difference between the Extension Service and the Farm Bureau in those days? I would guess not.

When I was hired as a manager trainee by the Illinois Farm Bureau, I began to learn of the close historical relationship between the Extension Service and the Farm Bureau system and the eventual separation between the two. (And thus, the confusion)

However, until I read the first forty years of historical records of the Cook County Farm Bureau, I did not truly appreciate how “married” our two organizations were! Here is some very abbreviated historical perspective...

Remember back in 1862 when President Lincoln signed the Morrill Land Grant College Act? It helped pave the way in providing advanced education to America’s Farmers. The Act helped create land-grant universities including Kansas State, Iowa State, Michigan State, Rutgers, Cornell and University of

Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. From that beginning, a system was created utilizing the research and knowledge from land-grant colleges to provide farmers with the newest techniques along with farm advisers to teach them.

Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 to establish the Extension Service nationwide. Extension was designed to take the knowledge and research from the land-grant universities and provide a method and means to share it with the general public through farm advisers (followed later by 4-H and home economic advisers).

When the farm advisers came out to rural areas, farmers not only gained new farm information and techniques but began to learn the power of cooperation, working together to strengthen farming as a profession and lifestyle. It was this interest in cooperation that led to the formation of local County Farm Bureau’s in the early 1900s. After forming an organization, County Farm Bureaus would immediately hire a soil scientist/farm adviser (also called County agent or Extension Adviser) to work locally with farmers, sharing the knowledge, data, information and techniques gained by land-grant universities.

The first Cook County Farm Adviser, Mr. C.E. Durst, not only helped local farmers in farming knowledge but also helped in the formation of the Cook County Farm Bureau in 1920. According to the records, for the first 40+ years of the Cook County Farm Bureau’s existence, the farm adviser and the manager worked out of the same Farm Bureau office side-by-side. The local Extension farm advisers attended the Board of Directors meetings, worked with members, wrote articles and columns in The Co-Operator publication and helped the Farm Bureau conduct its mission of serving farmers and improving farm income. (And for good reason as the Farm Bureau budgets show that CCFB was paying them!)

In the 1950s, there were some farm organizations that felt it was unfair that Extension and Farm Bureau were so closely tied. In 1954, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra, Taft Benson, directed that all Extension employees would be under USDA. This essentially separated Extension from the non-for-profit Farm Bureau. However, that separation in Cook County came slowly as the farm advisers, organizational director/staff and Farm Bureau leaders enjoyed the connection and valued the ability to work together.

I found a motion in the 1954 board minutes calling for an agreement “to continue the relationship on the same basis as the past.” The farm advisers continued to play a key role in Cook County Farm Bureau for many decades.

Over the years, I have been mistakenly referred to as a Farm Adviser as people sought information about soil fertility, pest management control, weed identification, farming growing techniques, etc. I pretend to “know stuff”, but in those cases, I reach out to the “real” Farm Advisers from the University in order to help out and respond to questions.

Today, Cook County is fortunate to have a quality U of I Extension System and we are pleased to partner with Extension on projects and programs of mutual interest. The Extension Educators (as they are called now) have a great deal of expertise (including in the “farm adviser” specialty) that can be brought to Cook County Farm Bureau members and we continue to seek opportunities to work with these local experts. We are also very fortunate to have a number of past and present Extension Educators that participate as a part of the Cook County Farm Bureau’s volunteer structure... A big thank you to these leaders!

Thanks for reading and check out the next decade of Cook County Farm Bureau 1960-69 history below.

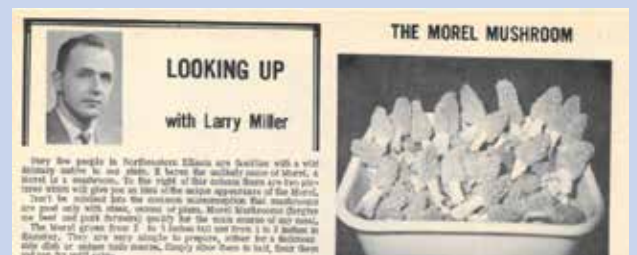
Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

CCFB History: 1960-69

- 1960**
 - Secretary of Organization, G. W. Blanchard, resigned and Melvin Hayenga was hired to succeed him.
 - The topic of migrant labor headlined a policy development meeting held in La Grange by the Cook County Farm Bureau.
 - The University of Illinois reported that a farmer needed \$12,500 of gross income and \$5000 of net income to earn a quality living, up substantially from the previous decade.
 - The USDA announced a research project to create a fuel additive, ethanol, using surplus corn.
 - Lake Cook Farm Supply announced it would start selling lawnmowers to members and friends.
 - Samuelson named WGN Farm Director
- 1961**
 - The Board of Directors began meeting at various locations within Cook County as the IAA offices moved from Chicago to Bloomington.
 - Cook County Farm Bureau farmers and staff met with area legislators on farm issues.
- 1962**
 - The Co-Operator ran a guest editorial by Ronald Reagan entitled “Encroaching Government Control”.
 - The Illinois Sports Festival (bowling, softball, trapshoot, etc.) gained tremendous popularity amongst Cook County Farm Bureau members. Pictured is a CCFB bowling team that won state!
- 1963**
 - The Farm Bureau held a petition drive to show that vegetable stands were a necessary business to serve the public as the Cook County Zoning Board considered a proposal to amend the zoning ordinance to put vegetable stands out of business.
- 1964**
 - The Slow-Moving-Vehicle emblem was adopted and began being sold through Lake-Cook Service.
 - A property appeal and tax assessment meeting was held for members in regards to the rising property taxes for farmers in the county.
 - It was reported that the Illinois Tollway Authority broke all records for revenue, profit and volume of passenger cars and that the Tollway would begin the retirement of bonds in accordance with Gov. Kerner’s directive to return the roads to the public as a freeway as soon as possible.
 - The Cook County Farm Bureau sponsored a meeting of 180 farm men and women and representatives of food processing and distributing firms to help individuals get acquainted and to learn more about the industry.
- 1965**
 - Farm Bureau president, Henry Eichholz, announced the resignation of Melvin Hayenga to become manager of the Quality Vegetable Growers Association. Larry Miller was selected as the new Secretary of Organization.
 - FB members attended a Senate hearing supporting a bill that would protect members of a producers’ co-operative association from discriminatory practices solely because he is a member of such association.
- 1966**
 - Farm Bureau manager, Larry Miller, began writing a column entitled “Looking Up” in The Co-Operator to keep members up-to-date.
 - The Farm Bureau lobbied support for Illinois Revenue Reform on the November ballot to amend the state constitution to enact an income tax and force elimination of the personal property tax.
- 1967**
 - County Farm Bureau leaders were fighting state legislation that would create more financial authority within Cook County including allowing a county to shift funds from motor fuel tax receipts and allowing the county to create a wheel tax.
- The Cook County Farm Bureau Softball Team led by pitcher Harry Stuenkel finished 3rd in the state!
- A column pointed out the concern of imitation milk products, wheat flour replacement, plant-based meat products and soybean oil substitutes.
- 1968**
 - CCFB Board member, Leonard Schultz, joined other farmers from across the country in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the Farm Bureau’s national policy positions.
 - Larry Miller announced his resignation as Executive Secretary of Organization. IAA District Fieldman, Gordon Fox, was selected to replace Miller.
- 1969**
 - The Cook County Farm Bureau Marketing Committee held a Roadside Stand Marketing Conference attended by 127 members.
 - The Women’s Committee planned a Defensive Driving Course through Country Companies and the National Safety Council.
 - Gov. Ogilvie announced that the State of Illinois was on the brink of bankruptcy.
 - Cook County Farm Bureau hosted 49 State Representatives and Senators in Springfield at a reception to get better acquainted and to discuss farm issues.
 - The CCFB sent correspondence to all candidates for the Con Con (Constitutional Convention) and provided information to members, encouraging them to vote.



