

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® AND PARTNERS RAISE CASH AND FOOD DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Cook County Farm Bureau® Celebrates its 19th Annual Food Checkout Day

Together with partners, Cook County Farm Bureau® will donate much needed food staples to Together We Cope. The donations directly benefit the 5,000 people in four Cook County townships who rely on the food pantry monthly.

Donations were raised in celebration of Food Checkout Day. Food Checkout Day celebrates the healthy and nutritious food local farmers grow and raise by providing food or cash donations to people in need.

“Cook County and Illinois farmers are committed to growing safe and nutritious food for our families and for others,” said Janet McCabe, President of Cook County Farm Bureau®. “Food Checkout Day allows us to recognize the importance of healthy, nutritious food while supporting local families in need.”

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.

In celebration of Food Checkout Day and the nutritious food local farmers grow and raise, Cook County elementary school students collected dimes as part of ‘Dimes for Dairy.’ All donations raised by the students were used to purchase dairy products for the families who rely on Together We Cope’s services. In celebration of Cook County Farm Bureau’s 100th anniversary, donations up to \$100 were matched by Cook County Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau in conjunction with elementary school students and Prairie Farms Dairy will donate over \$3,800 for the purchase of dairy products.

‘Dimes for Dairy’ participants: Fulton Elementary School, Tinley Park; George Washington High School, Chicago; Lavizzo Elementary School, Chicago; St. John Fisher School, Chicago; and St. Germaine School, Oak Lawn.

Food Checkout Day partners and sponsors: Meijer in Orland Park; Prairie Farms Dairy; Chicago Northeast Country Financial; Jim and Karen Gutzmer; Malgorzata Jura; Kopping Farms; Joe and Janet McCabe; Orland Park Country Financial; Robert and Jayne Rohrer; Tim Stuenkel; and Ted’s Greenhouse.

As part of Food Checkout Day, Farm Bureau sponsored a scavenger hunt between representatives from the Oak Forest, Tinley Park, and Palos Fire Departments at Meijer in Orland Park. All food items were purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to Together We Cope.

In 2012, Food Checkout Day was named a Summit Award winner by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Summit Award recognizes the positive impact that non-profit associations have on their community.

Together We Cope serves 27 south suburban communities, Alsip, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Chicago Ridge, Country Club Hills, Crestwood, Evergreen Park, Garden Homes, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Hickory Hills,

Hometown, Homewood, Markham, Merrionette Park, Midlothian, Oak Forest, Oak Lawn, Orland Hills, Orland Park, Palos Heights, Palos Hills, Palso Park, Posen, Robbins, Tinley Park, and Worth, in four townships, Bremen, Orland, Palos, and Worth. Together We Cope based in Tinley Park, serves 5,000 people monthly.

As the county’s largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.



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THE
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AWARDS

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.
- 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.

Farm Bureau approved the following national legislative priorities:

- Ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, regain lost ag export market demand, build new markets, oppose tariff escalation and urge fair resolution of the China trade war.
- 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.

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- Legislative Priorities, Continued from Page 1

- Support federal investment in modern waterway infrastructure on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.
- Work to modernize National Agricultural Statistical Service survey methods and to improve the accuracy of U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.
- Defend the integrity of the Renewable Fuel Standard. Finalize a Waters of the U.S. rule that does not punish farmers.
- Position farmers and rural Illinois to benefit economically in the climate change debate.
- Request a third year of Market Facilitation Program payments.

Please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org with any



'SNAP' VIEWPOINT SURVEY

Cook County Farm Bureau® works hard to be a leader on legislative and regulatory issues that impact members. In January, Farm Bureau members received a 'SNAP' Viewpoint Survey to gather members' thoughts on lawmakers' salaries and ethics.

Eighty-four percent of members responding believe that lawmakers who resign their seat in the Illinois General Assembly before the end of their term should only be paid for the days that they work.

Eighty-four percent of members also believe that elected officials should not be a paid lobbyist.

Future SNAP Viewpoint Surveys may be sent to voting members with email addresses on file. If you are a voting member and have not provided Farm Bureau with your email, please contact 708- 354-3276.

Cook County Farm Bureau® receives the "County of Excellence Award" from the American Farm Bureau Federation in recognition of outstanding programming and volunteerism in the area of public relations. *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.*

VOTE 2020

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ENDORSES

State's Attorney Democrat- Donna More

State's Attorney GOP- Patrick O'Brien

Clerk of the Circuit Court- Jacob Meister

MWRD

Frank Avila

Cameron 'Cam' Davis

Kimberly Dubuclet

PAID FOR BY THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE. A COPY OF OUR REPORT IS (OR WILL BE) AVAILABLE AT THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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 24

100 Year Activities

AG LITERACY: HATCHING CHICKS IN ROOM SIX
This learning station will include newborn chicks, facts on the lifecycle of chicken hatching, egg candling, and a take home craft for the children. **Free 9am - Noon**

EXPRESS SUCCULENT PLANTER WORKSHOP
Make and take a Succulent Planter in a special 100 Year Commemorative pot to display indoors or out during our open house!
Two workshops: 9:20 AM or 10 AM
Fee: \$10.00 to cover materials.
Pre-register (space is limited)

BEE KEEPING IN COOK COUNTY!
This display table will highlight beekeeping in the County, highlighting beekeepers, the CDBA, and our partnership in training today's local beekeepers. **9am - Noon**

FARM AND SMALL BUSINESS LEGACY SEMINAR
This seminar will provide basic information and questions that are essential to legacy planning, in order to allow you to keep your farm or small business in the family and considerations for passing your legacy on to the next generation. **11:00 AM Free**
Pre-register (space is limited)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION!
If you are 90+ years young and attending, let us know and we will have a special gift in recognition of your longtime membership support!

LEGACY PATIO GROUND BREAKING
Members that have purchased a brick for the centennial legacy patio are invited to participate in the groundbreaking "toast" and photo op.
Pavers available to purchase for \$75, \$150, and \$300. For order form, go to www.cookcfb.org/ccfb/our-history-and-100-year-celebration

Register by calling the CCFB office at 708-354-3276 or email membershipkatie@cookcfb.org, open to members and public.

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® EXISTS TO SERVE ALL MEMBERS OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® WITH MEANINGFUL AND BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS THAT REFLECT OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE.

