



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Celebrating 100 Years . . . Honoring Tradition—Leading The Future

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 94 No. 2

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

February 2020

Mark Your Calendar

FEBRUARY		
20	Food Checkout Day	pg. 1
22	Creating a Farm Enterprise	pg. 12
25	Farm Succession Planning	pg. 12
29	Beginning Beekeeping	pg. 12
MARCH		
1	Beginning Beekeeping	pg. 12
11	Teacher Workshop	pg. 12
12	From Farm to you Addressing Food Insecurity	pg. 12
APRIL		
20	Beekeeping Q&A Session	pg. 12
MAY		
16	Planning for Organic Certification	pg. 12

HOLD THE DATE!

BREAKFAST AT THE FARM BUREAU

100 Year Anniversary Celebration Open House
Great fun & activities for members of all ages and interests!
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.

Question of the Month

See page 2 for a Historic photo from the CCFB'S first 100 years and respond to the question related to the photo.

January's winner is **Felix Cheskie**



Last month's question: *What year did this group of farmers meet at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago to decide if they wanted to proceed with organizing the Cook County Farm Bureau®?*

Answer: 1920



Cook County Farm Bureau® receives the "County Award of Excellence" (CAE) from the American Farm Bureau Federation in recognition of outstanding programming and volunteerism in the area of public relations by the P.R. Team and Board of Directors. Front row: left to right Bob Rohrer, Roger Freeman, Mike Rauch, Bona Heinsohn, second row: left to right: Todd Price, Tim Stuenkel, Gerry Kopping, Dan Biernacki, American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Scott Vanderwal, Jim Bloomstrand, Karen Biernacki, Mark Yunker, Ruth Zeldenrust and Janet McCabe.

2020 Foundation Scholarship Applications Being Accepted—Last Chance

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® is open for the 22nd annual "Farm and Food" Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue their higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided eight scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$3,000 each.

The Foundation Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award scholarships to college students pursuing agricultural related fields of study. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to individuals in Cook County involved past or present in an approved FFA Program.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- **Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 14, 2020.** Late applications will not be considered. Much of the application can be submitted electronically.
- All applicants must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year. (with the exception of the Conserv FS FFA Award).
- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.

Continued on page 2

Farm Bureau Partners with Local Food Pantry for 2020 Food Checkout Day...please lend a hand!

For the past 19 years, Cook County Farm Bureau® has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. Through the generosity of partners for nearly two decades, Farm Bureau donated over \$145,000 and nearly 100,000 pounds of food.

During that time, the House's business model has transitioned, and they no longer rely on the food donations provided by Food Checkout Day. **For the 2020 program, Farm Bureau will partner with Together We Cope, a local food pantry serving 27 south suburban communities in four townships, Breman, Orland, Palos, and Worth. Together We Cope, based in Tinley Park, serves 5,000 people monthly.**

As we prepare for a new, and hopefully long term, partnership with Together We Cope, we want to ask for your support. Help us to celebrate the healthy and nutritious food local farmers grow and raise by providing food donation staples like boxed cereal, oatmeal, mac and cheese, pasta, and peanut butter or through cash donations.

All donations will go to Together We Cope and the 5,000 people who rely on their services monthly.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office at 6438 Joliet Road in Countryside or at your local COUNTRY Financial office. Cash donations can be mailed to the Farm Bureau office using the enclosed envelope or by calling 708-354-3276. See page 5 for more details.

Who We Are...

Cook County Farm Bureau is made up of many members including farmers, landowners, foodies, greenhouse operators, specialty growers, food consumers and customers of the Farm Bureau's affiliated companies (Country Financial, Conserv FS, IAA Credit Union, etc.). We bring together many members with diverse backgrounds and food interests to support the success of local farmers and to keep agriculture present and strong in Cook County.

This Co-Operator publication is designed for members to share more about how Cook County Farm Bureau is working for local farmers and agriculture and to help our members know more about farming, food, fiber and bio-fuels. As an added value, we provide great membership deals, savings, discounts, benefits, programming and activities that reflect our agricultural heritage and members' modern expectations.

Please enjoy reading and thank you for your support of area agriculture and your membership!

In memoriam...



Carol Yunker
Cook County Farm Bureau was saddened by the passing of Carol Yunker, long-time volunteer on the Member Relations Team and spouse of former board member, Don Yunker. We will miss her joy and positive energy.



Bonnie Duvall
Cook County Farm Bureau was also saddened to learn of the passing of Bonnie Duvall, spouse of 40 years to Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation following an extended battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Duvall family during this difficult time.

Hello Ciao Guten Tag Hola Bonjour Tere Olá Shalom

Translate to other Languages

We are very fortunate to have members that come from various backgrounds and countries. While we publish this publication in English, the Google Translate App can convert the publication text through your smart phone screen into Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and a host of other languages. Check it out. Enjoy and happy reading!

Cześć Aloha Zdravo Salam Dobry den Hei God Dag Alo

Historical Question of the Month



The American Farm Bureau Federation® recognized Cook County Farm Bureau's programming with what award in 2013, 2014, 2016 and again in 2020?

Answers (if not at the tip of your tongue) are available online at cookcfb.org/ccfb/ourhistory. 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).

Check next month's publication for the answer and the next historical question of the month.



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...

- Bob Resch, former volunteer for the Master Gardener help desk, for stopping in to catch up with the Farm Bureau staff following the New Year's holiday. It was great to see you!
- Our members who are joining the 100-year celebration by purchasing Centennial Legacy patio blocks to support the Foundation Scholarship program and Ag literacy efforts.
- The 100-year Anniversary Committee and staff for working so hard to create a celebratory event worthy of the organization's long history.
- Carol Yunker (posthumously) for providing such positive light and energy as a volunteer

- in the organization. We will miss you.
- The Illinois Farm Bureau Marketing Department for providing such wonderful support in creating the various banners, 100-year anniversary materials, flyers, brochures, and promotional items. You really help us look good!
- The many members who have been renewing their voting and associate memberships recently. We look forward to serving you!
- Member and school-teacher, Michele Goeva for sharing program information with her fellow educators including ag literacy resources, workshops and programs

2020 Foundation Scholarship Applications Being Accepted...Feb 14 Deadline

Continued from page 1

- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agricultural related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food, fuel, or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or print an application out from our website at cookcfb.org/foundation/scholarships.

What is an Agricultural Career? Farming, of course, but so much more! Below are a few examples.



Biotechnologist

Horticulturist

Nutritionist/Dietitian

Are You a Long-Time Member Age 90 or Above?