Left to right - Lavonne Tatgenhorst, Janet Linnemann, Eileen Bochmann, Esther Goebbert and Joanne Hoger.





Former CCFB Board Member Don Yunker Passes

Mr. Don Yunker of Orland Park passed away at age 90 on Sunday, June 2 with his family by his side.

Don was on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors from 1980 through 2001. He was a proud farmer and longtime Orland Township Highway Commissioner.

Our thoughts go out to the entire Yunker family.

Don Yunker



(Left to right) Ryan Ford, Illinois Farm Bureau Region 2 manager; Mike Hodge, Illinois Farm Bureau Executive Director of Member Services/Public Relations division; Josh Van Naman, Country Financial Rep and member of the CCFB Member Relations Team; and Jim Gutzmer, CCFB Board member and Vice-chair of the Member Relations Team made up the Cook County Farm Bureau golf foursome at the Ag in the Classroom golf outing in Pontiac on June 13. The outing raised over \$44,500 to enhance agricultural literacy in the state of Illinois.

Rain Reigns in Farm Country, Cook County in 2019

Continued from page 1

Area hay growers have had a difficult time finding weather windows to cut, dry and bale hay. Local consumers that plant flowers, vegetables and other green space have struggled to plant with wet conditions impacting local greenhouses and garden centers that market these plants to the consumer gardeners for resale.

The Will/Cook Farm Service Agency, at press time, was considering submitting to the USDA data that would result in Cook and Will Counties being added to the growing list of counties in the state determined to be agricultural disaster areas.

Allen Motew, director of meteorology at QT Information Systems, said new long-range modeling shows that “we are in for a summer that we haven’t seen since possibly 1993.”

“This long-range pattern says July could actually even be wetter than the past two months with widespread above-normal precipitation all the way from the Rockies and even including the northern plains all the way down to Florida and out into New England,” Motew said. “That’s the new NMME (North American Multi-Model Ensemble) for July right across the Corn Belt -- almost the entire Corn Belt covered with above-normal precipitation.”

Motew said the precipitation could be coming from the Gulf of Mexico or the ground itself. As the wet soil warms up, more evaporation sucks the water out of the soil only to be returned when it rains.

“Right now, the pattern is looking also cooler than normal, not only in the near term here, the 6-10 and 8-14, but cooler than normal for July, August and September, and this year we’re going to have to look into September because of such late crops and uneven conditions.”



Past CCFB President Jim Goebbert Celebrates 90th Birthday

On Sunday, June 9th, friends and family gathered at Goebbert’s Pumpkin Patch in Pingree Grove to celebrate the 90th birthday of Jim Goebbert, past president of the Cook County Farm Bureau and longtime leader.

Happy Birthday, Jim!

Jim and his wife, Esther

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. This feature is designed to highlight some of the questions that we frequently receive.

Q: Does the Farm Bureau have a Credit Union?

A: Yes, the Farm Bureau has a Credit Union called the Illinois Agriculture Association Credit Union (IAACU) in Bloomington, IL. As a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau you can access the complete financial services offered at very competitive rates. Services include: No annual fee VISA cards at a low interest rate, savings, checking and money market accounts, IRA accounts, certificates of deposit, Christmas and vacation clubs, first mortgages, home equity loans, automobile loans and more! To find out more go to www.iaacu.org or call 800-676-2541.



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

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leader. This month’s “Face of CCFB” is ...

Rebecca Biernacki

Rebecca Biernacki has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Young Leaders group since 2013.

She grew up in her parents’ (Dan and Karen Biernacki) business Ted’s Greenhouse in Tinley Park.

She is currently attending her second year of graduate school for her Masters in Health Administration at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

She is currently interning with Lynne Barnes the COO and Sr. Vice President of Facilities and Support Services at Carle Foundation Hospital.

Despite taking a far turn from ag industry in terms of my education, I still enjoy flowers/ horticulture and love to come home and pitch in at the greenhouse.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Helping my grandmother plant and maintain her flower beds and gardens when mom and dad brought me to work.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Making homemade popcorn balls with my grandmother at Halloween time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

Horses, 100% without a doubt.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Homemade dumplings (the old Biernacki family recipe).

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PROTEIN?

For a meal, beef, but if I’m just snacking, I love edamame.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK, MOVIE, QUOTE ETC?

Movie : Gone in 60 seconds
Quote: “Be Bold. Be Brief. Be Gone.”

Book: My Biochemistry book, it makes a great snack table when I’m lounging in bed or watching T.V.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

It is an incredible opportunity to gain leadership skills, meet new people and help to educate the public about farmers, farming procedures, and in general where their food is coming from.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

Discounts on entertainment tickets to amusement /water parks and movies.



Your South Holland Agency



Jeff Orman
Agency Manager
708-560-7777



Andrew Carrell
South Holland
708-596-3999



Jim Verduin
South Holland
708-596-0008



Randall Cox
Matteson
708-679-1870



Elliot Day
Matteson
708-679-1870



Gary Molenhouse
Matteson
708-679-1870



Josh Van Namen
Worth
708-361-3925



Jim Pathemore
Orland Park
708-745-5151



Tim Perchinski
Steger
708-754-7300



Bob Smith
Homewood
708-798-4844



Paul Turay
Mokena
708-478-0423



John VanGennep
Mokena
708-478-5500



Bob Deenik
Lansing
708-474-5600



Tim Van Zuidam
St. John, IN
219-365-1781



Mike Cerf
Oak Forest
708-560-7777



Charmaine Toney-Adkins
Oak Forest
708-381-4010



Mel Flowers
Oak Forest
708-560-7777



Joe Scialabba
Oak Forest
708-381-4020

Helping you protect what matters most

Cook County Farm Bureau® Centennial Photo Contest



Join us as we kick off the Cook County Farm Bureau Photo Contest!

