



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. 8

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

August 2019

Mark Your Calendar

AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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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.



Cook County Farm Bureau leaders and staff recently had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. John Sullivan (center), Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Director Sullivan and Cook County Farm Bureau leaders discussed a variety of agricultural topics including urban farming, marketing farm products to the local consumer, the very difficult planting conditions locally and across the state, crop conditions, dicamba rules, agriculture in the classroom and interacting with the public, industrial hemp, greenhouse growing, partnering with urban farms and much more. The Director indicated that he prefers to view maps to gain a better feel for an area's agriculture. Pres. Janet McCabe and Cook County Farm Bureau directors showed Mr. Sullivan where they farm as well as other agricultural areas of interest in Cook County. Individuals meeting with Director Sullivan included board members Janet McCabe, Dan Biernacki, Tim Stuenkel, Todd Price, Jim Bloomstrand, Mike Rauch, Mark Yunker and Ruth Zeldenrust. Staff members Bob Rohrer, Bona Heinsohn and Diane Merrion also participated.

Question of the Month

Members of the Board of Directors recently met with Mr. John Sullivan. What position does Mr. Sullivan hold?

☆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)**

July winner is
Jerry Robinson

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?

Answer: September 28, 2019

Farm Crawl 2019



The Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting its 3rd annual Passport to Agriculture Farm Crawl Saturday, September 14, 2019, 10 am-4 pm.

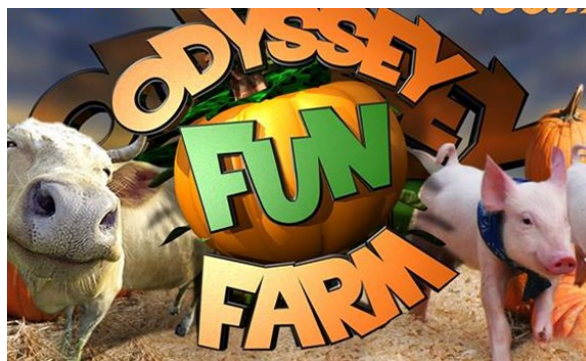
The Farm Crawl is self-guided with no set schedules allowing members and the public flexibility to choose the farms and agri-businesses to visit during the Crawl times.

Full program details, as well as all participating farms, greenhouses, stables and feed store activities/info will be available in the coming issue as well as on the CCFB Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy. We hope to see you at one or more of our locations on the Saturday, September 14...

Continued on page 2

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.

What's Up?

Cook County legislators and staff were asked what their largest takeaways were from the Staff Exchange Program held on July 13. The 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 participants have attended this program.



State Representative Michelle Mussman
"In general, the average person underestimates the complexity of what's involved in bringing products to the store shelves ... Even just those details with the company manufacturing the sweeteners. Just everything that goes into how it's developed—product development. Marketing. It's just unreal compared to what we think when we show up at the grocery store and buy it."



Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison
"I thought it was quite fascinating to tour this facility (Tate & Lyle) and see each of the different divisions that go into their production. Especially coming from someone who studied in a bio and chem lab. Seeing the high-tech equipment that they are using here definitely makes me feel safer when I'm going to be consuming these products after buying them off the shelves."



Penny Mateck, Community Relations Unit, Cook County Sheriff's Police
"The Staff Exchange Program provides an excellent opportunity to learn the important roles science and technology play in helping the farming community improve crops, and ultimately, the food that reaches our tables."

Local Food Pantries are Encouraged to Join Farm Bureau's "Food Pantry Challenge"

Cook County Farm Bureau® will be donating \$1,750 to Cook County food pantries. We'd like to help food pantries provide healthy food for the families in their community.

This summer Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a "Food Pantry Challenge" on Facebook. Throughout the summer, families can vote on Facebook for their favorite food pantry. The Facebook polls (five in all) will be boosted to families in the pantries' service areas. After 10 days, the pantry that receives the most votes will receive a donation for \$350. The second-place pantry will receive a donation for \$150.

Interested food pantries are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org for additional information.

Young Leaders Group Assembles Food Packs for Charity

Aurora's Feed My Starving Children Benefits From Effort



The Young Leaders Group in action packing food at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora (with some great looking hair nets!).



Members of the Young Leaders Group brought Cook County Farm Bureau board members, friends and family to participate in a food packing effort at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on June 18. The effort was a part of the group's annual social responsibility outreach. Gathered from left to right: Kristen Yunker, Ryan Mars, Jessica Biernacki, Mark Hamman, Rebecca Biernacki, Austin Smith, Karen Biernacki, Dan Biernacki, Shannon Lanphier and Blake Lanphier. The Young Leaders worked with other area citizens to pack food for hungry and needy children. 46 boxes representing 9,936 meals to feed 27 kids for an entire year were packed that evening.



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 who hosted our teachers during Summer Ag Institute (SAI). You were an inspiration to all.
- Staff members Sarah Duncan, and Jill Drover and Diane Merrion for their hard work in making SAI a success.
- Director of Illinois Department of Agriculture, Mr. John Sullivan, and his assistant, Rob Barron, for meeting with Cook County Farm Bureau leaders and staff to learn more about urban agriculture and related issues.
- The Young Leaders Group for their social responsibility outreach efforts by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora.
- Board member Jim Gutzmer for attending the Lake County 4-H Fair livestock auction and representing the organization during the auction bidding process.

Farm Crawl 2019

Continued from page 1

Big John's Farm & Greenhouse | Bultema's Farm Stand & Greenhouse | Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot | Crete Garden Center | Deer Creek Farm | Fairway Farms & Apiary of Cog Hill | Horcher Farms & Flowers | Kopping Farms | Ludwig's Feed Store | M&D Farms | McCarthy Farms | Melka's Landscaping & Garden Center | Puckerville Farms | Schroeder's Home & Garden Center | Smits Farms | Ted's Greenhouse | The Feed Store | Van Kalker Farms | West End Florist & Greenhouse | Zeldenrust Farm Market....and more!



Planter Workshop During Farm Crawl at Horcher Farms

Fall Planter Workshop at Horchers Country Flowers
910 McHenry Road, Wheeling
Saturday, September 14th | 10 AM |
Fee: \$25.00

Create a fall planter to display on your porch, patio or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts. Workshop includes pot, soil, and all plantings.

Member and public registration & payment required.

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or register online at the Member Center. Don't wait...class size is limited!

CCFB members can enjoy Sunflower Days at M&D Farms in Homer Glen August 2019. Please call ahead to make sure sunflowers are ready due to unforeseen rain this Spring. **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. (708) 935-1715
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.

Co-Operator

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Join the 1%”

There are people that have accomplished something extraordinary that the other 99% of the population does not, cannot or will not accomplish. I like to call these overachievers “The 1%”.