The Cook County Farm Bureau's 100-year Celebration Committee wants to recognize our long-time members during our "Breakfast at the Farm Bureau" celebration event scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cook County Farm Bureau building in Countryside. If you are a "long time" member, age 90 or above, and interested in attending to be a part of the celebration, please contact Katie Smith at the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276. For those members that fit the criteria and let us know in advance of your attendance, we will order a special gift, a Cook County Farm Bureau gate sign, for you! Thank you!

Co-Operator

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Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056

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Editor Bob Rohrer **Copy Analyst** Ashley Christensen **Copy Development** CCFB Office Staff

Officers & Directors
Janet McCabe, President
Michael Rauch, Vice President
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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Priceless”

Who remembers the Mastercard credit card “Priceless” marketing campaign “there are some things money can’t buy. For everything else, there’s MasterCard”? The commercial identified various items or experiences that the credit card could purchase but ultimately, the card brought you something you could not buy...that once in a life-time moment, that rare connection, the ideal (tears in your eyes) conversation. I was shocked to see that the campaign started in 1997!

The campaign was all about the “Human Connection”. That connection is something that we humans intrinsically crave...through family, spouse, friends and even strangers.

The Human Connection may not have been the expectation for the original creation of Cook County Farm Bureau 100 years ago. However, it has been a part of the reason that the Cook County Farm Bureau has been successful for 100 years. And it will be a main reason that Cook County Farm Bureau is successful for the next 100 years.

In the early 1900s, farming was an isolated, sometimes solitary (even lonely) occupation. Family and church were the primary connections a farmer and farm families had to experience that Human Connection. The Cook County Farm Bureau helped expand that connection by providing new opportunities...

- for farmers to work and bond together for a common cause.
- for farmers to socialize with others with similar interests and problems.
- for farmers to connect with others beyond their limited circle.
- for farmers gain leadership, educational and life experience skills.
- for farmers to improve their own lifestyles and business operations.

Friendships were built, relationships were nurtured, worlds were expanded. Members broke bread together, commiserated together, laughed together, cried together, grew together. The Human Connection became a driving force for member participation, involvement, leadership, action, life. This is not changed today nor will it tomorrow.

When I was hired as manager (last century!), it quickly became obvious to me that that group of Board of Directors was very tightly knit. They loved to eat together, traveled together and laughed together beyond the usual meetings and activities found at a county farm bureau. Through Cook County Farm Bureau, this group of farmers had gained great human connections that made for a strong county farm bureau and lasted through decades.

I was recently taught an important lesson about the Human Connection. In recent years, I took time to sit down and talk to this particular volunteer. I wanted to be welcoming, although, at times, I was feeling the stress of being “too busy.” The more I took time to chat with this volunteer, the more interested I became in the give-and-take of our perspectives on a variety of topics: kids, world events, theories of volunteer management, growing plants, books, fishing, exercise, and many others. My expectation was not friendship. However, a friendship slowly blossomed.

This friend recently dropped by my office and surprised me with a gift...an antique bamboo fly rod that had been owned by his grandfather. My first thought was that this was a priceless gift (those of you who know my love of fly fishing understand). The gesture touched me deeply and I couldn’t help wondering

“What did I do to deserve such a priceless gift?” As I have reflected upon it further, I realize it is the friendship with this individual that is priceless.

At its root, Human Connection is making time and placing value on other people rather than focusing on distractions. How many Human Connections have I missed out on through the years because I’m “too busy”?

Cook County Farm Bureau is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2020. I encourage those of you that have been involved in the organization to think about how many Human Connections have resulted from the creation of this organization throughout this history.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Human Connection...Priceless!

Farm Bureau Establishes 2020 State Legislative Priorities

During a recent meeting, Farm Bureau leaders established the following as the 2020 state legislative priorities:

- Seek sufficient levels of state funding for agricultural programs.
- Maintain a balanced process for siting livestock farms through the Livestock Management Facilities Act that protects both the environment and farmers’ ability to raise livestock.
- Support state tax policies that build a positive business climate. This includes supporting agricultural sales tax incentives and the Farmland Assessment Law.
- Continue to support efforts that benefit and expand habitat for pollinators statewide, including education and outreach, habitat development, and science and research. At the same time, ensure farmers have access to pesticides, such as neonicotinoids, needed to protect crop growth. Support Illinois’ NLRs, which set a 2025 target of a 25 percent reduction in phosphorus and a 15 percent reduction in nitrates leaving the state via Illinois’ major rivers.

Continued on page 9



CENTENNIAL LEGACY PATIO TO BE CREATED TO BENEFIT FOUNDATION

BUILDING A COMMEMORATIVE LEGACY PATIO IN HONOR THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF CCFB SERVICE TO MEMBERS

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 per IRS guidelines. Use the order form below or go to cookcfb.org/foundation to donate.

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION BRICK ORDER FORM

4x8

Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____
 Line 3 _____

8x8

Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____
 Line 3 _____
 Line 4 _____
 Line 5 _____
 Line 6 _____

8X16 / BENCH

Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____
 Line 3 _____
 Line 4 _____
 Line 5 _____
 Line 6 _____

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

join us
for a breakfast celebration

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020
9AM-12PM | CCFB BUILDING
6438 JOLIET RD, COUNTRYSIDE, IL

Free Activities Include:

Breakfast, brief ceremony, time capsule planting, oak tree planting, recognition of our oldest farmers, groundbreaking/dedication of the Centennial Legacy Patio, scavenger hunt and more!

Attendees are encouraged to browse the historical displays and participate in many family-friendly activities.

MEMBERS THAT RSVP WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST.

Kindly RSVP by March 25
 Call the office at 708.354.3276 or email membershipkatie@cookcfb.org

Farm Shadow Program to focus on Agricultural Career Exploration



During a recent shadow experience, these high school students learned the process of seed coating, sorting and processing at Ball Horticulture.

Our new farm shadow program is a wonderful opportunity for our future workforce to gain valuable insight into potential agriculture careers. Through partnerships with our members farming or working in careers in agriculture, we hope to provide students with an understanding of how their school coursework connects to the myriad jobs in our industry so they will come away with a better understanding of the skills needed to be successful. We want our area's enthusiastic, bright minds to seek agricultural careers through this program.

We are seeking agricultural business partners that want to help mentor young leaders in a variety of ways such as:

- Offering job shadow opportunities at your business/farm
 - Opening your business or farm for one of our Ag Career Exploration events (we will work with the school and you to facilitate the experience)
- We can also provide you with ways to connect with schools including:
- Volunteering for a Career Day speaking engagement at a local school
 - Judging a Science Fair at a local school
 - Serving as a judge during FFA contests such as parliamentary procedure, public speaking or job interviewing
 - Volunteering at an Ag in the Classroom educational event to showcase your occupation
 - Listing your career openings (part-time, summer, volunteer) through our monthly newsletter

Our farm shadow program provides a way to give back to the next generation through our middle school, high school and even some college programming. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members to reach the next generation and get them excited about the diversity of careers related to the field of agriculture.