We are holding this contest to obtain usable and appropriate photos that accurately portray today's agriculture in Cook County. Win one of three cash prizes in three different categories.

Categories

- 1) Cook County Agriculture
- 2) Kids in Agriculture
- 3) Livestock and Farm Animals

Prizes

Photos will be selected from each of the three categories. The winners will receive a cash prize and photos will be featured in our 2020 commemorative 100 year anniversary calendar, on our website and on social media.

- 1st place: \$100
- 2nd place: \$75
- 3rd place: \$50

All entries will receive 1 complimentary movie voucher (limit 1 per member).

Go to <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/news/ccfb-news/article/2019/06/cook-county-farm-bureau-photo-contest> to learn more and to submit entries. The contest is open to all members in good standing.

Centennial Legacy Patio to be Created to Benefit Foundation



The future site of the Cook County Farm Bureau Centennial Legacy Patio is near the east entrance of the Farm Bureau building.

Creating a legacy to mark the Centennial celebration of the Cook County Farm Bureau, the Farm Bureau and Foundation are partnering to create a Commemorative Patio on the grounds of the Cook County Farm Bureau. The Commemorative Patio will be close to the east entrance of the Farm Bureau building and will feature personalized memory pavers, two park benches, a wrought iron fence, and flower boxes.

Members and Farm Bureau/Foundation supporters and partners can support the project by purchasing a paver that will be incorporated into the patio. The paver can include the member or family name, encouragement, recognition, and other well wishes.

Three sizes of paver are available and proceeds from the sale of the pavers go directly to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to improve and enhance agricultural literacy in Cook County. Donation for the pavers are fully deductible based per IRS guidelines. Use the order form below or go to cookcfb.org/foundation to donate.



The Centennial Legacy Patio will be paved with personalized brick pavers, available in three sizes.



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION BRICK ORDER FORM

"Building a commemorative legacy patio in honor the first 100 years of CCFB service to members"

4XB
 LINE 1 _____
 LINE 2 _____
 LINE 3 _____

4XB
 LINE 1 _____
 LINE 2 _____
 LINE 3 _____

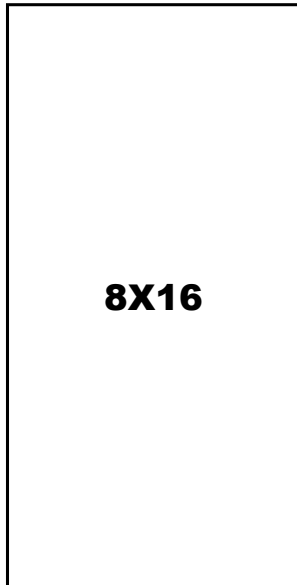
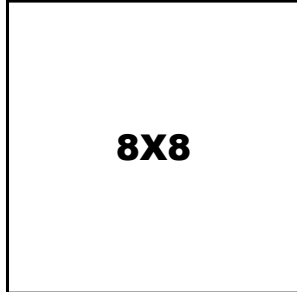
8XB
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8X16
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 LINE 5 _____
 LINE 6 _____

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 CREDIT CARD# _____ EXP _____ SECURITY CODE _____

4XB BRICK - 3 LINES - 13 CHARACTERS PER LINE @ \$ 75.00 PER BRICK
 8XB BRICK - 6 LINES - 13 CHARACTERS PER LINE @ \$150.00 PER BRICK
 8X16 BRICK - 6 LINES - 26 CHARACTERS PER LINE @ \$300.00 PER BRICK
 6 FT BENCH - 6 LINES - 26 CHARACTERS \$600.00
 PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS AND CHECK FOR SPELLING ACCURACY.
 PUNCTUATIONS AND SPACES COUNT AS CHARACTERS.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CCFB FOUNDATION AND MAIL TO:
 KATIE SMITH - DIR. OF MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 6438 JOLIET RD., COUNTRYSIDE, IL 60525
 OR purchase online at: cookcfb.org/foundation





Agricultural Literacy

AG LIT BIT *By Diane Merrion* Voice of a Farmer's Daughter



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

As I glanced through my Facebook posts, I came upon this piece posted by my sister-in-law and knew I wanted to share it with you. While I am not a farmer's daughter, I felt her experience after reading the post.

"Just sitting here today enjoying the sounds of spring. It's moments like these that I appreciate being a bit in the country. I can close my eyes and it's as if I'm sitting in Lawghton and Isa's yard listening to the birds singing, waiting to go with Mamaw. She, in the meantime, is preparing to take lunch to dad out in the field. The blue crock pitcher is filled with iced tea. The plate full of green beans, fried chicken mashed potatoes and cornbread is wrapped in a t-towel (which Dad later used as a napkin) and placed in the picnic basket that now sits behind me on my table. And don't forget the blackberry cobbler that Dad can't wait to sink his teeth into!

We deliver his lunch (yes, that was lunch - working men like dad needed a lot of good food) and sit with him while he eats. He talks about how the tractor is running, or what obstacles have caused him angst this morning. Or we just sit while dad eats, sharing the beautiful day. He finishes, gives thanks for the wonderful sustenance she has provided,

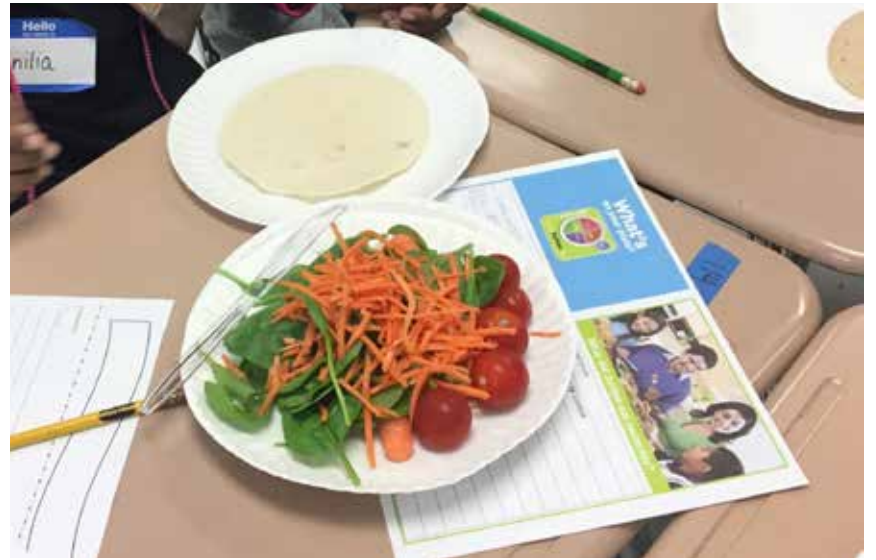
climbs back up on the John Deere and fires it up. We watch as he heads back to where he stopped, either plowing, or disking or planting.