- Under 1% of the American population will run a marathon during their lifetime. Why? It takes training, focus, commitment, time and a bit of luck (Some people would add it takes a bit of “stupid”). Marathon finishers are “The 1%”.
- According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), earning a minimum of \$421,926 per year is necessary to be considered in the top 1% of wage earners. These driven, creative, talented, hardworking folks are “The 1%”.
- About 1% of college basketball players are drafted for a chance go to the next level, the National Basketball Association. Why? Speed, height, strength, quickness makes them the greatest players in the world. These skilled players are “The 1%”.
- Roughly 1% of the American population holds a PhD. Even though I can't understand what they are saying, these smart folks are “The 1%”.
- The percentage of the US population that farms has fallen to under 2%, leaving the remainder farmers to be the wisest, smartest, toughest, and most skilled...I'm proud to know many of these hard-working survivors. Farmers are “The 1%”.

My wife and I enjoyed a wonderful vacation recently in the Rocky Mountains in Glacier (northern Montana) and Banff (Alberta Canada) National Parks. There are so many spectacular views that can be seen from the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier and Lake Louise in Banff and we enjoyed them all. However, the rest of the throngs of visitors in those National Parks saw the same views.

Seeking much more elbow room, my wife and I sought trails less traveled. Armed with bear spray and enthusiasm, we spent time, energy and willpower trekking up mountain trails at elevation in search of remote glaciers and waterfalls. Many of our hikes stretched to 13 to 14-mile roundtrips and took us to amazing places and beautiful sights. Despite tourism season going in full swing in

these Parks, we encountered very few people beyond a mile from the parking areas. I'm convinced that very few people have or will see and experience the stunning



My Wife – 1%’er

views, landscapes, waterfalls, and mountain vistas that we were able to encounter simply using our boots and packs.

It was during one of these long, far-reaching hikes that I declared to my wife that she is one of The 1% (Trust me, I knew this well before we hiked together during our vacation).

All members will be pleased to know that Cook County Farm Bureau is one of The 1%. Less than ½ of 1 percent of companies in the United States have made it to 100 years of age. **In March 2020, you can add Cook County Farm Bureau to the list of “The 1%”!**

Our everyday Farm Bureau goal is to deliver top 1% service, information, support, benefits, and programs for members. We thank you for your input, thoughts and feedback that helps us continue to draw closer to fulfilling the 1% goal. For nearly 100 years, the Cook County Farm Bureau has been on the quest to be one of The 1%.

We continue to work our way through the archives as we gear up for the 100-year celebration. This month we look through the Farm Bureau history lens of the decade 1970 through 79. Enjoy!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.

CCFB History: 1970-79

1970

- With the Constitutional Convention underway, Farm Bureau provided input and thoughts upon suggestions and proposals.
- The Women's Committee conducted a Jewel in-store promotion of yogurt, a new food to many people.
- Cook County Farm Bureau participated in an organizational effort to fight a nationwide grape boycott by powerful labor unions which impacted small California farmers.
- The Cook County Farm Bureau celebrated its 50-year anniversary and featured a speech by Orion Samuelson, entertainment by Capt. Stubby and the Buccaneers, a 50-year history booklet and family-style dinner for a one dollar donation. 864 members attended!

1971

- The Board provided \$2500 to support research at the Agricultural Experimental Research Station on the cost to produce vegetable crops in northeastern Illinois.
- The American Farm Bureau Federation opened a new headquarters facility at 225 W. Touhy Ave. in Park Ridge marking the first time in 50 years that the national organization headquarters had been outside the city limits of Chicago.

1972

- 1318 bushels of citrus were sold to members as a part of the fresh grapefruit and orange program from Florida.
- Country Companies announced that they would cosponsor the television coverage of the class A high school boys basketball tournament in Illinois.
- Cook County Farm Bureau board member, Cornelius Rietfeld, was honored as a Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer Magazine.

1973

- 155 members participated in the County Bowling Tournament.
- 55 State Senators and Representatives joined the Cook County Farm Bureau at a reception in Springfield to discuss agriculturally related issues in the General Assembly.
- A great deal of effort was being made at the local, state and national level to explain to consumers about high food prices and that farmers were not responsible for inflation.

1974

- Future president Howard Paarlberg was appointed to the Board.
- The Farm Bureau asked members to vote “no” on a Regional Transportation Authority referendum, providing concerns for members to consider.
- Farm Bureau president and a Glenview farmer, Leonard Schultz, was elected to the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing District 5.
- The energy crisis impacts the nation (including area farmers), taking over public concerns and focus on rising food prices.
- Cook County Farm Bureau helped led the creation of a “Consumer Information Committee” made up of local County Farm Bureaus of Cook, DuPage, McHenry, Lake, Kane, and DeKalb. The

group was designed to communicate to people who buy food about agricultural production and information. The Consumer Information Committee sponsored Farm for a Day in the Chicago Loop (Civic Center Plaza).

- The Farm Bureau reminded landowners in certain townships (land use for farming greater than 10 acres) of a new law passed by the Gen. Assembly that land was assessed as a farm rather than residential or commercial use.
- The Farm Bureau promoted the five-acre Farm in the Zoo at Lincoln Park in Chicago.

1975

- Leonard Schultz, president of the organization, received on behalf of the Farm Bureau, a special “Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H”.
- The Consumer Information Committee took farm animals to Yorktown Shopping Center, Randhurst Shopping Center and the Chicago Flower and Garden Show with the Farm-For-A-Day exhibit.



Farm People Visit With Consumers At Recent Chicago Flower Show

Taking their dilemma to the largest potential consumer audience since forming a regional committee, farmers in six Northeastern Illinois counties participated in the Chicago Flower Show at McCormick Place April 4-9. An estimated 350,000-400,000 attended this colorful, imaginatively staged show, and the Farm Bureau members in Cook, DuPage, DeKalb, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties staffed a booth throughout the show, Leonard Schultz, Sr., Glenview farmer, said.

- Cook County Farm Bureau hosted 57 legislators in Springfield for a legislative reception to discuss agricultural issues and legislation.
- The Women's Committee sponsored high school Meat and Dairy grants to promote early cooking skills and habits in classrooms.

Elk Grove High Participates In Farm Bureau Meat And Dairy Promotion



DOUG CARBINE AND MIKE LAFAYETTE

- Future Cook County Farm Bureau president, Ray Nykaza, was appointed to the Board of Directors.

1976

- Norman Strassenburg, Mokena, was elected President of the

Board of Directors

- The Women's Committee sponsored an Estate Planning seminar in LaGrange.
 - The Farm Bureau helped promote the opening of two new suburban farmers market's in Oak Park and Elmhurst.
 - Illinois farmland was the highest priced farmland in the country with an average value of \$1,184 per acre, up 24% from March 1975.
 - Affiliated company Lake-Cook Farm Service Company celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- ### 1977
- The Marketing Committee held a Roadside Stand Marketing Conference in LaGrange.
 - The Farm Bureau worked on a statewide legislative effort to develop a property tax rate that was fair for farmland.



