

Agriculture Adventure for Families

 Look who's celebrating 100 years! Yes, the Cook County Farm Bureau and the lesser known NFL. Do we have anything in common? Absolutely! As we take a look at some Cook County connections to football and our beloved Chicago Bears one thing is for sure, if there was no agriculture there would be no football. Just as the National Football League will celebrate its 100th season with a year-long series of "NFL 100" events, initiatives and programming, our farm bureau has also begun to share our history via the Cooperator and social media and has many special events planned as well. Many of us will turn our attention to football that 4th Thursday in November and I hope many of you will turn to farm bureau the 4th Saturday in March when our Open House may be more exciting than the Bears/Lions game. For nearly 100 years, the NFL has been part of the fabric of America as has the Cook County Farm Bureau.



From the footballs, to the food, to the playing surface, agriculture plays a big part in the game. The footballs that are used in all NFL games are made in the United States from cow hides. Wilson Company, located in Ohio, is the provider of these footballs. The highest quality cowhides are chose, sewn together, steamed, and laced specifically. Wilson has 120 employees who produce 4,000 footballs a day by hand. According to NFL rules, every ball that is used in an NFL game must be a Wilson.

Have you ever wondered about the turf that is used? The turf grass that is used for games like these is carefully grown and cared for over the span of several months. A farmer dedicates his time to perfecting the sod in preparation. The turf has to be in perfect condition and is usually shipped to the stadium from several miles away. How about all that food you eat before, after or during the big game?



Yep, thank a farmer!



Source: www.usatoday.com



To modern Americans, Thanksgiving and NFL games go together like turkey and gravy, but the traditions have evolved over time. There are few traditions more associated with Thanksgiving Day than watching football, and it all started with a marketing plan to get people to care about the Detroit Lions, according to the Pro Football Hall of Fame website.

In 1934, the newly created Lions, in an effort to appeal to fans in their inaugural season, played the world champion Chicago Bears. Although the Lions lost 19-16, the game had a strong turnout – 26,000 seats sold – and was broadcast nationally on NBC Radio. The Cowboys jumped on the Turkey Day bandwagon in 1966 in an effort to build their brand and fan base as well. In 2006, the NFL added a third game to the Thanksgiving lineup.



Augustus Eugene Staley was born in 1867 near Julian, California. He is generally regarded as the father of the soybean crushing industry. As a child,

Staley had a chance encounter with an individual who brought Chinese soybeans to the U.S and shared them. Staley experienced success planting, weeding, and picking the soybeans.

Years later, Staley became concerned that the Midwest was being slowly "corned" to death by successive planting of corn. He recalled his successful childhood experience with soybeans and determined soybeans might be just the crop needed to rebuild the land through crop rotation. Staley conducted research at the University of Illinois and became convinced the soybean was a crop with great potential. Staley installed a soybean plant in Decatur, Illinois in 1922.

Decatur began to call itself the "Soybean Capital of the World." While Staley's soybean business experienced a number of rises, falls, and changes after opening its doors, the company offered a full line of soybean products including defatted soy flour, grits, flakes, and soy protein concentrate by 1980. Staley was a true pioneer in the days when the soybean was little known.

Another of A.E. Staley's achievements was his role in the creation of the Chicago Bears and the creation of the National Football League. The Chicago Bears football team started as the Decatur Staleys in Decatur, Illinois. Staley said that big-time football needed big city crowds. They moved the team to Chicago and they started playing at Wrigley field and soon became the Chicago Bears. Given that they were sharing Wrigley field with the Chicago Cubs, they decided to call themselves the Bears, arguing, tongue in cheek, that football players are larger in size than baseball players. For more info on Staley and our Chicago Bears, visit:

staleymuseum.com/history-of-the-staley-bearschicago-bears/

Source: agintheclassroom.com

Uniforms – Are made from cotton, and so are the dollar bills to pay the players!

Tickets, Programs, and Schedules – These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans.

Tape and Bandages – Corn dextrines and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents.

Film for pictures – Uses cornstarch (as a spreading agent) and gelatin (as a coating and sizing agent) from cattle.

Foods eaten at the game are also connected to Agriculture:

Soda – Sweetened with corn syrup.

Peanuts and Popcorn – Both grown by farmers.

Soft Pretzels – Wheat flour and vegetable oil.



Source: agintheclassroom.com



Thanksgiving Fun Facts

-  About 46 million turkeys are cooked for Thanksgiving each year.
-  Only male turkeys gobble. Female turkeys cackle instead. So if you're trying to figure out whether a turkey's a male or a female, just wait until they open their beaks.
-  Thanksgiving leftovers led to the first ever TV dinner. Swanson & Sons overestimated how much turkey would be consumed on Thanksgiving and had to get creative with the 260 tons of leftover meat.
-  An estimated 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving.

Source: www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/thanksgiving-ideas



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!



Mark Turecek



November Word Search

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| Chicago | Pumpkin Pie |
| Corn | Sod |
| Cotton | Soybean |
| Cowhide | Stadium |
| Decatur | Staley |
| Football | Thanksgiving |
| Gobble | Turf |
| NFL | Turkey |

V W M U U W C I X E M P T G D
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Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

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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.