We gather up the dishes and head back to the house. All the while I'm just thinking about how hot my dad must be and how hard he works. But he loved it. He might moan from time to time but never truly complained. I think there is a difference, don't you? What a hard-working man my father was. What a lucky girl I am to have had my family and these memories that crop up on a beautiful day like today."

While this took place many years ago, the same memories are being made today at family farms everywhere, even with many roles reversed as more females are entering the farm and are the ones behind that planter or combine. This spring brought much stress to our farmers. They don't want to complain they just want to do their job just as they have in the past. I can't wait to introduce my teachers to farmers during the Summer Ag Academy so they can see and hear some of the challenges the farmers are facing. I know they'll return home with a new appreciation for the work they do for all of us and will share the knowledge they gained with their students in the fall. I'll share their thoughts next month with you.

Diane can be reached at aipc@cookcfb.org.

First Summer Youth Camp



Veggie and Fruit Teams competed to create the best wrap during our first summer youth camp in Ford Heights.

The two-hour program opened with warm-up games including a discussion of food choices using the USDA MyPlate as a focus of our discussion. Participants charted the foods they ate the past 24 hours and analyzed how the foods fit into the recommended dietary guidelines and the five food groups. It was then time to begin an Iron Chef competition and pick ingredients for healthy wraps.

Each team was led by adult volunteers who were chosen as head chefs to cut the chosen items for use by the students while they designed the wraps. Everyone agreed that "healthy" does taste good as green/red/yellow peppers, tomatoes, spinach, grapes, strawberries, apples, oranges, hummus and cream cheese were used to create a delicious end to the challenge.

Thank you to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and the Compeer Fund for Rural America for supporting our camp programs.

Schools Embrace Ag Grants

Rolling Meadows High School

2901 Central Rd., Rolling Meadows

Using the Food Science Grant, the Advanced Culinary Arts class had a sustainability challenge to create a menu featuring local foods. They made a wonderful menu that featured farm fresh eggs, ground beef, sausage, bacon, tomatoes, spinach, lettuce and a few fresh herbs. The most exciting part of the event was that the herbs came from our greenhouse. The follow-up was a tour to the farmer who provided meats/eggs.

East Leyden High School

3400 Rose Street, Franklin Park

Seed structure, function and growth were a part of a Food Chemistry course with the goal being to grow a salad as part of their food lab experiences.

Westchester Middle School

1620 Norfolk, Westchester

Grant funds were used in a "Holy Cow" beef and dairy unit in their Family and Consumer Science class. Lessons included comparing and contrasting beef and dairy cattle through research, guest farm speakers and an adopted farmer program. The unit also included food preparations and taste tests.

Komarek School

8940 W. 24th, North Riverside

The recipient of both grants found students conducting a Food Unit on the origins of our Thanksgiving foods including corn, wheat, turkey and more as a joint project between 1st and 7th grade. The Ag in the Classroom Wheat and Apple Kits provided additional lessons. In spring, students combined efforts again with a Special Project Grant geared towards understanding the plant lifecycles for the ingredients in a pizza.

Eisenhower Cooperative

14801 S. Turner, Midlothian

Developmental learning students used their food grant to learn how food gets from the farm to the plate during a year-long series that included reading, science, vocabulary, labs and tasting. Resources were shared with families at home to reinforce food and nutrition concepts.

Brooks Middle School

325 S. Kenilworth, Oak Park

Using the grant to construct a vertical hydroponic tower garden, students learned about farming through trial and error. With a goal to grow enough lettuce and radishes for a large harvest, the project taught about the complexities of water quality and nutrients, importance of location and light, plant rotation and the intricacies of farming that often go unnoticed. They are excited to begin anew next fall.

Reinberg Elementary

3425 N. Major Ave, Chicago

Spring Food in My Garden focused on soil preparation, the water cycle and vegetable research and reporting. Students, local neighbors and school garden club members all got involved in the project.

Council Oak Montessori School

2521 Grove Street, Blue Island

** Upper Elementary

Using nomenclature cards to introduce soil parts, along with books the students studied physical, biological and chemical properties of soil. Soils tests were done and then the growing began in the grow lab and onto the hoop houses for eventual transplant to their gardens. One student took concepts home to start their own composting.

** Lower Elementary

Following lessons on sand, silt, clay and predicting the effects of soil composition on the growth of grass and plants, students used new garden tools to prep their gardens for spring. Students learned the work involved in garden preparation and did tests on growing plants in various soil types. Ag in the Classroom did a presentation on plants and animals, including a germination activity.

Special Project Mini Grants

\$1944 - 336 kids

Food Science Grants

\$1432.80 - 402 kids

*** The 2018-19 Grants were provided by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Compeer Fund for Rural America

What Teachers Had to Say...

"One of the Upper Elementary students thinks this was the coolest project he has ever done. He said that he never thought of how much science goes into the soil around him. He will never look at it the same way."

"I've been teaching for eleven years and each year I can absolutely see the impact that this grant provides the students at our school."



What Students Had to Say...

"I liked that we found a lot of worms and gave them homes."

"Doing the garden was fun because I found cool bugs and because we were growing from scratch."

"I didn't like getting my hands all muddy."

"Something I liked about gardening is how it takes my mind off of what happened during the day."

Agriculture Adventures for Families

A Farmer's Day at the Market



We are so fortunate to live in a county that provides farmers markets in just about every corner of the city and suburbs. Most of us are the consumers who may pop out of bed early to visit the market or may sleep in and enjoy a leisurely stroll around the local market to stock up on favorites, or to buy ingredients for a new recipe idea. As consumers, we don't often think about what it takes for the farmer to get the goods to the markets. One thing is for sure, they don't get to "sleep in". Cook County has many specialty crop farmers who are regulars at several markets throughout the week, often delivering to several markets in one day.



A typical morning might find our farmer leaving the farm at 3:30 a.m. in the south suburbs and heading further south to make a drop off at the first market. By 4 a.m. start heading to a market or two in the city and then continue by 6 a.m. to the northern burbs to drop off a last load of the morning. At each market tables need to be set up, items displayed and much more. Then it's back to the farm to open that operation and begin another long day of doing what they love. Thank you for supporting our local farmers and enjoying the fruits and vegetables of their labor.



Farmers Market Favorites

Sweet Corn

Sweet corn is a warm season vegetable crop with high sugar content. Standard sweet corn contains a sugary gene responsible for the sweetness, as well as the creamy texture of the kernel. With the hot weather during the summer months, the sugar in sweet corn decreases and the starch increases, causing the corn to lose flavor, quality and sweetness quickly. This is why sweet corn is checked frequently as the harvest approaches, and should be eaten, refrigerated or processed shortly after picking.