Representative Thomas H. Miller, South Holland Republican from the 10th Legislative District visiting with two of his constituents (left to right) Mrs. Ray Nykaza and Mrs. Howard Paarlberg, Chicago Heights.

1978

- The Farm Bureau brought in a mobile test unit to provide members with physicals including hearing tests, vision tests, urinalysis, chest x-rays, lung tests, pap smears, electrocardiograph, and much more.
- With a sharp rise in beef prices in the grocery store, Farm Bureau communicated to members about some of the reasons why.
- Jim Goebbert, South Barrington, was elected president of the Cook County Farm Bureau by the Board of Directors.
- Farm Bureau leader, Leonard Schultz pledged a portion of his corn crop to WGN radio personality Wally Phillips as a part of the Neediest Children's Christmas fund. Other area farmers joined in support with donations.
- The Farm Bureau Countryculture exhibit at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show earned the most popular display award as well as the public service teacher award.



“From the Country” Getting Married Requires Talking About Insurance

Cary Tate, Country Financial
Agency Manager, Orland Park

Soon you and your fiancé will promise to have and to hold each other, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part.

Before or shortly after saying these vows, you need to discuss your finances, including your insurance coverage, or you might end up testing the strength of those vows. To help, here is a checklist of insurance needs to talk about:

- auto insurance
- home or renter’s insurance
- life insurance
- health insurance

Spend some time talking together about insurance. Then talk with a financial representative to determine what insurance coverages are best for you.

Auto Insurance

Married couples pay less than singles for car insurance. If you and your fiancé do not have the same insurance company, you should combine your policies under one company. Many companies give a multiple vehicle discount that can save money.

Couples can also save money on their auto insurance by buying cars with safety features, keeping a clean driving record and staying with one company for an extended period of time. Talk to your financial representative for specific details.

Home Or Renter’s Insurance

Whether you own a home or rent, make sure you have adequate coverage for your home’s structure and your possessions.

Check with the company that insures your car to see if they offer home/renter’s insurance, too. Companies often offer multiple policy discounts if they insure both your car and home.

Life Insurance

Life insurance is another coverage you may want to buy or increase the amount of insurance you own. Life insurance is especially important if one or both of you have a number of debts, such as student loans, if you have bought a house or plan to have children soon.

It provides money for the surviving spouse to pay for funeral expenses, as well as the mortgage and daily expenses. Even if you don’t have children, you don’t want to leave your spouse in a difficult financial situation.

When talking about life insurance you will need to decide between term and whole life insurance. Term life insurance only covers someone for a set amount of time, such as 15 years. Whole life insurance accrues value and can eventually earn a return. Talk to your financial representative to determine which type is right for you.

Health Insurance

If you both have jobs with health insurance coverage, then you will need to figure out how best to maximize your benefits. One of the most important issues to look at is if your doctor is covered in each plan. If you switch to your partner’s health care plan, your favorite doctors may not be included under it. If this is important to you, you should consider keeping your own plan or having your partner join yours.

Also, see what each plan has to offer. If your plan has excellent dental coverage but no vision coverage, and your partners has a great vision plan, you may consider switching if you have poor eyesight but rarely have dental problems. Compare the out-of-pocket expenses you incur throughout the year with the cost of your plan.

One more aspect of health insurance to consider is disability income. If you or your spouse becomes disabled and cannot perform your job duties, you may lose an income, while daily living expenses may rise. If you cannot afford to live on one person’s salary, you should evaluate your health coverage plans to see how and if disability income insurance is provided.

Cary can be reached at cary.tate@countryfinancial.com

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. How does the Farm Bureau create so many food recipes?

A. The Cook County Farm Bureau provides recipes with help from CCFB members who share family favorites with us. We share these recipes with member permission in our newsletter and website at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes. Annually, a recipe brochure is created with delicious and creative ideas for your meals sourcing locally grown products. To submit your special recipe, contact Debbie at 708-354-3276 or email at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.



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

This month we are highlighting a CCFB Members Relation Team Member.

This month’s “Face of CCFB” is ...

Tony Munno



Tony Munno has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Members relations team since 2017.

He’s been a Country Financial Representative since 2012.

He is a life long Chicagoan growing up on the South Side of the city and currently lives in Oak Park.

He has become an amateur apiarist after taking the Bee keeping class offered by the Cook County Farm Bureau.

He has volunteered in the past three years with CCFB Annual Food Check Out Day.

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

Hog farmer, I love bacon. Bacon is god’s gift to your taste buds.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Coming home from school on a cold wintery day to my mother’s homemade soup.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO CONTROL CALORIES?

I have never tried to control calories. Sounds like a sad exercise in futility.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PROTEIN?

Eggs, I eat eggs every day. When you consider the cost of eggs and the nutritional value they deliver, no other protein source can compare.

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

When you do your research into the membership benefits you will be amazed at the value of your membership. Since being a CCFB member I have saved \$500 on auto purchase, went to sessions on estate planning, elder law, and bee keeping. I have purchased discount tickets for Theme parks, movie cinemas and car detailing. At \$20 a year, I’m way ahead as far as getting value from my membership.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

My father had a 1947 Farmall Cub that had been converted for lawn mowing. It had a 6 volt battery for electric start but came standard with a crank for manual starting.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

A Ricotta cheese and Italian sausage calzone.

Your Orland Park Agency



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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"

<p>4X8</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 2 _____</p> <p>LINE 3 _____</p>	<p>8X8</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p>
<p>4X8</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 2 _____</p> <p>LINE 3 _____</p>	<p>8X8</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p>
<p>8X16</p> <p>LINE 1 _____</p> <p>LINE 2 _____</p> <p>LINE 3 _____</p> <p>LINE 4 _____</p> <p>LINE 5 _____</p> <p>LINE 6 _____</p>	

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CREDIT CARD# _____ EXP _____ SECURITY CODE _____

4X8 BRICK - 3 LINES - 13 CHARACTERS PER LINE @ \$ 75.00 PER BRICK

8X8 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

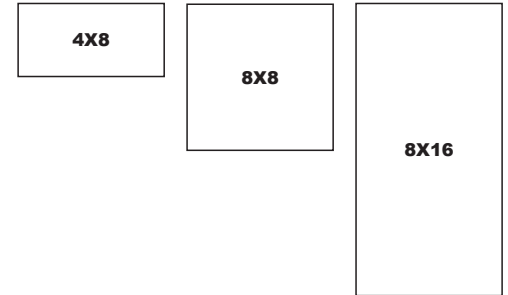
PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS AND CHECK FOR SPELLING ACCURACY.