If you would like be included as a contact in this new program, please reach out to Diane Merrion or Bob Rohrer at 708-354-3276 or via email at aitc@cookcfb.org or brohrer@cookcfb.org respectively.

Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...

Pete & Beth Kennedy, owner's of Stanley Luke Farm

- Cook County Farm Bureau members since 1982 (28yrs), Stanley Luke Farm is a 3rd generation, family owned and operated farm boarding for Hunters/ Jumpers/ Eventing and Dressage.
- The barn has been in its current location since 1932, as Peter and Beth Kennedy, Krissy Adamski, and Sara Merrifield continue to run this family-oriented barn.
- We have a wonderful riding school that is intentionally small and top notch!



Our Dressage trainer, Marcia Riggs, a big part of our training team.

DO YOU HAVE A STANLEY LUKE FARM FAVORITE MEMORY?

MaryAnn Kennedy on the farm! Her father started the farm and MaryAnn kept it going; she was a huge part of the farm and loved by everyone. She was 92 when she recently passed.

WHAT SERVICE IS A CLIENT FAVORITE?

There are many, but clients love spending time with their horses and to meet their individual goals with their horse through clinics, shows, riding, etc.

WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?

Watching our clients grow and progress and seeing young horses grow into confident, successful animals that take care of their rider. It is a true partnership with rider and horse; there is so much to this sport.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT STANLEY LUKE FARM?

In addition to boarding, sales and competitions, we have a limited riding school program that caters to kids, juniors, and adults.

DOES STANLEY LUKE FARM HAVE A FAVORITE COMPETITION OR SHOW?

WEF in Wellington Florida, Lamplight Equestrian Center in IL and Fox River Valley Pony Club horse trails.

Stanley Luke Farm
10101 5th Ave. Cutoff
Countryside, IL 60525
Ph: 708-557-3951 or 708-557-3971
Email: pnb@stanleylukefarm.com
Hours: Tue, Wed, Thurs
7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Fri: 7 a.m.- 7p.m.
Sat & Sun
7 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Monday- Closed
Online: <http://stanleylukefarm.com>
FB: Stanley Luke Farm



Your Chicago South Agency

6438 Joliet Road | Countryside, IL 60525 | 708-352-5555



Jeff Maxson
708-352-5555
Agency Manager



Robert Sweiss
773-498-7339
6415 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60638



Theo Leonard
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



Gwen Shaw
773-487-0919
820 E. 87th Street, Ste 212
Chicago, IL 60619



Silver Castillo
773-284-5953
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Leo Maldonado
773-254-5810
5716 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60629



Martha Dominguez
773-254-5810
3458 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608



Kirk Gregory
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



David DeSantiago
773-254-5810
5716 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60629



David Jara
773-284-5945
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Mike Sheahan
773-239-7800
10414 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643



Steve Phillips
312-583-1416
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605



Alonzo Nevarez
773-284-5539
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Ed Beavers
312-588-1404
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605



Tony Munno
708-352-5555
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525



Nick Zegar
708-352-5560
16614 W 159th St, #303
Lockport, IL 60441



Edgar DeLeon
773-498-1184
6239 S. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638



Daniel Jemison
708-937-0023
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525



Kirk Gregory, Jr.
773-619-0649
1401 S. State St. #150
Chicago, IL 60605

Prairie State College

The Veterans TOWNHALL Meeting

February 18, 2020

6 to 8 p.m.

Barnes & Noble College Auditorium

Southland Veterans come join us for this interactive town hall meeting where you will have the opportunity to hear from VA's Office of Community Care, IDVA and Hines VA leadership on topics such as the new VA's Mission Act. There will be the opportunity to ask questions and share your concerns.

To RSVP and for more information, contact Georges Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu



Sponsored by:



Prairie State College
Student Veterans Center

February
20th



FOOD CHECKOUT DAY

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® and celebrate Food Checkout Day and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers by raising much needed funds for **Together We Cope**, a local food pantry based in Tinley Park.



- **Collect non-perishable food items & deliver to the Farm Bureau office**
- **Make a cash/online donation**
- **Become a Cart Sponsor for \$250**



*Food items can be dropped off at the CCFB office before February 19th.

*Cash Donations can be made by calling (708) 354-3276

The Board of Directors took action at their January Board Meeting to contribute \$1,000 to the Chicagoland & NW Indiana Ronald McDonald House Charity in support of their continued efforts to provide a home away from home for families with hospitalized children in the Chicago area.

Food Checkout Day 2020

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® and celebrate Food Checkout Day and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers by raising much needed funds for Together We Cope, a local food pantry based in Tinley Park.

Together We Cope is a homelessness prevention agency that serves 27 communities in four townships in Chicago's south suburbs. As a bridge for Southland residents in temporary crisis, Together We Cope serves 5,000 people monthly.

Please consider partnering with us to raise much needed funds for Together We Cope. Your donation will go to the families in need.

Shopping Cart Sponsor
Includes promotion on cart signs at the grocery store event, signage, media, and social media inclusion.
\$250

Company/ Individual Name _____

Written as you wish it to appear in publications or on signage

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If affiliated with a Country Financial Agency, please indicate Yes No

Please make checks payable to: Cook County Farm Bureau. All proceeds will be donated to Together we Cope.

For more information, contact Bona Heinsohn at the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or bona@cookcfb.org.



Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, stopped by the Cook County Farm Bureau's Food Pantry Challenge booth at the tradeshow in Austin Texas during the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in January. He took it a few minutes to talk to Bob Rohrer, Farm Bureau manager and Bona Heinsohn, Director of Governmental Affairs/PR about Cook County Farm Bureau and the success of the Food Pantry Challenge.

New Member Benefit Platform



Sign up to
access over
302,000
discounts

<https://ilfb.abenity.com>



Access local and national discounts at work, at home, or on the go! Save on thousands of hotels, restaurants, movie tickets, retailers, florist, theme parks, national attractions, concerts, and events.

Sign up today! <https://ilfb.abenity.com>



Your South Holland Agency

 Jeff Orman Agency Manager 708-560-7777	 Andrew Carrell South Holland 708-596-3999	 Jim Verduin South Holland 708-596-0008	 Randall Cox Flossmoor 708-679-1870	 Elliot Day Flossmoor 708-679-1870
 Gary Molenhouse Manhattan 815-478-0190	 Josh Van Namen Worth 708-361-3925	 Jim Pathemore Orland Park 708-745-5151	 Tim Perchinski Steger 708-754-7300	 Bob Smith Homewood 708-798-4844
 Paul Turay Mokena 708-478-0423	 John VanGennep Mokena 708-478-5500	 Bob Deenik Lansing 708-474-5600	 Tim Van Zuidam St. John, IN 219-365-1781	 Mike Cerf Oak Forest 708-560-7777
 Charmaine Toney-Adkins Oak Forest 708-381-4010	 Grace Cordero Oak Forest 708-381-4011	 John Tymms Worth 708-480-5091		

Helping you protect what matters most

o819-503HO



Agricultural Literacy

AG LIT BIT

The Waiting Game



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

Regular decision, early action, early decision, rolling admissions, and the list goes on. Many students and parents are currently receiving and awaiting decisions on college applications.