Tomatoes

According to the U of I Extension, the tomato is the most popular garden vegetable in America today! Scientifically the tomato is known as a fruit because it bears seeds. The fruit is easy to grow, and most families obtain an adequate harvest from just a few plants. The tomato plant is tender and is grown in gardens all over the continental US. According to the USDA, Americans eat between 22-24 pounds of tomatoes per person, per year.



Herbs

The most popular herbs are the types used in cooking. Basil, chives, dill, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme are a few of the many herbs grown in Illinois. Herbs are used to enhance even the simplest of meals because of their scent and taste. Herbs require little care and space, making them easy to grow. Herbs also have minimal insect and disease problems and can be grown in moderate fertility levels. Another reason for their popularity is they are great indoor plants, making them easy to grow in pots all year long.



Source: Illinois Ag Mag

Try using some of your fresh locally grown products to make a delicious recipe! Recipes can be found by going to our Discover Local page on our website, www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

To receive a copy of the 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276.

Q: How do you fix a broken tomato?



A: Tomato Paste!!

This colorful book illustrates all aspects of a farm market including tasks required before, during and after the actual market. This is a fun, informative book introduces children to the basics of farming, farm market activities and how farming is connected to daily life. On the farm, workers pick vegetables, collect eggs, and make cheese. At the market the next day, the workers set up their stands and prepare for shoppers to arrive. Amy, the baker at the Busy Bee Café, has a very special meal in mind-and, of course, all the farmers show up at the café to enjoy the results of their hard work.



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!

July Word Search

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

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| City | Morning |
| Consumer | Recipe |
| Cookfresh | Specialty Crop |
| Farming | Stands |
| Fruit | Suburbs |
| Herbs | Support |
| Local | Sweet Corn |
| Market | Vegetable |

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)

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is..

Howard Kuzelka Yay!

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



Storm of Stressors Strike Farm Country

Some call this spring's collision of farm stressors the perfect storm. Unprecedented planting delays trouble farmers throughout the Corn Belt. Long-duration flooding halts barge movement of crops and fertilizer. A trade agreement with our nation's neighbors needs ratified to improve markets. Agency actions reduce ethanol volumes and thus corn demand. We fear the uncontrolled swine fever in China may spread. And the trade war that has depressed our crop markets threatens plural tense with recent White House warnings, adding bug bites to a tender sunburn. (Yes, that happened recently, too.)

These issues swirl around our heads like the season's onslaught of gnats, and no amount of swatting makes them go away. This spring is the most emotionally charged of my generation, and we don't know whether to laugh, cry or take a ball bat to the rain gauge. The issues facing the agriculture industry change like the weather forecast, so perhaps my thoughts will represent merely a diary entry from shortly after Memorial Day 2019. We cannot recall any other time with so many international, national and state issues impacting farming's profitability all at once. On top of that, farmers face the real possibility of not being able to plant some or most of

their crop.

That fear bothered us the most, particularly in late May when most of our fields still awaited a crop and the extended forecast showed clouds and lightning bolts. It was standing room only at a local prevented plant insurance meeting, an option that generally doesn't pencil out as well for us nor our agribusiness friends. If Illinois fields sit idle, the ripple effect looks as ugly as a one-inch rain on a ponded field. Returns of seed and pesticides reduce revenue. Fewer manhours to plant, fertilize and spray means less overtime income for employees. The revenue loss continues into fall harvest.

We hold onto hope for better weather (finally improving now), positive trade agreements and better markets. We find reprieve in family time and laugh-out-loud Twitter posts, like farmers who have found fish in their fields. Photos of stuck lawnmowers and tractors buried to their axles in mud make us realize that we're not alone, as farmers throughout the nation navigate this storm of stressors together.

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

Wagner Farms Renovations Planned



Wagner Farms existing horse pasture will soon be the site of a farm-themed natural playscape.

In conjunction with their 20th anniversary, Wagner Farms is planning a series of improvements to facilitate visitor flow, including reworking the crosswalk across Wagner Road and to increase accessibility for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the farm will construct a farm-focused "playscape" in the now horse pasture.

A portion of the funding for the improvements will come from an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The grant was part of a \$28.9 million funding package for 89 park projects in Illinois. The grant requires a local match from the districts receiving the funds.



"From the Country" Five Reasons to Talk with Your Insurance Rep

Vicki Nygren,
Country Agency Manager
Chicago North Agency

By Vicki Nygren, Financial Representative, COUNTRY Financial

The only thing that is certain about life is that there will be changes. This could mean changes to your family situation, or changes in lifestyle, which are good times to talk with your insurance representative about your priorities and coverages. The good news is that your insurance representative is there to help you protect the people and the things you love. Here are five reasons you may want to give your rep a call:

1. You're looking for ways to save money

Consider checking in with your insurance agent or financial representative if you are looking for ways to save on your insurance rates. Your representative can talk with you about options such as raising your deductible to save some money or looking to see if you qualify for new savings options or discounts.

2. Reexamining your policy when it is up for renewal

Don't just automatically send a check to your insurance company, take a little time to evaluate your personal situation since the last time you checked on your policy. Review your information and check in on your coverage periodically to ensure you're getting the best coverage.

3. Major lifestyle changes

Did you go through a major life change recently, such as getting married, having a baby or going through a divorce? All of these are reasons to talk with your rep. Depending of what kind of insurance you have lifestyle changes can affect your insurance rates. Also reach out when your kids have changes, such as reaching driving age, going to college, or if an adult child moves back home.

4. Buying or getting new things

If you've received gifts, like jewelry, or you've bought anything new for your home including TV's, computers or even artwork, let your agent or financial representative know so you can discuss proper coverages for those items.

5. Quality of life and property improvements

Making personal life changes to improve your health, such as quitting smoking, may affect your coverage. Reach out to your rep if you've made home or property improvements such as expanding your home or enclosing a porch. Tell your agent or financial representative if you've installed a fire/burglar alarm system or upgraded your heating, plumbing or electrical system. Similarly, if you have upgraded or changed your vehicle, you will want to review any policies associated. Keep receipts and records of purchases in case you need to share these with your representative.

For more information, visit www.countryfinancial.com/simplesteps.

