



CO-OPERATOR

To serve all our members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our agricultural heritage.

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- 5 Rules of the Road pg. 12
- 11 Teacher Earth Day Workshop pg. 12
- 12 From Farm to You: Addressing Food Insecurity pg. 12
- 28 Express Succulent Planter Workshop pg. 12

APRIL

- 2 Industrial Hemp – 1 year later meeting pg. 12
- 8 Ag Day at Wagner Farm pg. 6
- 20 Q & A Help Beekeeping Session pg. 12
- 21 Wills & Trust pg. 12
- 25 Shred Day pg. 12

MAY

- 1 Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program pg. 11
- 18 Q & A Help Beekeeping Session pg. 12

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.
RSVP by calling 708-354-3276

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.

Historical 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.

February's winner is **Ed Lauria**



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

Answer: *The County Activities of Excellence award*



The Cook County Farm Bureau 19th annual Food Checkout Day event was held on February 20, 2020. A shopping spree competition between five departments of Tinley Park, Palos Park, and Oak Forest was held at the Meijer supermarket in Orland Park with Tinley Park FD earning the coveted shopping cart trophy. The food purchased during the shopping spree was donated to Together We Cope Food Pantry located in Tinley Park and serving 27 Southside communities. Over 900 pounds of food and donations totaling over \$7000 were presented to the charity. The program was sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau and many Farm Bureau members, volunteers and affiliated company personnel from Country Financial supported this year's effort with donations for the event. See details and photos in next month's edition of the Co-Operator or go to the organization's Facebook page.

Cook South Suburban Master Gardener Training Program Fall 2020



CCFB Foundation Scholarships Available

If you enjoy gardening and would 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 the fall of 2020. Master Gardeners (MG) are a vital link in getting horticulture information to the public through Illinois Extension offices.

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://bit.ly/326L0pR>.

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 asking for Debbie.

Seeking an Agriculture Education Summer Intern

The Ag in the Classroom program and CCFB Foundation are offering a summer internship to a college student majoring in Ag Communications or Ag Education. The individual selected for this paid internship will assist with educational programming including preparing agricultural education materials for Summer Professional Development Conferences, planning lessons and conducting summer youth programs, updating social media and writing articles for public relations. Position requires excellent organizational skills and strong speaking and writing skills. Must provide own transportation throughout Cook County to conduct local programs. Approximately 30 hours per week. For information or to submit application, contact Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator at aic@cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Unveils a new Co-Operator Masthead

In celebration of Cook County Farm Bureau's 100th anniversary, the front page of the monthly publication, the *Co-Operator* got a makeover. Reflecting Farm Bureau's and local farmers' commitment to growing healthy and nutritious food, the masthead features local, fresh produce available to

Cook County families. Throughout the year, members are encouraged to look out for centennial celebration events, activities, programs and giveaways.

To help celebrate, turn to page 2 for details on the "Breakfast at the Farm Bureau" celebration and other activities.

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!

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 GROUNDBREAKING
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.

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!



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...

- Farm Bureau member Mari Kay Benes (and her husband, Ed) for being such gracious hosts when we dropped by their house to deliver a prize basket in recognition of Mari Kay completing the Ag Adventures word search all 12 months in 2019. She won the drawing out of the 30 individuals that qualified.
- The Country Financial Agency managers, financial reps and support staff that participated in this year's winter roundtable discussions with Farm Bureau Manager, Bob Rohrer and Dir. of Membership, Katie Smith (and Debbie Voltz). We enjoyed the conversation, discussion and partnership!
- The Country Financial Agency Managers and Financial Reps that earned All American and/or Recruiters of the Year recognitions this past year. It was great seeing you at the roundtable luncheons!
- The many positive comments we've received as a result of the recognition of Cook County Farm Bureau by the American Farm Bureau Federation® as a County Activity of Excellence winner!
- Member Mr. L. Zielezinski for his additional book donation, Honey Bees, for our AITC library.
- Farm Bureau PAC Governance and Governmental Affairs Committee members Janet McCabe, Jim Gutzmer, Kim Morton and Amy Hannsman for interviewing 18 candidates running in the Cook County Primary Election.
- The candidates who willingly gave of their time to meet with the Farm Bureau to discuss their candidacy and backgrounds.



Historical Question of the Month



For the past 19 years, Farm Bureau has celebrated the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers through what program?

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.