I recall the situation with my children including waiting for the mail delivery each day and finally the relief at knowing where they were going and what they would be majoring in (meteorology, marine biology and aviation!). The excitement of these potential careers was incredible as we'd have a discounted way to get to beautiful places and even know the weather!

Fast forward to graduations and careers and guess what? I don't have a pilot, marine biologist, or meteorologist (though they're still amazing, productive children). The vast amount of post-high school choices today is mind-blowing and confusing. Many don't have much exposure to what it takes to succeed in these careers or personal experience with the industry they are heading into.

In speaking with parents, students, and teachers about agriculture, many assume the only career in agriculture is that of farmer. While that is one option,

others include jobs in horticulture, plant science, animal science, graphic design, food packaging, food science and ag engineering to name a few.

The Cook County Farm Bureau® is aligning our resources with agriculture professionals through our Job Shadow Program. We can't think of a better way to invite the next generation into agriculture than to show them how the current generation is laying the groundwork for their future. How can a student select a major if they don't even know it exists? College nights don't always showcase their Schools of Agriculture, so we hope to open that conversation and bring awareness to these majors and to our Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarships for youth entering our industry.

Next month we will include a summary of our Ag Leadership Academy which is another way our Foundation provides experiences for high school students to see a snapshot of the careers available right here in Cook County. If you are looking for resources on ag careers, send us a note with your questions to aitc@cookcfb.org.

My thoughts are with you as you open those envelopes (oops I mean emails) from schools during the next few months.

Diane can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



A Great Read

George Washington Carver for Kids: His Life and Discoveries, with 21 Activities by Peggy Thomas tells the inspiring story of the remarkable American, George Washington Carver. Carver was a scientist, educator, artist, inventor, and humanitarian. Born into slavery during the Civil War, he later pursued an education and would become the

first Black graduate from Iowa Agricultural College and moved into a teaching position at the Tuskegee Institute.

Ms. Thomas's book includes a timeline, resources for further research, and 21 hands-on activities to help better appreciate Carver's genius.

A wonderful book to study during Black History Month and Earth Day this April, Ms. Thomas shares this quote from George Washington Carver, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it". As she points out, he spent his life promoting conversation and developing plant-based products from agriculture.

Check out two additional books on Mr. Carver including *In the Garden with Dr. Carver*, by Susan Grigsby and *George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor* by Nathan Olson.



Head to Salt Lake City!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation is providing one teacher the opportunity to attend the National AITC professional development conference in Salt Lake City, Utah which will be held June 23-26, 2020.

One teacher from a Cook County school will be selected to receive a \$700 grant covering registration (and some additional expenses) for this opportunity to learn how teachers from across the nation are using agriculture in their curriculum. You will be

inspired by outstanding presenters, workshops, and peers.

Interested applicants can apply by visiting our website at <https://agclassroom.org/conferences/index.cfm> or email us at aitc@cookcfb.org.

“Specialty” School Programs in Demand

We are so appreciative for the recent invitations to bring agriculture to a wide variety of classrooms in Cook County who are including this important topic in their curriculums. We enjoyed visiting all AP Human Geography classes at Loyola Academy in Wilmette over three days. Our presentations touched upon the Agricultural Revolutions, along with the topics of sustainability, food security and changes in production and consumption. We thank the teachers and the students for their engagement and discussion during our visits.

At the middle school level, Ag Literacy Committee member Kim Kirchherr visited Westchester Middle School to speak with their Family and Consumer Sciences classes. Kim is a Registered Dietician and spoke to the students about food, nutrition and agriculture. Her reflections on the program can be found on her blog: <https://kimkirchherr.com/>.

We continue to accept requests for presentations from educators in middle and high school who are studying the topic of agriculture with their students.

SPRING 2020 GRANT OPPORTUNITY
 COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION
 AG IN THE CLASSROOM

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
HORTICULTURE
PLANTS
WATER
SOIL

Application Information:
 Completed application must be post-marked by **February 4, 2020**. Applicants will be notified by February 14th. Questions can be directed to Ag Literacy Coordinator, Diane Merrion, aitc@cookcfb.org or 708-354-3276.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering grants up to \$400 each to Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers to fund projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. Grants can be used for classroom lessons on the topics of soil, plants, water, horticulture or environmental science. Applicants using Earth Day as a theme will be given special consideration due to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Application can be found at <http://bit.ly/spring2020grant>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

AIDAN WALTON
 Scholarship Recipient 2019

Education/Degree: Illinois State University / Agribusiness, Completing Masters in Agribusiness at ISU

Current Role: Graduate Research Assistant at ISU assisting with undergraduate courses and researching various agricultural topics for professors. Summer plans - Senior Agronomy Intern with Evergreen FS scouting fields by drone. Career aspiration - Crop Specialist and Certified Crop Advisor.

Why Agriculture: I chose agriculture as a major for a couple reasons. For one, my family has a small farm in southern Illinois which I did not grow up on but was always around while growing up. The most prominent reason though, is that I knew agriculture was a rapidly growing industry and I had heard fantastic things about the program at my university.

Agriculture Adventures for Families

Winter's cold and snow drives away some specialty animals we see at warmer times of the year, including birds. Some of the birds we feature this month can be found in the wild, while others are domesticated for breeding, eggs, meat and fiber. We couldn't share all the interesting facts such as a male duck is known as a Drake (an adult female duck is a hen or a duck, and a group of ducks can be called a raft, team, or paddling), but hope you enjoy learning about these feathered friends.

Specialty Animals

Quails

Quail are small, plump, ground nesting birds in the Phasianidae family. Quail can fly short distances, but they spend most of their time on the ground. Some quail are found on farms and domesticated for their meat and egg production. Quail used for their meat, feathers, and high-quality eggs. Quail eggs are high in iron, protein, and vitamins!



Fun Fact: Quail can lay 10 to 20 eggs per clutch.



Rheas



The rhea is the large South American bird and is closely related to ostriches and emus. Rheas are flightless birds with long, powerful legs. Their large wings are used for balance and for changing direction as the rhea runs. Rheas and emus are alike with their three-toed feet while ostriches only have two-toed feet. Adult rheas are desirable for their meat, feathers, oil, and leather.