Recipe of the Month: *Blackberry Rosemary Herb Cocktail*

- 2 c fresh blackberries
- ¼ c plus 2 T sugar
- 2/3 c water
- 1½ T fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 bottle Prosecco (Italian White Wine)

Simmer blackberries, sugar, water, and rosemary in saucepan for about 20 minutes. Cool and pour through sieve over large glass measuring cup. Should yield about 1/3 cup. Chill. In 6 small flutes glasses add 1½ teaspoons of the mixture in each. Fill glass with Prosecco, garnish with a sprig of rosemary. Serves 6

Recipe reprinted with permission from members, Ray's Quality Greenhouse, Steger, from our 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

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

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Growing To Serve You Better



Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton (pictured left) met with Jim Gutzmer and volunteers at the Wagner Farms Dairy Breakfast. Commissioner Britton's 14th district includes Glenview.

Cook County farmer, Jeff Heinsohn, illustrates the impact of the weather on area soybean fields during the 2019 Cook County Staff Exchange Program. Pictured left to right: Jeff Heinsohn, farmer; Alfred Saucedo, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; Nick Heath, Board of (Tax) Review; Ginny Hotaling, Senator Morrison's office; Joyce Bai, Senator Morrison's office; and State Representative Michelle Mussman. The Staff Exchange Program is designed to illustrate the connection between Cook County government and agriculture while enabling Farm Bureau to further its relationships with legislators and legislative staff members. Since its inception in 2012, over 125 participation have attended this program.



Ruth Zeldenrust (pictured left) discusses tomato transplanting with Lori Probasco and Tara Meyer, members of Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen's office and Commissioner Degnen (pictured left to right) during a late May 'New Commissioner Tour'. The 'New Commissioner Tour' is an informal program designed to connect small groups of newer commissioners and staff with Cook County farmers and farming. Zeldenrust Farm Market is a third-generation family farm in Chicago Heights. Zeldenrust Farm Market offers bedding plants, seasonal fresh vegetables, and honey at their location in Chicago Heights and farmers' markets throughout Cook County.

Carl Smits, owner of Smits Farms (pictured right), discusses greenhouse and vegetable growing operations with representatives from the Japan Agricultural Cooperative. Smits Farm, which opened in 1990, is a family-owned and operated farm in Chicago Heights. Smits and his wife, Deb, grew the business from a single greenhouse to 15 greenhouses. Smits Farm offers bedding plants, perennials, and a variety of fresh herbs, vegetables, and greens.



Farm Bureau Accomplishments

In recent years, Farm Bureau has played a pivotal role in a variety of policy discussions impacting local farmers and members.

Cook County Zoning Code

Farm Bureau along with Zoning Committee Chairman Peter Silvestri and the Building and Zoning Department have worked together to develop zoning language regarding agriculture in Cook County. This code amends the Cook County Code of Ordinances, including Zoning to remove limitations regarding the care and keeping of horses and miniature horses. It further states that farms are exempt from the Animals chapter and therefore are not limited by the Zoning Code.

Suburban Cook County Food System Report

Along with government agencies and individuals, Farm Bureau members and staff created a policy document that addresses county-specific challenges for farmers including potential soil contamination, limited outlets for extended seasonal produce sales, competing land uses, and education on alternative farming methods such as vertical farming, rooftop gardens, community gardens, and hydroponics. The report was funded by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Cook County Compost Ordinance Expansion

Under the expanded ordinance, community and urban farms would be allowed to compost limited organic waste, including vegetable food scraps and eggshells in addition to grass and shrubbery clippings. The ordinance ultimately eases burdens to urban and community farms.

Urban Agriculture Amendments to the Chicago Zoning Code

The amendment defined community gardens and urban farm uses and identifies where each use is permitted in an effort to minimize potential impacts on surrounding properties. The changes also allow urban farms to sell compost generated on-site as an accessory activity.

City of Chicago Farm & Garden Compost Ordinance

The ordinance allows landscape waste, such as grass or shrubbery clippings, and food scraps, such as food scraps and eggshells to be composted by community gardens. It also requires community gardens to register with the City of Chicago at no-cost through an on-line portal. The ordinance creates an Urban Farm Accessory Composting Operation Permit, which enables urban farms to apply for a permit to compost livestock waste in addition to landscape and limited organic waste.

Farm Bureau continues to advocate for policies and programs beneficial to farmer members and the public. For additional information on Farm Bureau's efforts, please contact the Governmental Affairs Department at 708- 354-3276.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

As a young legislative staffer in Springfield, the end of session meant late nights and even later night celebrations. The run up to the end of session isn't for everyone you either love the pressure or you hate it-there's no in-between. My six years were during the infamous Blagojevich Administration.

This past spring was unusual in the sense that there didn't seem to be the usual urgency to finish session before the May 31 deadline. Many factors could've contributed to the seemingly lack of motivation, including: 50 new legislators who have never pushed their bills through the legislative process or have experienced the drama of the end of session, the political makeup of the new legislators compared to existing legislators, a novice Governor, or a more freewheeling legislative process demanded by the new legislators.

An outcome of the 2019 legislative session was "Rebuild Illinois," a \$5 billion capital improvement plan. Yes, billion with a "B." The plan which is expected to fund bridge, roadway, and railway projects, as well as the refurbishment of government buildings will be funded through significant fee and tax increase, including:

- \$.019/ gallon gas tax increase
- \$.024/ gallon diesel fuel tax

- \$100 annual increase in truck and trailer registrations
- \$50 annual increase in car and B-plate pickup truck registrations
- \$60 increase in duplicate and replacement titles
- \$30 increase in drivers' license fees

It's important to mention that the gas tax hike will continue in perpetuity and is indexed to inflation. Oh, and the tax will be effective in time for the summer driving season.

Under the plan, municipalities including the City of Chicago, may add an additional per gallon tax on the sale of motor fuel. On the spending side, Representatives are allotted about three million dollars and Senators are allotted about six million dollars for "member initiatives" aka pork to address pet projects in their district.

On the bright side, the motor fuel tax exemption for off-road diesel was maintained and implements of husbandry remain exempt from titling, registration, and license requirements.

For "vertical" projects like the construction of state buildings, schools, and non-road projects legislators approved numerous revenue increases including:

- 6 new land-based casinos for Chicago, Waukegan, the south suburbs, Walker's Bluff in Williamson County, Rockford, and Danville
- Expansion in the number of slot machines allowed per location

- 3 percent increase in video gaming taxes
- Authorization of sports betting
- 6 and 9 percent parking garage tax on hourly, daily, or weekly and monthly or annual revenues
- \$1 per pack increase on cigarettes

The legislation provides for the Chicago casino to be privately owned and for the City to receive a third of the tax revenue. Although I've never traveled to Las Vegas, I'm told that the Chicago casino would have 4,000 gaming seats compared to the Bellagio, which boasts 3,700 gaming seats. The expansion would effectively make Chicago the gambling center of the Midwest.

This spring's legislative session also resulted in the legalization of the use of recreational marijuana.