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

Sample messages for bricks

- (followed by individual or family name, dates, etc)...
- In appreciation...
- In memory of...
- Best wishes...
- Many blessings or much gratitude
- Have another great century
- Side-by-side
- Thanks for all that you have done for our farm (or family)
- We celebrate 100 years of service
- Happy 100-year birthday
- Looking good, CCFB!
- Thank you for providing a century of leadership
- A great century of service
- This local family farm appreciates you
- Thanks for being a great partner
- Proud member for XX years
- Our farm story has just begun
- Celebrating the past
- Looking forward to a bright future
- This is just the beginning



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.



Agricultural Literacy

AG LIT BIT

By Diane Merrion, Director of Ag Literacy



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

“Students get interested in things they’re exposed to.”
Dr. Temple Grandin, keynote speaker at June’s National Ag in the Classroom Conference

While I was not able to be at the conference, I cannot stop thinking about this statement as it really is our focus with our Ag in the Classroom

programming. It was the inspiration behind our spring experience for high school counselors and teachers this past April based upon request from a principal who attended last year’s Summer Ag Institute (SAI). She and her Assistant Principal were so amazed by the career possibilities in agriculture they learned about during the summer program that they asked us to provide a one-day field trip to spread the word in their district.

The goal was to have school staff communicate the wealth of ag-related jobs back to their students... to give them exposure. How could students understand these options if their counselors and teachers didn’t know about them?

Fast forward to this year’s SAI and

teacher comments once again showed that few understood the vast amount of jobs in agriculture. As they met farm families and business owners, they learned about plant scientists, entomologists, mechanical engineers, ag software developers, animal nutritionists, food packaging designers and many more job opportunities. There was certainly a sense of excitement about returning to their classrooms to share all they learned about agriculture...to give their students exposure.

All the years I have been in Farm Bureau have afforded me this exposure and I wish my own children had received this exposure along their way. The more our ag literacy efforts can keep exposing our youth to the possibilities, the more we can get students interested. I’m excited to see the interest here in Cook County schools continue to grow and I encourage you to call or stop by this summer to see our teacher resources.

Many are featured online at <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>. We’d love to help you share our love of agriculture.

Diane can be reached at aitec@cookcfb.org.

Library Programs Keep Youth Engaged



Summer slump can be helped through our library programming each year. As we traveled around the county this summer, it was rewarding to teach children about farming through games and activities we developed for our “Come on Down” summer presentations.

While content varied at each location, our focus was on teaching about healthy choices provided by our farmers and have fun along the way with Cook County/Illinois BINGO. Clues were provided to the photo on the BINGO cards in order to teach facts few knew such as “What is the #1 crop grown in Cook County?”, “This type of cow produces white milk”, “Each farmer feeds this many people”.

The favorite game proved to be Pick-A-Pair where children had to determine what commodity produced specific by-products. The ‘manure pot’ was a huge hit!

Summer Learning Impacts Educators



The SAI program was a wonderful opportunity to show teachers how 97% of farms are family-owned and operated. As we toured Kilgus Farm (left) we got help from Matt and Jenna’s children who explained their daily chores on the farm. At Finding Eminence Farm (center) we met Chris and Audra Wyatt’s son who helped guide the teacher tour and teach about the flowers they are growing. And at our last stop, Smit’s Farm (right), Carl and Deb’s son joined us as Carl explained their seeding process.

“Have you ever, over a period of years, wanted to learn about something and not know how to go about it? That’s what this was for me. We were not a few minutes into the first presentation when I said to myself, ‘You are going to love this!’ And I did!!!!” shared CPS teacher, Jill Dahl.

This was one of many quotes from teachers who attended our Summer Ag Academy the week of June 24-27th. Spending four days together on the road afforded teachers the opportunity to learn from farmers, from industry specialists and from each other. The generosity of the ag community always shines through during the program as farms and businesses open their doors to teach others why they do what they do and how they approach their livelihood, which often involves all family members. What a pleasure it was to visit a farm and have one, two, or three generations eager to show off their crops, animals or greenhouses.

This year’s program began at the Cook County Farm Bureau where Luke Allen, FCAE Program Advisor, taught lessons connecting ag careers, ag economics and ag science concepts. Nutrients for Life Educator, Haley Siergiej, demonstrated soil and nutrient lessons and provided free curriculum resources. Horticulturist, Greg Stack, rounded out a day of learning with his presentation on using plants in the classroom which tested participants on their knowledge of what plants grow specific food items. Teachers appreciated Greg’s reference to horticulture being both an art and a science.

The remainder of the week took teachers on the bus to head to Bloomington and back to see a snapshot of what makes up Illinois farming. Stops included: Janie’s Farm, The Mill at Janie’s Farm, Kilgus Farmstead, Prairie Central Co Op (Chenoa Grain Elevator), Mackinaw Winery, IL AITC, Finding Eminence Farm, the McLean County Farm Bureau and Birkey’s Implements, Smits Farm and the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences.

The program would not be possible without the donations of our members to the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation and grant support from Illinois Ag in the Classroom. Thank you to all the teachers who joined us this year (and those on our waiting list who we hope to see next time). Registration for 2020 opens January 15th <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>.

Who best to sum up the experience but the participants themselves?

“I can’t believe how much I didn’t know about agriculture.”

“This program had a profound impact on how I now look at agriculture in our world.”

“Agriculture is science and you can implement all subjects with this content, this course makes learning fun and your students will benefit.”

“I would ABSOLUTELY recommend this course! It really opens your eyes to the diversity within agriculture-not only regarding farm size and plant/crop variety but also the myriad of other careers that connect to agriculture such as business management, engineering, soil science and transportation.”

“I learned so much and cannot wait to teach other colleagues and my students about it.”



GRANTS FOR TEACHERS AVAILABLE

Calling all teachers who can use some funding to start off the school year! The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® and Illinois Ag in the Classroom offer several grants for educators. Don’t miss these opportunities to incorporate agriculture into your K-12 curriculum.

FOOD SCIENCE GRANT

The Food Science Grant was developed by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation to promote the usage of high quality agricultural products that are locally produced. The purpose of this program is to offer **\$300 grants** for teachers to purchase dairy, meat or vegetable products for use in their classroom curriculum. Grants are offered to Cook County **Middle and High Schools** that have a food science, culinary arts, engineering, life skills, or other closely related class or club. Visit <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>. (10/15/19 deadline)

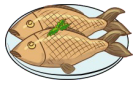


Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is offering a variety of special topic and book grants of up to \$300 to **Pre-School through High School** teachers across the state of Illinois to fund projects promoting agricultural literacy in the classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to add many new **books** to your classroom! Projects should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas. Priority for grants will be given to those that contain materials for use over multiple school years. Visit www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/Grants.html for applications. (10/11/19 deadline)



Agriculture Adventure for Families

Whether you're looking for food to take on your vacation or bait to put on your fishing line, this month's topic is sure to be of interest to you. Just as food doesn't magically appear at the grocery store, bait doesn't magically appear on your fishing pole. Once again, advances in agriculture are responsible for providing everything from fish to plants to foods.