Ostriches are flightless, swift running, African birds with long necks and long legs. They are the largest and heaviest birds in the world typically weighing 140-290 pounds and measuring 6-9 feet in heights. The common ostrich is raised on farms around the world, mainly for its feathers. It's skin is used for leather products and its meat is sold as a delicacy in many parts of the world.

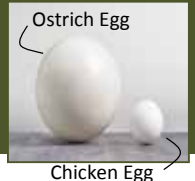


Ostriches



Fun Facts:

- An ostrich can run up to 43 miles per hour.
- The ostrich is the world's largest flightless bird.
- Ostriches lay in the largest eggs of any bird at 15 cm long. One ostrich egg can weigh as much as two dozen chicken eggs.



Emus

These native Australian flightless birds were born to run with their long and powerful legs. Emus are the second-largest birds in the world. Female emus lay 5—15 avocado-green eggs per clutch. An emus body contains 3 gallons of oil. Emu oil is used in lotions, soaps, shampoo, and healthy care products.



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Source: IL Ag in the Classroom



If you like birds, check out *Hatching Chicks in Room Six*, the Agriculture Literacy theme for the 100th anniversary Open House on March 28th.

This learning station will include newborn chicks, facts on the lifecycle of chicken hatching, egg candling and a take home craft for children (clucking egg cup).



February Word Search

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| Birds | Flightless |
| Clutch | Leather |
| Delicacy | Oil |
| Domestic | Ostrich |
| Ducks | Quail |
| Egg | Rheas |
| Emus | Serrations |
| Feathers | Specialty |

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.

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 2020 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.
 Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is.

Darlene Boomsma



Blue Eggs, Baby Birds Beat Winter Blahs

The promise of blue eggs from a chirping cardboard box helps beat the winter blahs at our house this season. Oh, how some tales from our household could form a nonsensical storybook. Yet, even Dr. Seuss didn't put this color of egg into rhymes nor did he illustrate the century-old tradition of chicken delivery via the U.S. Postal Service, America's exclusive shipper of live chicks.

Now nine-year chicken farmers, our kids this year express the most excitement about selecting a breed that lays blue-tinted eggs. The Ameraucanas on their list of laying chickens for the 4-H Fair will add a blue hue to the current shades of brown, white and Dr. Seuss-approved green eggs that currently fill our cartons.

Personally, I love the green eggs and remain fascinated with the delivery method of the baby birds. That once-a-year moment for us arrives in mid-February with a beloved postal delivery of chirpy 4-H chicks, a shipping phenomenon God made possible. Chicks absorb yolk at hatching, giving these little guys the nutrients to sustain their first days of life without food and water, like the conditions of a cardboard box.

Upon shipment, we track the location of that box, peppered with air holes for ventilation, as it travels

from an Iowa hatchery to the local post office. There, we hear the chirping package in the back room before asking for it and see it making the postal workers happier. The package draws delightful curiosity from postal patrons, regardless of the line length. And, it makes the cutest racket all the way home in the minivan.

At home, the kids lift the roughly 30 chirping fuzzballs from the box, where the birds shared warmth in that confine. The kids introduce each to food, water, and the lamp-warmed, 95-degree environment they need in their first week. A few with unique markings will earn names right away. A couple may not make it, a fact of life. We sit for a while and watch the playful chicks, the groggy ones, and even the clumsy ones that toddle into the water troughs.

Within five to six months, I anticipate the arrival of the first blue egg to generate similar excitement to the very first egg the kids collected in 2012. I remember that our daughter, then age six, excitedly thanked the chickens. Then, she promptly asked for another to provide enough for a batch of chocolate chip cookies.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Family Farm and Food Bytes

AMERICANS BIG ON SNACKS, NEW FLAVOR COMBINATIONS

(FarmWeekNow) - A new survey, conducted by OnePoll on behalf of Moonstruck Chocolate, estimates Americans spend about \$9.22 per week on snacks, totaling \$479.44 a year, according to an article by ConfectionaryNews.com. That means average Americans spend more than \$30,000 on snacks during their lifetime, opening opportunities for food developers. So much do Americans love snacks that 18% claimed they would ditch all their electronic devices for a lifetime supply of snacks. A sixth of Americans claimed they would shave their heads for a lifetime chocolate supply. The survey surfaced interest in different flavor combinations, including strawberry and balsamic vinegar, chocolate and pizza, as well as bacon and vinegar.

REPORT SHOWS DIVERSITY OF AMERICAN FARMS (ERS) - Farming remains overwhelmingly comprised of family businesses. Family farms as a group accounted for 98% of farms and 88% of production in 2018, according to the Economic Research Service's latest report - America's Diverse Family Farms 2019 Edition.

Large-scale family farms accounted for the largest share of production at 46%. However, approximately 90% of U.S. farms are small. In 2018, small farms accounted for 48% of the land operated by farms. Midsize and large-scale family farms dominate production of cotton (82% of production), cash grains/soybeans (74%), and hogs (66%). Small and large-scale farms together account for 69% of beef production. Small farms produce 56% of U.S. poultry and egg output and 50% of hay.



GENERAL CRP SIGNUP UNDERWAY (FarmWeek) - Farmers may sign up for the general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) at area Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices until February 28. A separate CRP Grasslands sign up will be offered each year following general sign-up. Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/crp.

REPORT SHOWS RISE IN AGRITOURISM (FarmWeekNow) - U.S. agritourism continues to grow, with revenues more than tripling between 2012 and 2017, according to the latest U.S. Census of Agriculture. Adjusted for inflation, agritourism revenue grew from \$704 million in 2012 to almost \$950 million in 2017, not including wineries. Even with this growth, agritourism revenue accounted for 5.6% of farm-related income in 2017, U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers said.

Certain types of crop and livestock production — specifically grapes, fruit and tree nuts, and specialty livestock farms — had a positive and statistically significant impact on agritourism revenue. Direct-to-consumer marketing, such as farmers' markets, and direct-to-retail food sales, such as selling to restaurants, provide free marketing for agritourism enterprises through word of mouth. Also, farms and ranches with cattle and horses had a greater likelihood of implementing agritourism. Horses, in particular, are associated with higher value agritourism enterprises, such as dude ranches and ranches specializing in tourist activities, including camping and horseback riding, researchers reported.

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

Recipe of the Month: *Pesto*

Smits Farms, Sauk Village

Ingredients
 2 c fresh basil leaves 2 cloves garlic
 ½ c grated parmesan cheese 1/3 c pine nuts (or walnuts)
 ½ c extra-virgin olive oil salt and pepper to taste

Directions
 Using a food processor, finely chop the basil and garlic. Add the Parmesan cheese and pine nuts and pulse into a coarse paste. With the machine on, slowly add the olive oil until incorporated. Season with salt and pepper. Can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 1 week. Can also be frozen but will darken in color.