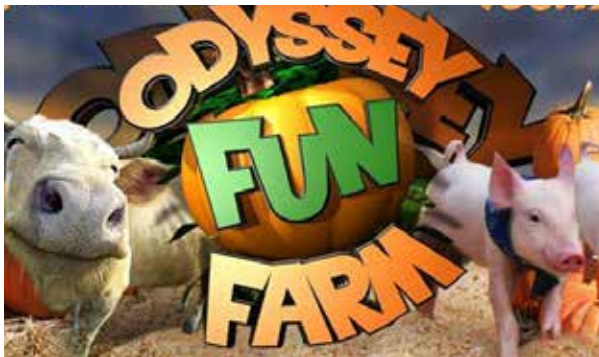
Beginning next year, Illinois residents over the age of 21 will be able to legally possess nearly one ounce of marijuana while non-residents would be limited to nearly a half-ounce. Current cultivation and distribution centers licensed under the medical cannabis program would be able to receive early approval licenses to begin serving the recreational use market after paying additional licensing fees and meeting additional requirements. Up to 30 cultivation centers could be licensed along with up to 100 additional new licenses for craft growers with an initial capacity up to 5,000 square feet of growing space.

It will be interesting to see if all projects will generate the funds promised.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.

13th Annual CCFB Family Celebration Picnic

Odyssey Fun Farm
18900 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, IL
Saturday, September 28, 2019
10 am-2 pm (lunch served 11 am-1 pm)
Odyssey Fun Farm is open from 10 am-6 pm
Early Bird rates end 9.16.19



Tickets are limited!

\$17 Early Bird Admission
 (ages 2 & up)
 1 & under are FREE

\$33 value!

The event will feature a buffet lunch which includes:
 Hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza fingers, corn on the cob, chips, kettle corn, pop and water

Each person will receive:

- ◆ Admission includes hay rides, cow train, inflatable kids zone, pillow jumpy, corn cannon, corn maize, petting zoo and pig races
- ◆ **1 voucher to be used for either the zip-line or zombie paintball shooting gallery
- ◆ All children will receive a pre picked mini pumpkin at departure
 **1 & under excluded

***Tickets/vouchers will be picked up at the welcome table the day of the event.**

Ticket sales end Monday, September 23, 2019.

Family Celebration Picnic Order Form	
Name _____	General Ticket (2 & up) \$17.00(early bird price) x _____ = _____
Farm Bureau Number _____	\$25.00 (rate after 9.16.19) x _____ = _____
Address _____	1 & under FREE _____
City _____ Zip _____	Total amount _____
Phone _____	

Mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau
 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or call 708.354.3276 to charge your Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
 Price includes food and activities. Rain or shine.

Voting Membership Drive Underway

Pillow Pet bonus opportunity available while supplies last

The Member Relations Team is seeking more Voting members this summer and requests our current members' assistance in identifying prospects who may be interested in joining the organization. We are focused on the following membership classifications...

M members: farmers, landowners, farmworkers, farm-related corporations/partnerships, etc. that earn \$2500 or more gross farm income annually.

PM members: Professional Members who rely on food, farms and agriculture for their livelihood.

These M and PM memberships are Voting in nature, providing individuals the opportunity to choose the agricultural leaders of the organization as well as helping select the policy positions on issues the organization stands for. In addition, these memberships help provide strong agricultural presence in an increasingly urban Cook County area.

As a bonus, any individual during the month of July and August that joins the Farm Bureau as a M or PM member (or re-classifies from Associate Member to PM) will receive a limited availability Pillow Pet from AGCO. These Pillow Pets are Chanel toys with Velcro straps that allow them to be changed from a stuffed animal (tractor) into a decorated pillow.

\$18 in July and August for the New M or PM member covers the person until the November renewal period!

Member-sign-a-Member Program also eligible: Members that successfully encourage their family, friends and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer or professional member receive a free movie ticket or a Pillow Pet! Go to www.cookcfb.org and click on MEMBER CENTER to complete membership app (add your name in the recommended by field). Affiliated Country Financial reps, Board/Team or Staff members do not qualify. Valid through the end of 2019 while supplies last.



A Cook County Farm Bureau voting membership and a Pillow Pet can bring joy!

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.



Kevin Welsh
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Kevin Welsh has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2019. His office is located at 220 S. Cook St, Suite 102 in Barrington, IL. His phone number is 773-248-2561. Kevin has been a Financial Representative since January 2009.



Cody Barron
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Cody Barron has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2019. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave., Suite 280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-728-2957. Cody has been a Financial Representative since October 2016.



Matthew Powell
Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Matthew Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2019. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Matt has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2005.



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



Alex Swistun
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Alex Swistun has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for May 2019. His office is located at 255 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 207, Elk Grove Village IL. His phone number is 847-427-8280. Alex has been a Financial Representative since March 2002.



Renata Bondarowicz
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 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
 Alonzo Nevarez has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for April 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.



Kirk Gregory Jr.
Chicago South Agency
 Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for May 2019. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Suite 150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-619-0649. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since February 2018.



Tom Geraghty
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Tom Geraghty has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for May 2019. His office is located at 5003 W. 95th in Oak Lawn, IL. His phone number is 708-425-9700. Tom has been a Financial Representative since December 1982.



Kurt Husein
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Kurt Husein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for May 2019. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave., Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-480-5099. Kurt has been a Financial Representative since December 2017.



Jim Verduin
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Jim Verduin has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for May 2019. His office is located at 17080 S Park Ave. in South Holland, IL. His phone number is 708-596-0008. Jim has been a Financial Representative since March 1982.



Joe Scialabba
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Joe Scialabba has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for May 2019. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-381-4020. Joe has been a Financial Representative since December 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

Traeger wood fired grill brand new in box model TFB29L2. \$350 or better offer. Call 708-654-2010.

Vehicle

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4wheel drive, new tires, 147,000 miles, battery, runs good no problems, general maintenance done every 6 months. Call 708-764-2010.

2007 Jayco Jay Flight 31 BHS Travel trailer, single slide, rear double bunks w/one set oversized. Wardrobe/ TV cabinet between table Ent center, Dinette & J-steel sofa,

Tub/Shower, Med cabinet, refrigerator, microwave above range, double kitchen sink, queen bed, TV shelf, and more. Asking \$8000 call John at 708-426-6093.

For Rent

SSteger IL, for rent small 2bedroom apartment in 2unit building, refrigerator, stove, garbage & water included. No pets. Call Carmen at 708-259-7133.

Starting August 15, 2019 Two- 5bedroom houses for rent, near EIU Charleston, IL. Student rentals at \$275 each (\$1100) & 5 students at \$240 each (\$1200) will also take Family Rentals! For more information please contact Kim (manager) at 217-346-3583.

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.