Aquaculture Words:

Trout: Trout are mainly freshwater fish that grow very fast. Most trout can survive water temperature as low as 35 degrees Fahrenheit.



Crustaceans: Crustaceans form a large, diverse group of invertebrate animals which include crab, shrimp, and lobsters.

Baitfish: Baitfish is a common term used to describe small fish used as bait for sport fishing. Golden shiners, goldfish, and fathead minnows are examples of fish raised as bait.

Mollusks: Mollusks are a large group of invertebrate animals. Snails, clams, and squids are examples of mollusks.



Ornamental Fish: Attractive, small, and colorful fish that are typically kept in an aquarium.

Catfish: Catfish are one of the most common fish we eat. There are many different species of catfish available. They are rapidly growing and accounted for just over \$1 million in sales in 2017.

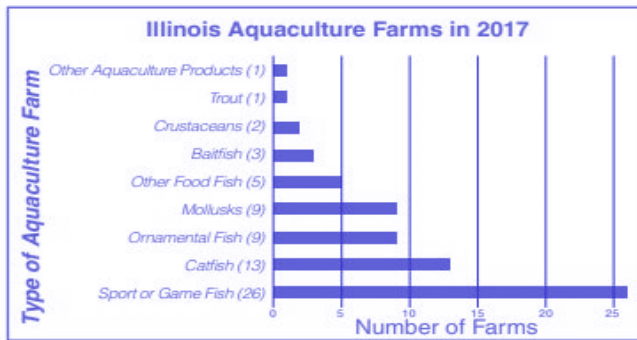
Sport or Game Fish: Sport or game fish are raised to become replenishment stock for natural sport fisheries including trout, bass, pike, catfish, walleye and muskellunge. In 2017, Illinois had 26 farms that raised sport or game fish and made \$6.1 million in sales.

Source: www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources



What is Aquaculture?

Aquaculture is the production of aquatic animals and plants under controlled conditions including fish, shrimp, salmon, trout, tilapia, aquatic plants, algae and other organisms. Aquaculture can take place in the open ocean, in ponds, bays, greenhouses, and can even take place in a pool. Globally, more than half of all seafood now comes from aquaculture. Aquaculture is the fastest-growing form of food production on the planet, growing at an annual rate of 6%. The projected growth of aquaculture in the United States between 2010 and 2030 is 40%. Aquaculture is primarily divided into two groups: freshwater and marine.



Source: www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources

What is an Aquaculturist?

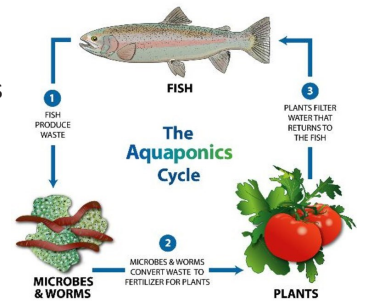
Aquaculturists raise an assorted selection of aquatic plants and animals in controlled or semi-controlled settings. Raising these organisms can be for production of food, for stocking public bodies of water, home aquariums, or for biomedical applications. Aquaculturists stock production units (ponds or tanks), ensure adequate nutrition, monitor water quality, check for diseases, harvest plants or animals, and maintain equipment. They may also supervise workers, plan production schedules, purchase feed and equipment, and plan harvesting, processing, and marketing.



Source: USDA Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Careers

What is Aquaponics?

Aquaponics is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks (recirculating aquaculture) with soilless plant culture (hydroponics). In aquaponics, the nutrient-rich water from raising fish provides a natural fertilizer for the plants and the plants help to purify the water for the fish. Aquaponics can be used to sustainably raise fresh fish and vegetables for a family, to feed a village or to generate profit in a commercial farming venture, year 'round, in any climate.



Source: www.aquaponics.com/aquaponics-information/

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!

August Word Search

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

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Aquaculture | Organisms |
| Controlled | Plants |
| Equipment | Pond |
| Fish | Production |
| Fresh | Quality |
| Hydroponics | Tank |
| Marine | Trout |
| Nutrition | Water |

Name: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Membership #: _____
 (Membership # is located on front of paper)
 If you were to win, check your preference:
 ___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix
 (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)
 Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is...

Margaret Novak



Small Stuff Softens Stressful Summer

Spots nibbles contently off the top of his feed pile. Hunter likes to burrow his face in the twice-daily ration, and Shadow attacks his feed trough like an alligator; the white pig with a shadow of red on his back swoops the length of the trough for a mouthful, lifts his head to swallow, and rapidly returns for more like a competitive eater.

We learned a lot of little quirks about the kids' 4-H pigs after four months of individualized care. My brother's observation of their eating styles grounded me. I hadn't noticed. Rather, my pace plowed through the routine chore list without fully appreciating God's graces in my day, as our church's new pastor just preached. I think she wrote her first sermon for me.

The stressful, off-kilter growing season easily overshadowed the little things that make life great. The most challenging spring planting season of our farm's recollection merged into an intense summer of too much to do at once. Haying, spraying, side-dressing nitrogen, mowing and catch-up gardening collided. The guys also squeezed in hauling soybeans when lowering river levels allowed barge traffic to resume. All the while, the full schedule worked around pop-up summer storms, planned vacations, make-up ball games and deadlines to report planted and unplanted acreage to the government and insurance companies.

Thankfully, our kids give us a different set of eyes to appreciate the world. They monitor and announce use of the new hummingbird swing. Tadpoles attract them to the water's edge at the farm "Frog Pond," where they point out a frog's life cycle. Our daughter's fresh bouquets of ditch lilies, wild chicory and Queen Anne's lace grace the dinner table and kitchen counter.

Special treats make the menu, like a cake the kids dyed, layered and assembled to resemble an American flag when sliced for the Fourth of July. They excitedly show off their 4-H chickens' first eggs and take equal delight in cracking them to reveal the double-yolkers and tiny single-yolkers for scrambled eggs. Pool-side birthday parties interrupt this summer's stresses, as do lightning bugs, fireworks, ice cream, rainbows and amazing sunsets.