Recipes reprinted with member's permission from our 2019 Cookfresh Recipe Collection Brochure, available online at www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes.

The 2020 Cookfresh Recipe Collection will be a "throwback" edition for our 100 year Anniversary. Recipes will be selected from decades of submissions to commemorate our Centennial! Recipe Booklets will be available at our 100 year Celebration Breakfast on March 28th and after. Visit our Events Calendar for details.

Get to Know Your Local Official: County Assessor

Primary Duties

The Chief County Assessment Officer (CCAO), or supervisor of assessments, is responsible for assessing the value of all real property within their jurisdiction for the purpose of real estate taxation. The assessment process plays an important role in local government. Equitable assessments assure property owners are paying their fair share of the costs of operating schools, providing police and fire protection, road construction and maintenance, and other basic public services.

The assessor is concerned with value, not taxes. The assessor does not collect taxes, calculate taxes or determine the tax rate. Taxing jurisdictions such as schools, cities, and townships, adopt budgets which determine the tax levy. The actual dollar amount of your tax bill is determined by how much money these local agencies need to operate. Every dollar of property tax remains in the local area to fund local government.

Property is assessed as of January 1 each year. The CCAO, in conjunction with township assessors, where applicable, determines a full or partial value of new construction or improvements. In Illinois, a legal assessment is 33.3 % of value. To estimate value, the assessor generally uses three approaches.

- Find properties which have sold recently that are comparable to the property being assessed.
- The “cost approach” is an estimate of how much

money it would take to replace the property with one similar to it.

- Known as the “income approach” this is used to assess property such as an apartment or office building which produce income. State law requires that all real property be reassessed every four years.

After the assessor places a property value on each parcel of land in the county, the board of review hears complaints and determines those property values. The Illinois Department of Revenue analyzes the assessments in every county throughout the state and determines the State Equalization Factor. This multiplier is then applied to those counties’ assessments which fall below the statutory 33.3 level of property value. The county clerk then reviews the taxing jurisdiction budgets and determines the tax rates that should be applied to the assessments based on the estimated expenditures for each unit of local government. The county treasurer calculates the tax bills, mails them out, and collects the tax dollars.

Other Responsibilities

The county assessor is the clerk of the board of review and is present at all hearings. The board of review hears complaints from taxpayers concerning real estate assessments and renders decisions regarding values of property. The county assessor also prepares and maintains up-to-date tax maps, lists of property owners’ names and addresses, and

property record cards.

Training

To be eligible for the office of supervisor of assessments, a person must possess one of the following:

- Certified Illinois Assessing Official certificate from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute
- Certified Assessment Evaluator certificate from International Association of Assessing Officers
- Member of Appraisal Institute, Residential Member, and Senior Real Estate Analyst

In addition, a person must have passed an examination conducted by the Department of Revenue.

Term

Supervisor of assessments are elected or appointed by the county board and serve a four-year term.

FYI

Fritz Kaegi serves as Cook County Assessor. His main office is located at 118 N. Clark Street, Chicago, and can be reached at 312-443-7550. Additional information is available at cookcountyassessor.com.



Farm Bureau to Host Exclusive State Priorities Briefing for FB ACT & Voting Members

Cook County Farm Bureau® farmer and professional members as well as FB ACT members are encouraged to join Farm Bureau staff for an overview and discussion of Farm Bureau’s 2020 state priorities. These issues will guide the Farm Bureau’s state legislative agenda and will occupy much of Farm Bureau’s legislative time in 2020.

The briefing will be conducted via Skype for Business and is open to all FBACT, farmer, and professional members. Individuals with an email address on file with Farm Bureau will receive an invitation via email to the presentation.

The briefing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. If you have not provided or if you are unsure if you’ve provided Farm Bureau with your email, please contact Bona Heinsohn or Kelli McSherry at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org to ensure that you receive an invitation.

A recording of the presentation will be available afterwards as well.

Farm Bureau Establishes 2020 State Legislative Priorities

Continued from page 3

- Maintain a balanced system for antibiotic usage. Farmers know that quality food begins with quality care for their animals. That is why farmers use antibiotics strategically and under the guidance of their veterinarians.
- Support legislation limiting liability on agritourism for inherent risks.
- Seek changing flood levels for levee construction permits from “worst case analysis” to more measurable analysis.
- Support the expansion and enhancement of high-speed broadband while protecting the private property rights of farmers during the installation, maintenance, and upgrading of current services.
- Support a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture. Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org with any questions, concerns, or additional ideas.



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

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Earlier this year my farmer and I packed up our blue-eyed girl and our big, little boy and hit the road for our first family road trip. I had imagined car games and seeing random license plates. We did see some pretty distant licenses plates but there were no car games and no singing.

Instead our first day was spent looking at farm equipment, sprayers, and planters. We made it exactly six hours into our seventeen-hour adventure before we stopped for the night. Six hours. We barely made it out of Illinois.

The next day we traveled through Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. We traveled through a portion of the Great Smokey Mountains. We saw waterfalls. We climbed mountains. We didn’t see bears. Unfortunately, Highway 441 through the national park was closed due to snow. That night we made it to the Atlanta area.

Day three was a travel day. We traversed the rest of Georgia and into Florida. Candidly, I don’t remember much of the drive other than we didn’t see an alligator. That afternoon we made it to Disney! Our big, little boy wanted nothing more than to visit BB-8 and our blue-eyed girl tried desperately to be too old for it, but in the end, she glowed after seeing Belle and Tinkerbell.

We spent days four, five, and six at Disney. We traversed Animal Kingdom,

Hollywood Studios, Magic Kingdom (several times), and Epcot. We visited princesses and characters. We journeyed on safaris and river excursions. We flew magic carpets and visited different countries. And of course, we ate.

My farmer trekked the Disney property in Ariat steel toed work boots. Unlike the rest of the family, he packed only one pair of shoes. A steel toed pair of course. A pair that set off every metal detector at every park. The security staff got a couple of good looks at his legs and white socks.

Our big, little boy dreamt of BB-8, one of the droids from Star Wars. Nearly knocked down Tinkerbell. And went the entire week in either a Wisconsin Badgers hat, sweatshirt, or t-shirt. Unlike his dad, he left his work boots at home.

Despite her attempts to be too old for Disney, our blue-eyed girl fell back in love with Tinkerbell, Belle, and Ariel. During the drive and downtime at the hotel she only finished three books, Maximum

Ride Forever, The Isles of the Lost, and Return to the Isle of the Lost. She promptly finished Jurassic Park when we returned. She didn’t bring it with since it was a library book.

