

## 2010

- Cook County Farm Bureau places first in total percentage membership gain in Illinois (106.75%).
- Cook County Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (Cook CFB PAC) endorses its first round of candidates.
- Cook CFB PAC names eight Cook County Commissioners “Friends of the Farm Bureau” in recognition of their voting record on pertinent Farm Bureau issues.
- Farm Bureau members receive the first installment of the Voters Guide, an eight-page insert in *The Co-Operator* providing an overview of the candidates and offices up for election.
- Cook County teacher Debbie Jimenez, is named Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom “Teacher of the Year”.
- Farm Bureau celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Food Checkout Day and its partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.



- Beth Christian, former board member, is awarded the 2010 Illinois Agricultural Education Advocacy Award from the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education/Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education.

## 2011

- Cook County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom program celebrates 25 years of educating local students about agriculture in their everyday lives.
- Farm Bureau introduces the “Illinois Farm Families” program and Cook County Farm Bureau takes an active role in recruiting field moms and participating in the tours, spokespeople training, and television commercials.
- Members and future farmers participate in a ‘Farming Fundamentals Workshop,’ a one-day program discussing setting up a farming operation.
- Janet McCabe, now Cook County Farm Bureau President, becomes the first woman elected to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors.
- Sarah Fine-Koukol from St. Vincent Ferrer School in River Forest is named “Teacher of the Year” by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

## 2012

- Farm Bureau’s Commodity and Marketing Team launches an urban garden grant program. Cookfresh® aids urban gardens with the purchase of supplies, including plants, seeds, raised bed construction materials, soil, compost, fencing, and more.
- Cook County Farm Bureau receives the Summit Award for Food Checkout Day from the American Society of Association Executives. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions to society that occur when non-profit organizations partner.



Cook County Farm Bureau President, Jim Gutzmer and Vice-President, Mike Rauch, represented the organization on stage at the National Museum Building in Washington DC during the national award ceremony presentation for the winners of the prestigious Summit Award. The presentation from the American Society of Association Executives was presented in front of over 1000 Association leaders from across the Country in recognition of the 2012 Food Checkout Day to benefit Ronald McDonald House. Gutzmer and Rauch accepted the award on behalf of the many members and individuals that come together to make the program so successful.

- Farm Bureau upgrades its website to improve member relations and communications.
- Cook CFB PAC names seven Cook County Commissioners “Friends of the Farm Bureau” and endorses four candidates for office in Cook County.
- Cook County Farm Bureau receives the President’s Award and Liberty Bell from the Illinois Farm Bureau® in recognition of outstanding and innovative programing.



President of the Cook County Farm Bureau, Jim Gutzmer (r), accepts the President's Award from Phillip Nelson (left), President of the Illinois Farm Bureau. The President's Award for the largest size County Farm Bureau was presented for the best overall programming and activities in the areas of Ag Literacy, Commodities/Marketing, Health/Safety, Legislative/Political Process, Local Affairs, Communications/Promotion, Member Relations, Policy Development and Membership Quota. Our organization also received the Liberty Bell Award for its efforts in Legislative, Local Issues, Political Action and Policy Implementation.

## 2013

- Farm Bureau launches a ‘Speakers Bureau’ designed to connect groups, organizations, and clubs with local experts in the field of modern farming, roadside marketing, greenhouse production and farm related information/issues.
- The ‘Cook County Staff Exchange Program’ is named a County Activity of Excellence by the American Farm Bureau Federation®.



Cook County Farm Bureau directors gathered around the American Farm Bureau Federation President, Bob Stallman in Nashville at the booth that helped members from across the country learn about the award-winning County Staff Exchange program. Left to right: Mark Yunker, Jim Brandau, Harry Stuenkel, Jim Gutzmer, President Stallman, Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Dan Biernacki, and Mike Rauch.

- The Master Gardener Resource Center opens in the Cook County Farm Bureau office to aid members in search of information on soil testing recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, and pest identification and treatment.

- Farm Bureau launches a Young Leader/Ag Professional Group in an effort to attract and engage younger individuals in the agricultural industry.

## 2014

- Farm Bureau’s “Passport to the Farm Camp” for children ages 7-11 is named a County Activities of Excellence by the American Farm Bureau Federation.
- Cook County Farm Bureau hosts the county’s first “Meet the Buyers” event designed to help farmers connect with buyers.



*Sam, Paul, Vince and Wally of Angelo Caputo's Fresh Market met with area farmer and CCFB Board Member, Ruth Zeldenrust (r), during the Meet the Buyer event on February 18th in Orland Park. The event provided the unique opportunity for farmers to market their 2014 crop and livestock prospects with area buyers of food. See additional photos on Page 4 or on our Facebook page.*

- Farm Bureau rebrands and relaunches Local Farm Products, consumers one stop shop for local farmstands, greenhouses, and agri-businesses.
- Cook County Farm Bureau receives the President’s Award from the Illinois Farm Bureau for outstanding programing in the areas of Agricultural Literacy, Commodities/Marketing, Communications/Promotions, Health/Safety, Legislative/Political Process, Local Affairs, Member Relations, Policy Development, and Membership Quota.

## 2015

- Farm Bureau partners with Ted’s Greenhouse and Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana to re-create the rooftop garden at the Lurie House for the Flower and Garden Show.
- Farm Bureau launches the “Farming Forum” program designed to explore new ways to produce food, creatively market and launch value-added programs.

## 2016

- Cook County Farm Bureau’s “Grocery Giveaway” program is named a County Activities of Excellence by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The program connected urban consumers to local farmers through social media.
- Farm Bureau submits the state’s first policy on Community Support Agriculture programs. The policy is later considered by delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting.
- Farm Bureau launches “Farm Bureau Cares Day” in which Farm Bureau leadership and staff assist local charities.
- Farm Bureau launches the “Master Member Club” to recognize Farm Bureau members’ new member recruitment efforts.

## 2017

- Cook County Farm Bureau Board members approved a bylaw change to provide for a new classification of member, the Professional Member (PM). The PM classification is for individuals who are employed in farm and agricultural related occupations but do not directly earn their income from farming.
- Janet McCabe assumes the role as Cook County Farm Bureau President, making her Cook County Farm Bureau's first female President.
- Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation hosts its first annual "Farming for our Future" gala and raises over \$25,000 to support Farm Bureau's agricultural literacy efforts.
- Farm Bureau partners with Ted's Greenhouse and COUNTRY Financial for a display at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show.



*A John Deere tractor with planter with corn growing was a huge attraction during the Flower and Garden Show held in March on Navy Pier in the Country Financial Garden.*

- Farm Bureau hosts its first annual Farm Crawl.

## 2018

- Farm Bureau in partnership with Fairway Farms in Lemont, host a magical farm-to-table dinner at Cog Hill.
- Cook County Farm Bureau launches its latest website to better serve members and to communicate more effectively to the general public.
- Farm Bureau spearheads a District 5 Sense of the Delegate Resolution calling on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board to seek out solutions for farmer member families and small businesses on the devastating impact of rising health insurance costs.
- Cathy Malloy, Family and Consumer Science teacher at Westchester Middle School is named a finalist for "Teacher of the Year" by the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program.
- Farm Bureau introduces policy revising and updating the state's Government Assisted Nutrition Program and Organic Agriculture policies.

## 2019

- Farm Bureau launches the "Food Pantry Challenge" and financially supports 14 local food pantries.

- The Foundation's Gala transitions to a Fun'raiser and plants the seeds of farm and food literacy.