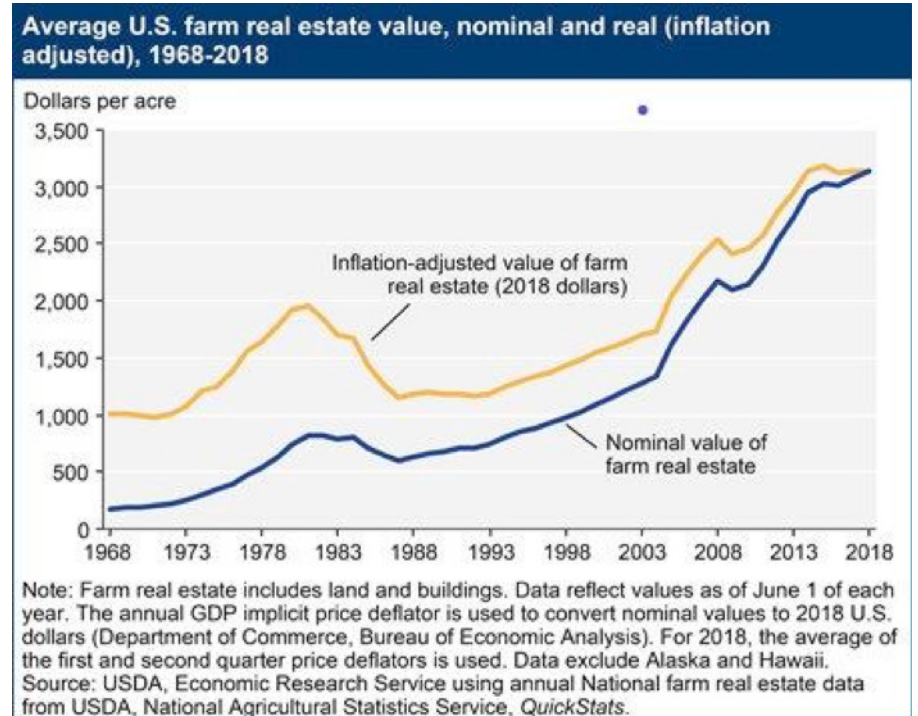
Soon enough, the corn will appear as walls along the roadside, hiding the crop's uneven emergence and drowned spots from plain sight. Perhaps the change in scenery will help us temporarily forget about the exceptionally wet and stressful spring. If not, the kids will find something to reroute our thoughts. I see they still have some water balloons left.

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.

Family Farm and Food Bytes

ILLINOIS THE 11TH STATE TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA (FarmWeekNow) Starting Jan. 1, Illinois residents older than 21 will be able to possess up to nearly 1 ounce of marijuana, while nonresidents may have nearly a half-ounce. The state will license a maximum of 30 cultivation centers and up to 100 craft growers, which would have initial capacity of a maximum 5,000 feet of growing space. Current medical marijuana cultivation centers and dispensaries will be able to apply early for recreational marijuana licenses that will be regulated by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

FARMERS NATIONAL REPORTS UPTICK IN FARMLAND SALES (FarmWeekNow) Farmers and others interested in purchasing farmland found a few more opportunities to buy ground in some areas so far this year. Farmers National Company, based in Omaha, Nebraska, reported a 29% increase in the number of acres sold nationwide through the first half of the year. But the sales trend remains somewhat subdued in Illinois and surrounding states as many buyers remain cautious and selective in the central Corn Belt. Many of the farmland sales so far this year were generated by estates, trusts and family inheritances that saw a time to sell.



Some sales were the result of increasing financial pressure on farmers. This marks the sixth consecutive year of declining farm income as USDA predicts net farm income could drop 50% from 2013. Meanwhile, working capital plunged almost 70% since 2012, while inflation adjusted farm debt reached the highest level since the 1980s.

Farmland values continue to hold steady while farmers remain interested, although possibly more cautious, buyers compared to recent years. Investors and 1031 exchange buyers also remain active in the market, thus supporting farmland values, at least in Illinois. Meanwhile, low interest rates continue to support land prices.

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR HEMP PLOT GROWS EDUCATION (FarmWeekNow) Illinois' newest crop has sparked so much interest that the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will put industrial hemp on display during the Illinois State Fair Aug. 8-18. The IDOA seeks to educate Illinois State Fair visitors about industrial hemp with a plot on the Springfield fairgrounds. Planted June 11, the demonstration plot includes hemp grown for fiber and cannabidiol or CBD. IDOA's plot joins 16,646 licensed industrial hemp acres across Illinois. In addition to a hemp plot, IDOA will show a movie and distribute information about industrial hemp at a booth in the IDOA tent during the State Fair.

By July 11, IDOA had received 835 applications and issued 556 grower licenses, according to IDOA. Hemp license fees were paid for 16,646 acres that include both outdoor and indoor cultivation. IDOA had approved 19,625 acres for cultivation. In addition, IDOA also received 236 applications for hemp processing and issued 118 licenses.

CHICAGO AREA WATERWAYS TEEMING WITH LIFE, NOT ASIAN CARP (IDNR) – No bighead or silver carp were seen or captured in July's monitoring of more than 400 sites and investigation of 602 sites for fish, announced a Illinois Department of Natural Resources release. More promising was the amount of diversity noted in the fish observed during the monitoring. "The 49 species collected during this spring effort alone show that we see quite a different waterway than was present 20 years ago due to improvements in the water quality throughout Chicago's canals and rivers," said John Dettmers, co-chair of the Asian Carp Monitoring and Response Workgroup.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW TICKETS AVAILABLE Macon County Farm Bureau (MCFB) will once again serve as an outlet for advance ticket orders for the Farm Progress Show in Decatur Aug. 27-29. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate. To order, email MCFB Manager, Tim Stock, at tstock@maconcfb.org with the number of tickets needed. Tickets may be shipped directly to purchasers for an additional fee or can be picked up at the MCFB office in Decatur. Ticket buyers will not be charged for any unused tickets if they are sent back to MCFB immediately following the show. For more information, call 217-877-2436.

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

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Growing To Serve You Better

Legislation Recently Signed into Law

Legislators tackled numerous issues during this year’s legislative session. Most residents have experienced the increase motor fuel tax or have heard about increases to vehicle registration fees. However, legislators approved a sleuth of legislation that most residents aren’t aware of.

Public Act 101-0011 amends the Cook County Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that an active participant may establish service credit and earnings credit for periods of furlough providing they pay the employee contributions. Provides that to receive the service credit and earnings credit for periods of furlough, the participant cannot receive compensation or any type of remuneration from the county.

Public Act 101-0004 amends the Counties Code regarding wind farms and electric-generating wind devices. Provides that even if a county has or has not formed a zoning commission and has not adopted formal zoning the provisions still apply. Clarifies that only a county may establish standards for wind farms, electric-generating wind devices, and commercial wind energy facilities in unincorporated areas of the county outside of the zoning jurisdiction of a municipality and the 1.5-mile radius surrounding the zoning jurisdiction of a municipality.

Public Act 101-0012 provides that for a pupil of legal school age and in kindergarten or any of grades first through twelfth, a day of attendance is counted

for sessions of more than five clock hours of school work per day under direct supervision of teachers, non-teaching personnel or volunteer personnel when engaging in non-teaching duties and supervising in instances specified under the Code. The following activities can be counted toward the calculation of clock hours of school work per day: instruction in a college course in which a student is dually enrolled for both high school credit and college credit, participation in a supervised career development experience in which student participation and learning outcomes are supervised by an educator licensed under the School Code, participation in a youth apprenticeship in which student participation and outcomes are supervised by an educator licensed under the School Code, or participation in a blended learning program in which course content, student evaluation, and instructional methods are supervised by an educator licensed under the School Code.