Day seven was spent at Hogwarts and Diagon Alley. Our big, little boy selected the wand carried by Severus Snape. Our blue-eyed girl has Hermione Granger’s wand from the last time we visited Hogwarts. With their dad in tow we drank hot butterbeer. Cold butterbeer. Iced butterbeer. We rode the Hogwarts Express, visited with Ernie Prang at the Knight Bus, saw Krecher peeking out of Number 12 Grimold Place, and of course, casted spells.

Our return journey included the Athena Parthenon in Nashville. As “the Athens of the South” Nashville constructed a temporary full-size replica Parthenon in 1897. The replica was so popular that a permanent structure was constructed in 1931. The 42-foot Athena statue was later added. Our blue-eyed girl has wanted to visit Nashville since the Parthenon was featured in Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Day eight was again a travel day and we traversed the remaining miles. With our first family road trip in the books we’re already looking forward to next year. Our blue-eyed girl has requested New Orleans, mainly for their beignets!

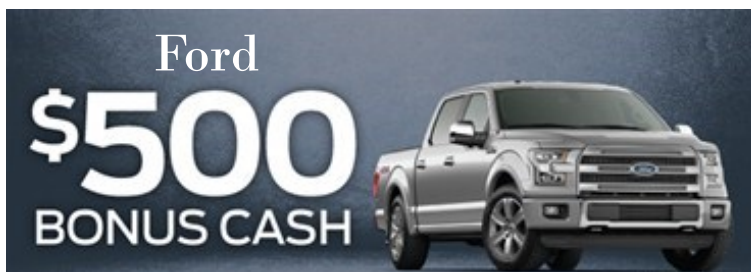
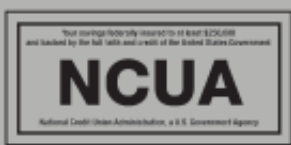
Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.





Already a member of your County Farm Bureau? You're eligible to join IAACU. Contact us to learn more about how we can meet your personal financial needs.

800.676.2541 www.iaacu.org



Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2019/2020 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2019/2020 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.



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.



Ilir Numani
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



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



Tim Hranka
Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Tim Hranka has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. B in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-1540. Tim has been a Career Financial Representative since January 2011.



Ibrahim Essa
Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 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 Riekema
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Brett Riekema has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St. in Prairie View, IL. His phone number is 847-415-2666. Brett has been a Financial Representative since May 2011.



Matthew Below
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Matthew Below has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd. Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3072. Matthew has been a Financial Representative since September 2019.



Kirk Gregory Sr.
Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Kirk Gregory Sr. has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 10414 S Western Ave. in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-239-7800. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since November 2008.



Kirk Gregory Jr.
Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2019. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Suite 150, Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-619-0649. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since February 2018.



Rocky Dellamano
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Rocky Dellamano has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for December 2019. His office is located at 814 Laraway Rd. in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is 815-485-4832. Rocky has been a Financial Representative since April 2014.



Dan Gallivan
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Dan Gallivan has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for December 2019. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-381-4015. Dan has been a Financial Representative since January 2018.



Jim Parthemore
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Jim Parthemore has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for December 2019. His office is located at 9432 W 143rd St. in Orland Park, IL. His phone number is 708-745-5151. Jim has been a Financial Representative since April 2000.



John Tymn
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
John Tymn has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for December 2019. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone number is 708-480-5091. John has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

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.

52inch bathroom sink and cabinet, Honey Oak, \$100. HP 19inch computer monitor, \$40. Call Jim at 708-594-6369.

5-Chevy Rally wheels 15x7 Stamped FW \$300. Call Angelo at 708-429-1512.

Townhouse in Mount Prospect, IL. 1 car garage plus additional parking, 2bedroom, 2 bath, large rooms, sunroom all on 1st floor no stairs excellent community \$250,000. Call Mary at 847-297-6807.

Two houses both 5bedroom with 2 bathrooms, asking \$69,000 each near EIU. Possible short sale! Come take a look. Real Estate call 217-232-6987 or 217-345-8351.

For Rent

Vacation Villas at Fantasy World II Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. Seven (7) nights in one-bedroom suite, full kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, sleeps four (4). \$650 for seven (7) nights. No presentation is required. Call Ms. Day at 708-347-9369 for availability.

Wanted

Wanting to buy your HO scale or N scale electric train engines, cars, buildings, or anything train related. Do you have electric trains in your closet, basement, crawl space, attic or garage that you're not using? I buy train items from just a few pieces to hundreds of pieces at a time. Why sell them bit by bit, I'll offer you a price on all you have! TURN THOSE UNWANTED TRAIN ITEMS INTO CASH and give me a call!! I also buy slot cars. Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

Wanted old and vintage items...toys, bicycles, fishing, coin operated pieces etc. Call Jim at 708-361-8230.

For Sale

Commercial Building 2300sq. ft with full basement. Fantastic opportunity, excellent location a mile from the expressway, 1½ block away from Arlington park train station. For more information call Rita at 847-259-9339.

Vacant waterfront lot 8712 sq. ft. in Marco Island Florida, facing Gulf of Mexico. Call Rita for more information at 847-259-9339.

SPRING BEE HIVE NUC PACKAGE PRE-ORDER www.bradsbeesandhoney.com FB: bradsbeesandhoney. Prices online: 50% deposit required. Delivery Available. Call/Text Brad 262-749-0716

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

For Cook County Farm Bureau members

All Cook County Farm Bureau members may run four non-commercial classified ads annually free in the Cooperator. Only items of personal property will be accepted. Ads must be in the office by the 17th of each month.

Category: For Sale Misc. For Sale Other For Rent Wanted

Name: _____

Farm Bureau # _____

Phone: _____

Ad: _____

*Please be sure to include a contact phone number where interested buyers can contact you. Ad can be typed or written. PRINT CLEARLY. (If not enough room, put on separate sheet)

Complete the above form and mail to:
Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.
You can also fax your ad to (708) 579-6056 or email to juanita@cookcfb.org
Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum.

Community Urban Garden Grant Program



Our Community Urban Garden Grant Program is looking to award six gardens in 2020...and we increased the award amount to \$350! Applications are now available. All community-based urban gardens in Cook County are encouraged to apply. Grant details and applications are available at:

- Online at: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/community-programs>
- Email Debbie at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org
- Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

- Illinois Extension School & Community Garden Training – 2 locations offered!

Saturday, February 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 N., Sacramento, Chicago, IL. 60612 or **Tuesday, February 11th** from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Illinois Extension Branch Office, 2205 Enterprise Drive, Suite 501, Westchester, IL. 60154. Contact Margaret Burns-Westmeyer with questions: 708-679-6889 or mburnswe@illinois.edu to attend. Supporting your school and community garden is important to us, and University of Illinois Extension's Cook County horticulture team is looking forward to serving you in 2020. To make the most of on-site visits, we are implementing a school and community garden training.