1972 Older Cars, Trucks/parts, unfinished projects, call Attilio at 708-439-9770.

Miscellaneous

Hemp Cultivation Consultants - Colin & Nancy McGuire - 12 years of experience in private and commercial Hemp growing, reasonable fees, phone and onsite consultation. Call 815-790-9565 or email to mcguire@gmail.com for more information.

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>.

(Some provide member discounts as well!)

Our friends from Fulton County Farm Bureau are planning a Field Day at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (Chicago) property in Fulton County on Wednesday, July 16th. 11:00am registration, 11:30am-12:30pm lunch and program, 12:30-2:00pm tour. The goal of the field day is to demonstrate how leaders in the wastewater treatment, agriculture, and scientific research communities are working individually and together to improve water quality. In addition, the benefits of new best management practices that farmers can implement on their farms will be shown. Call Fulton County Farm Bureau at 309-547-3011 to attend.



Let the FUN begin! 2019 Cook County 4-H Fair

The University of Illinois Extension is seeking volunteers to assist as judges for 4-H projects and to help with activities for the annual Cook County 4-H Fair scheduled July 20, 2019 at SeatGeek Stadium (formerly Toyota Park) in Bridgeview, Illinois. No prior judging experience or subject matter experience is required... just seeking caring individuals who would like to make a difference in a child's life. Contact Chanita Anderson, Program Coordinator, by phone at 708-449-4320 or email at chickma@illinois.edu

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.



Farm Bureau manager, Bob Rohrer, "spotted" this unusual limo while traveling in Michigan last month.

"Thank you, Cook County Farm Bureau for arranging a tour of Tate and Lyle, a leading supplier of food and beverage ingredients including sweeteners, texturants, fibers, and starches, as well as the largest crop farming site located in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. I enjoyed learning more about their businesses and more career opportunities that are available right in District 15!"

—Commissioner Kevin Morrison on the Staff Exchange Program.



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 10 am-4 pm

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, as well as 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!

Recipe of the Month: Sweet Potato Salad

- 2 lbs fresh sweet potatoes
- 1 ½ c mayonnaise
- 2 t Dijon mustard
- ¼ t salt
- 4 eggs, hardboiled and chopped
- 1 ½ c celery chopped
- 8 green onions chopped

Peel sweet potatoes then boil until just done (don't overcook so watch carefully). Cool thoroughly and cut into bite size pieces. In large mixing bowl add mayonnaise, mustard, salt, eggs, celery, and green onions; toss and serve!

Recipe reprinted with permission from members, Yvonne Massie, Mount Prospect, from our 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

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

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Farm-to-Table Dinners

Farm-to-Table Dinners and Events are in demand by consumers. If you and your farm are considering hosting an event and need information/tips to help it go smoothly, contact Debbie at the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org. We gained insight on planning and executing a farm-to-table dinner in 2018 while partnering with Cog Hill's Fairway Farm event.



Crudit  appetizer spread features all onsite ingredients!



50 plus guests dined onsite at Fairway Farms of Cog Hill last August.

Showtime on the Farm: Come on Down to Your Local Library

Agriculture in the Classroom is excited to invite you to visit your local library to participate in this summer's program, "It's Showtime" with an agriculture focus on FUN! Call library to register.

Hodgkins	July 9	10:00-11:00AM
North Riverside	July 11	2:00-3:00PM
Morton Grove	July 15	1:00-2:00PM
South Holland	July 16	2:30-3:30PM
Palatine	July 22	11:00AM-12:00PM



USDA Predicts Good Year for Vegetables

Five predictions about U.S. vegetable production in 2019:

USDA Economic Research Service makes several forecasts in a newly released "Vegetables and Pulses Report." The 5 predictions are...

Acres harvested. The 2019 acres of fresh vegetable harvested will rebound to 1.552 million from last year's historic low of 1.163 million. Processed vegetables will also see a rebound, albeit very small. USDA predicts growers will harvest about 1.19 million acres of vegetables for processing, compared to 1.163 million in 2018.

Crop value. The fresh vegetable industry is expected to experience a value rebound compared to 2018. While \$10.9 billion in value is up from \$10.1 billion the previous year, that remains below a peak of nearly \$12 billion in 2017. Processing vegetables are predicted to remain relatively flat at \$1.78 billion.

Imports. Fresh vegetable imports are expected to drop slightly along with an anticipated decline in processed vegetables.

Exports. U.S. fresh vegetable exports are expected to increase from \$2.2 billion to \$2.4 billion; however, processed vegetables are expected to decline from \$1.43 billion to \$1.37 billion.

Ag Census trends. The 2017 Agricultural Census revealed the total value of vegetables grown in the U.S. increased by about 16 percent since the 2012 census. However, the number of acres harvested declined during the same period.

Ford
\$500
BONUS CASH

Lincoln
\$750
BONUS CASH

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.

Save Big Bucks!



Save 20% at Home Run Inn! Members can purchase discounted gift cards directly from us. \$25 gift cards sell for \$20 and \$10 gift cards sell for \$8. Call the Farm Bureau office at 708-354-3276 to purchase yours today!



Members can receive 10% of all orders at participating culvers locations. Simply show your membership card to receive your discount. **Participating locations include:** McHenry, Mt. Prospect, Rosemont, Arlington Heights, Schaumburg-Wise Rd., Crestwood, Lansing, Buffalo Grove, Frankfort, Homewood, Matteson, Orland Park & Tinley Park.



Cook County Farm Bureau members receive 10% off all dine-in orders at Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery. Provide your membership card to receive discount (cannot be combined with other discounts/ coupons). Flossmoor Stations Restaurant and Brewery is located at 1035 Sterling Ave in Flossmoor, IL. Call 708-957-BREW or visit www.flossmoorstation.com for more information.



Delta Sonic Prices have slightly increased effective as of July 1, 2019, but still savings available.

Super Kiss Car Wash- **Member Price: \$11.50 savings of \$3.50** (Delta Sonic price is \$15)

Deluxe Car Wash- **Member Price: \$8.00 savings of \$2.00** (Delta Sonic price is \$10)

10 Minute Interior Cleaning

Larger Vehicles (Trucks, Minivans, Vans, Jeeps, etc.) - **Member Price: \$16.00 savings of \$2.99** (Delta Sonic price is \$18.99)

Smaller Vehicles - **Member Price: \$14.50 savings of \$2.49** (Delta Sonic price is \$16.99)



The IAA Credit Union is now offering commercial lending, which is a great membership benefit for members with small businesses.

Members are encouraged to check out the commercial loan offering. The Credit Union provides great rates and service to Farm Bureau members and today's online banking makes the Credit Union even easier to use!

IAA Credit Union commercial lending contact is David Warren, 309-557-2164, dwarren@iaacu.org



The Following Businesses are no longer a part of the Cook County Farm Bureau Benefit Program. **Hertz** Car Rental, and **ADT** Home Security Services.