Provides that a research-based program for e-learning days must be verified by the regional office of education or intermediate service center for the school district (rather than submitted to the State Superintendent of Education for approval. Requires the program to address the school district’s responsibility to ensure that all teachers and staff who may be involved in the provision of e-learning have access to any and all hardware and software that may be required for the program. Provides that

a proposal for the program must include a provision that ensures that non-electronic materials are made available to students participating in the program who do not have access to the required technology or to participating teachers or students who are prevented from accessing the required technology and that ensures that the protocol regarding general expectations and responsibilities of the program is communicated to teachers, staff, and students at least 30 days prior to utilizing an e-learning day.

Public Act 101-0005 amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that a public body may hold a closed meeting to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific independent contractors, or specific volunteers (currently, only specific employees) of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, independent contractor, or volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

As of July 1, the Cook County minimum wage increased to \$12.00 per hour and the Cook County base wage for tipped employees will increase to \$5.25 per hour. As a reminder, numerous municipalities have opted out of the increase. Additional information concerning Cook County’s minimum wage ordinance is available at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/minimum-wage-ordinance>.

Cook County Releases Preliminary Budget Estimates

In July, the Preckwinkle administration released its preliminary budget estimates. The anticipated budget gap is \$18.7 million, significantly smaller than the \$487 million gap in 2011. Unlike past years, the gap will likely be closed without introducing new fees or taxes. Also, unlike past years, the county is expected to end its fiscal year with a \$14 million surplus.

Past budget reductions include:

- Reducing personnel cost by laying off approximately 1,500 county workers
- Eliminating vacant positions
- Refinancing debt
- 15 percent across-the-board budget cuts

Cook County’s budget process kicks off in July and continues through November. The process includes:

July County Department heads testify on the budget

August/ September County Department heads finalize their budget requests

October Public hearings

November County board analyzes and votes on the budget

Unlike Cook County government, the Health and Hospital System is facing a \$103 million budget gap. The Health and Hospital System will also begin its budget process later this summer.



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Josina Morita along with Illinois Farm Bureau® Director Jeff Kirwin explored cover crop inter-seeding, denitrifying bioreactor improvements, drainage water management, and multipurpose riparian grass buffer during Field Day in Cuba. Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Prairie Research Institute and University of Illinois Extension hosted the Field Day.



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Josina Morita examines the corn crop during a Field Day in downstate Illinois.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

Let’s set the record straight. Great statement. Great thought. So, let’s set the record straight.

I like shoes. A lot of them. I prefer boots and I have a rockin’ pair of Ariat that I save for special occasions. They’ll return when the weather is cooler. During the summer I wear mainly running shoes. I do chase pre-teen girls

around the softball diamond after all. I also scream (nicely) at them to keep moving. To not look at the ball. And to slide. Just the other day I had to remind one to keep her eyes open while batting.

I also like animals. Basically, anything with fur but, in particular, bunnies. We have a beautiful senior New Holland Lop buck. “Hedwig” is an underperforming 4H bunny who my daughter dotes on. “Hedwig” spends most of his day kicked back asleep unless he’s eating. He prefers papayas.

Let’s continue to set the record straight. Illinois is home to over 72,000 farms. Of which over 97

percent are family-owned. Many of those farms are multi-generational. Many of those farms grow corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and hay. In 2014, Illinois was home to 74,500 farms.

Cook County, on the other hand, is home to nearly 12,000 acres of farmland. The most common crops growing on those farms include vegetables, hay, soybeans, orchards, and greenhouses. Cook County top livestock include bees, chickens, horses, and cattle. Many Cook County farmers have been farming for less than five years.

Speaking of animals. Farmers provide around-the-clock care for their livestock. My farmer and I raise dairy cattle. We’re third generation family farmers. We want nothing more than for our children to farm. Our animals are our future. Our animals’ health and well-being is our most important priority. We give them good care and treat them humanely. We also use experts to help us to make decisions about animal health and care.

To set the record straight, I care about how my food is grown. I care about how your food is grown.

But I’m confident about eating the food farmers grow because I know it’s safe. We feed our families the same food you and your families eat.

Farmers care about the land. We protect our land, its resources, and our animals so our family can continue to farm for future generations. We want nothing more than our blue-eyed girl who quietly entered the world one hot Father’s Day and our big-little boy with no official eye color than to farm.

Related to the big-little boy with no official eye color is that I hate Legos. I appreciate the educational value that they provide. I appreciate his love for building vehicles. I appreciate his imagination. But I hate Legos. I hate finding them everywhere. Stepping on them. Picking them up. I hate finding them in places they shouldn’t be. Like my bed. The bathroom.

To set the record straight, I enjoy honest and frank conversations. We need to set the record straight more often. If you have questions about modern agriculture I’m always here for a conversation.

Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.



Commodity and Marketing Team volunteers Rick (left) and Cathy Johnson received a tour from Garden/Farm Coordinator, Tucker (right) of Growing Solutions Farm located in Chicago's near west side. This Cook County Farm Bureau Community Garden Grant recipient supplies most of their 1.2 acre, 100+ raised beds and hoop house grown produce and fruit to local celebrity Chef Rick Bayless. This garden farm also serves as a vocational learning site, designed for young adults who have Autism; it also houses a classroom learning space!



Cook County Farm Bureau® advocate Amy Hansmann led a discussion on communicating shared values during the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program Class of 2020 Business Communications, Outreach, and Media seminar held at the DePaul School of Public Service in Chicago.

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.



Malgorzata Jura

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Malgorzata Jura has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2019. Her office is located at 6136 N. Milwaukee Ave, Suite F in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-631-9107. Malgorzata has been a Financial Representative since January 2008.



Margaret Rybska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Margaret Rybska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2019. Her office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2660. Margaret has been a Financial Representative since September 2017.



Matthew Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Matthew Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 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 July 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.



Brett Riekana

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Brett Riekana has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2019. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St., Prairie View, IL. His phone number is 847-415-2666. Brett has been a Financial Representative since May 2011.



Renata Bondarowicz

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



Mike Spadoni

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Mike Spadoni has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 2019. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th in Oak Lawn, IL. His phone number is 708-425-1825. Mike has been a Financial Representative since June 2005.



Kurt Husein

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Kurt Husein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 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.



Tim Perchinski

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Tim Perchinski has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 2019. His office is located at 29 E 34th St., in Steger, IL. His phone number is 708-754-7300. Tim has been a Financial Representative since December 2002.



Monica Gross

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Monica Gross has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 2019. Her office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is 708-381-4013. Monica has been a Financial Representative since April 2019.



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



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.



We have a NEW Membership discount program with GrainCoat®.

GrainCoat is a marketing tool for farmers to utilize. GrainCoat offers 2 platforms. One is FREE and the other one is \$199 per year. Illinois Farm Bureau members will get a \$20 discount on the \$199 platform. Check out GrainCoat's website at www.graincoat.com.

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.