- Will/ South Cook Soil & Water Annual Recognition Dinner, Announcing the 2020 Conservation Farm Family Award: Bultema Farms & Greenhouses, Inc. Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 6 p.m. at Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center, 227 Gougar Rd., Joliet, IL. Tickets are available at our office 1201 S. Gougar Rd., New Lenox. For more information call 815-462-3106 ext.3 or email at info@will-scookswcd.org.

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 short 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.



Cook South Suburban Master Gardener Training Program Fall 2020 CCFB Foundation Scholarships Available

If you enjoy gardening and like to learn to share your gardening knowledge, the Illinois Extension Master Gardener Program may be for you. The next Master Gardener training for the south suburbs will take place in fall of 2020. Master Gardeners (MG) are a vital link in getting horticulture information to the public through Illinois Extension offices. Education is what we're all about.

The Cook County Farm Bureau® is home to a MG Extension Help Desk. The CCFB Foundation's Scholarship Program is offering financial assistance (Scholarships) available to members who apply, are accepted, and complete the South Suburban Master Gardener Program, Fall 2020.

Interested Members should contact the Extension office to be notified when applications open by completing the IL Extension 2020 Cook County Master Gardener Training Interest List online at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=21016>.

CCFB Foundation MG Scholarship Program details and application are available online at: www.cookcfb.org/Foundation or by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 and ask for Debbie.

Cook County Farm Bureau Member Health Benefits



Free hearing screening! Free annual electronic hearing evaluation and a 20% discount off the dispensers' regular list price on hearing aid purchases is provided. Visit www.beltone.com to find the nearest Beltone location near you or call Beltone Hearing Center at 877-710-6228. Members present their Cook County Farm Bureau Membership Card to receive the discount use code #MC42180.



You can save at over 57,000 participating pharmacies including just about every major pharmacy chain from CVS to Wal-Mart. Visit www.cookcfb.org for more information and to print a card online OR contact our office at 708-354-3276 and request a prescription card. Once you receive it, you can take it to a pharmacy near you to receive your discount!



Lasik eye surgery with a savings of up to 45% off the national average cost for traditional Lasik. Call 1-866-977-3012 for a quote.



A medical alarm protects your loved ones with a push of a button! Members receive one month free of monitoring and no initial fees. Call toll free 1-855-872-8404 or visit on line www.peaceofmindalert.com.

Member Workshops/Meetings Offered in 2020

For members, farmers, teachers, landowners, foodies, business owners, and those that want new experiences and to have a great time!

Register today for the following great programs by calling the office at 708-354-3276 or visiting the website at www.cookcfb.org



FB ACT Priorities Skype Briefing
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Skype for Business call/presentation
Price: Free, open to FB ACT and voting members
Registration: Contact Bona Heinsohn or Kelli Villarreal at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org to ensure that you receive the login information.



Veterans Townhall Meeting - Southland Veterans
 Come join us for this interactive town hall meeting where you will have the opportunity to hear from VA's Office of Community Care, IDVA and Hines VA leadership on topics such as the new VA's Mission Act.
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Prairie State University Barnes & Noble College Auditorium 202 S. Halsted St. | Chicago Heights, IL
Price: FREE
Registration: To RSVP and for more information, contact Georges Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu.



Creating a Farm Enterprise
 This workshop is designed for anyone interested in learning what goes into starting a farm/agricultural business.
Dates: February 22, 2020 | Saturday
Time: 9 a.m. – Noon
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Price: \$10 member | \$20 non-member fee will cover workshop materials and refreshments
Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org



Keeping Your Farm in the Family
 Farm Succession Planning – presented by ILFB & Country Financial
Dates: February 25, 2020 | Tuesday
Location: Hickory Grove Banquet & Conference Center, Rochelle, IL
Price: No charge, free dinner included
Registration: To sign up for additional information, register, and reminders go to www.ilfb.org/farmplanning.



Teacher Earth Day Workshop
 Energize your lessons as we celebrate 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Workshop will provide you with lessons connected to soil, horticulture, agriculture, water and more.
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Time: 4-6 p.m.
Location: CCFB Building 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Registration required: aitc2@cookcfb.org or by calling Jill or Diane at 708-354-3276
 Earn 2 Free PDCH



From Farm to You Addressing Food Insecurity
 Join the Evergreen Park library and the Cook County Farm Bureau® for an interactive evening of exploring the path food takes from farm field to dinner plate and the obstacles in between. Participants will discuss, food labels, food banks, and food choices locally and internationally.
Date: March 12, 2020 | Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Evergreen Park Library
Price: No charge
Registration: visit www.evergreenparklibrary.org



Planning for Organic Certification
 Farmers and growers, are you thinking of going organic? Learn what's involved to go organic and the resources available.
Dates: May 16, 2020 | Saturday
Time: 9 a.m. – Noon
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Price: \$10 member | \$20 non-member fee will cover workshop materials and refreshments
Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org



Teacher Summer Ag Academy 2020 Session I
 Enrich your STEM curriculum with agriculture content through hands-on-learning.
Dates: June 15-18
Registration: Call Diane at 708-354-3276 or email aitc@cookcfb.org
 Join fellow educators to tour NW Illinois family farms and agribusinesses up-close. This four-day course will provide you with free resources, materials, and contacts the ag industry. Earn 30 PDCH or 2 Grad Credits.



Teacher Summer Ag Academy 2020 Session II
 Explore rural and urban farm operations to learn the farm-to-table process and vast careers connected to agriculture.
Dates: July 7-10
Registration: Call Diane at 708-354-3276 or email aitc@cookcfb.org
 Teachers will gain an understanding of the production, processing, and distribution of agriculture products from rural farms to Chicago markets. This four-day course will also provide lessons and materials to use back in the classroom. Includes PDCH credits. Earn 30 PDCH or 2 Grad Credits.

For additional event details, please visit <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events> or contact the CCFB at 708-354-3276.



Beekeeping Courses Offered in 2020

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and the Cook Du-Page Beekeepers Association (CDBA) have joined to help you get started down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees, by offering beekeeping workshops at the Farm Bureau! Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton of the CDBA will be conducting the classes. Course outline and details online. Register by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org

Beginning Beekeeping:

Dates: Feb. 29 & March 1, 2020 | Saturday & Sunday
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. both days
Location: CCFB Meeting Room- 6438 Joliet Rd Countryside
Price: \$75.00 for CCFB & CDBA members

Q & A Help for Beekeeper Sessions:

Dates: April 20, 2020 | Monday and May 18, 2020 | Monday
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Price: \$20.00 per session