6 Instamatic 24hour time clocks for table or floor lamps 3.00 each. Like new 3piece brass fireplace cleaner set \$3.00 one brass table lamp and shade like new \$5.00. Like new oak toilet seat \$3.00. One cobra trap shooter radar detector for car \$5.00. Call Allen at 708-614-8148.

Vehicle

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4wheel drive, new tires, 147,000 miles, battery runs good no problems, general maintenance every 6 months, changed oil every 3,000 miles. Red, tan leather seats. Great in the winter months \$5000. Call Shirley at 708-654-2010.

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

Steger 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 5-bedroom 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.

5 Star resort 3br/ 2ba condo 2 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$80/night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com/218673

Hilton Grand Vacations Condo Suites Resorts- Orlando, Las Vegas, Miami Beach, Hawaii, New York, Colorado. 5-7 nights in a one bedroom suite sleeps 4 anywhere Hilton Grand Vacation Clubs. Check out www.stayhgv.com This is my timeshare Absolutely no presentation required \$950 + reservation fee for 5-7 nights depending on dates & peak season. Call John 708-280-7975 to check availability on dates & details.

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.

Older fishing tackle, rods, reels, lures, outboard motors, magazines, toys, and maybe a small fishing boat. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

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

Hiring

Now Hiring: Goat Yoga instructor for outdoor classes must be fun loving and flexible. Animal lover a must. Deer Creek Farm, 360 Glenwood-dyer Rd, Glenwood, IL 60425. Contact: Jo Ann Shults at 708-441-7751. You can check out Deer Creek Farm on Facebook to see videos of classes.

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

- Deer Creek Farm is hosting a Goat Yoga/RoadSide Yoga Event - Thursday, August 15, at 6 – 8 pm! Deer Creek Farm, - 360 E. Glenwood Dyer Rd, Glenwood, IL (708-441-7751). Information and ticket purchase go to: <https://www.facebook.com/deercreekfarm.farm>.
- Tickets are on sale and going fast for the 6th Annual Smart Farm-to-Table Dinner, hosted by The Smart Farm, Barrington, IL on Saturday, September 14, 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Tickets and details at <http://smartfarms.org/events/>.
- Save the Date: Fairway Farms & Apiary of Cog Hill Golf & Country Club will host a Farm-to-Table Dinner on Wednesday, September 25. Contact Angelica Carmen, Sustainability Specialist, at acarmen@coghillgolf.com for more info.
- Farm Bureau Member Farm Stands are open and bursting with color – red ripe tomatoes, green delicious zucchini, and yellow juicy sweet corn, in spite of the weather! Purchase all your local, farm grown produce at a member farm stand. To locate a member business near you, visit our Farm Products Locator at <http://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-products-locator>.

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.

Farmers, Small Businesses, Home Owners Save More With Nicor Gas

energySMART, a Nicor Gas program, has helped homeowners, businesses and public sector customers save money and conserve energy. To date, more than 630,000 Nicor Gas customers have saved 113 million therms and received more than \$110 million in rebates and cash incentives for participating in the program's offerings.

Whether you're making a small upgrade or investing in long-term improvements, energySMART has several ways for customers to save energy and take sensible steps toward energy efficiency. Rebates, free products, and energy assessments are just a few of the offers that you can take advantage of starting today.

Nicor Gas actively encourages smart and efficient energy use while helping to increase comfort and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For information on available savings opportunities and rebates, visit nicorgas.com or call 877-886-4239.



Farm-to-Table Dinners and Events are still 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.

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Recipe of the Month: Freezing Corn

- 1 dozen fresh sweet corn, cut corn from cob
- 2 c water
- 2 t salt
- ¼ c sugar

Combine all ingredients in a large pot, put on high heat, stirring occasionally. Bring to a boil and turn off heat and cool. Ladle into freezer bags with liquid. Lay flat to freeze until firm. Thaw before using. AMAZING!

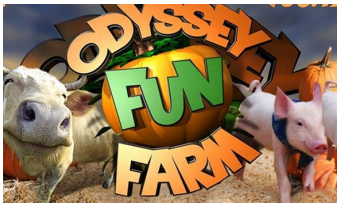
Recipe reprinted with permission from member Big John's Farm & Market, Chicago Heights - Submitted by Phyllis Henning, Lansing, from our 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

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

Check Out These Upcoming Programs!



Sunflower Days at M&D Farms
 CCFB Members can enjoy Sunflower Days at M&D Farms in Homer Glen August 2019. Please call ahead to make sure sunflowers are ready due to unforeseen rain this Spring. Members receive \$2 discount. Prices vary throughout the week. Hours: M-F 9 am- 6 pm, Sat 9am- 5pm, Sun 10 am- 3pm 14946 S. Bell RD., Homer Glen. Call 708-935-1715



13th Annual CCFB Family Celebration Picnic
 Farm Bureau families are encouraged to attend this year's Family Celebration Picnic at Odyssey Farm in Tinley Park. This year's picnic is scheduled for... Saturday, September 28 from 10 am until 2 pm with lunch served from 11 am until 1 pm. 18900 S. Oak park Ave., Tinley Park Early bird rate \$17 ends Sept 16. Fee \$25 ticket sale ends Sept 23.



Farm Crawl 2019
 The Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting its 3rd annual Passport to Agriculture Farm Crawl Saturday Sept. 14, 10 am- 4 pm. Full program details, as well as all participating farms, greenhouses, stables, and feed store activities/info will be available in the coming issue as well as on the CCFB Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy.



Fall Planter Workshop During Farm Crawl at Horcher Farms
 Create a fall planter to display on your porch, patio, or balcony area while learning planting tricks from the experts. Workshop includes pot, soil, and all plantings. Member and public registration & payment required. Saturday Sept 14, 10 am. Fee \$25. Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276. Class is limited!



19th Annual Giant Pumpkin, Local Honey, Pumpkin Dessert, Carving & Decorating Contests
 Free for Members, non-members may enter by joining CCFB. Contest open to any CCFB member & dependents. Saturday Oct 5, 9-11am. Puckerville Farms 13332 Bell Rd., in Lemont. Check in by 9:15 am to be considered; must be present to win. To register online go to cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events or you can contact Debbie Voltz at 708-354-3276 or by email at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org for more information.



Shred Day
 The Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting on Saturday, Oct 5, 2019 from 10am to 12pm at the Oak Forest Country Financial Building located at 4845 W. 167th St., Oak Forest. Please call the office to make your reservation.



Preparing Wills and Trust
 Preparing Wills and Trust and Transferring Non-Titled Trust Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 6:30-9pm. At the Country Financial Building 9731 165th St, Suite 36 Orland Park. No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members, \$10 per person for non-members. Register by Tuesday, October 15, 2019-Limited seating!

But Wait—There's More!

We have too much to deliver to members to fit into the confines of this 12-page publication. Go to www.cookcfb.org for more detail about programs, workshops, benefits and activities.

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.