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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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

The Time Capsule

Over the past month, I made a point of emphasizing to the board and staff of the Cook County Farm Bureau® that this March issue of the *Co-Operator* publication was going to be part of the documents inserted in the time capsule that will be “planted” March 28th during our 100-year anniversary celebration. The future Cook County Farm Bureau board and staff will open the time capsule in the year 2070, 50 years from now. They will look at this publication and review its words. We don’t want those Farm Bureau leaders of the future to think that their Farm Bureau ancestors were anything but talented, skilled, enthusiastic, witty, thoughtful, and impressive deep thinkers. A lot of pressure to get this right!

A few weeks ago, my wife and I flew to Washington, D.C. for a very special ceremony. I had the distinct honor to “pin” sergeant stripes onto my youngest son who serves our country with pride in the U.S. Army. In the process, I not only enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to spend time with my son but to interact with other leaders and members of his army team and enjoy the great level of comradery, respect, determination and affection that they share for one another.



I reflected during the ceremony that we have an amazing country, thanks to an incredible document created by the founding fathers: The United States Constitution.

Our country has had plenty of ups and downs, trials and tribulations, becoming battle tested. Through it all, the Constitution’s principles have endured... protecting the rights of the many and the few. Its strength has been, is currently and will always be in the people.

Our armed forces are an extension of the people. The amazing and brave men and women of the armed forces serve with valor as the protectors of our Constitution and of the liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United States that it provides. For nearly 250 years, these protectors of liberty have created a

tremendous legacy of service, gallantry and selfless dedication. Today’s generation continues that tradition into the future.

These same principles provide comfort and hope for the future of the Cook County Farm Bureau. In 50 years, when future Farm Bureau members open the time capsule and read these words, I expect that our country, Constitution and armed forces remains a beacon of hope and freedom for the rest of the world.

There are plenty of things that I wonder about when the time capsule is opened in 50 years...What are the key crops grown in this area and Illinois? Will newspapers be “a thing”? Will the Cook County Farm Bureau have a physical office or will it be virtual? Has the climate changed in the Chicagoland area? What is the role of robotics in farming? Will I still be Manager?

I was fortunate enough to know some of the members of the Farm Bureau that were involved the 50-year anniversary of the organization. Will the CCFB leaders opening the time capsule know some of us from back in the year 2020? I confess that I do not have enough imagination to be a futurist to properly consider the tremendous changes that will occur in agriculture, Farm Bureau and society over the course of 50 years. I do, however, trust in the solid foundation created by the founding fathers of the United States, agriculture and Farm Bureau.

PS. To the readers of the future... I should mention that we were pretty cool people...just ask the ones who knew us!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@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.



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

RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
RIMSAP.COM
MAY 1, 2020 DEADLINE
Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 10 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

See details on page 11.

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.

What's Up?

Members of the Board of Directors were asked the following question: *What do you find most remarkable about the 100 years of CCFB?*



Janet McCabe
"That the legacy that the founders believed in is still there to this day. 100 years later: Farm, Family, Food."



Roger Freeman
"100 years ago, Cook County had a huge Ag & Farm base. Today the organization still strives, even though it is a heavy urban area."



Todd Price
"Over the course of the last century the county has seen a tremendous amount of changes in agriculture. Through all that, CCFB has led the way in advocacy and support of our members."



Ruth Zeldenrust
"That the legacy that the founders believed in is still there to this day. 100 years later: Farm, Family, Food."



Gerry Kopping
"The change in agriculture over the last 100 years, and the diversity in Cook County agriculture."



Dan Biernacki
"The ability of Farm Bureau to adapt and remain relative in an industry that has changed so drastically compared to 100 years ago."



Tim Stuenkel
"It's amazing to think about how agriculture has changed over the past 100 years. Despite that, CCFB has adapted and changed over that time to not only stay relevant, but also grow our membership many times over.."



Mark Yunker
"That we have come from a few hundred farmer members to over 40,000 non-farmers."



Jim Bloomstrand
"The continued growth of the Agriculture in the Classroom"



Jim Gutzmer
"The improvement in information available to members."



Mike Rauch
"It's the grass root base of the organization. We the members, continue to provide our input to control the direction of the organization and provide the services that our members desire. Hopefully, this will continue to improve the Agricultural profession."



Pat Horcher
"The most remarkable thing about Farm Bureau is that, after 100 years the Farm Bureau is more vital to farmers than when it was created and over the course of the last century our structure is the same. Our members still control Farm Bureau priorities and policies."

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

This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...
Elizabeth Hoffman, owner of West End Florist & Garden Center

- Cook County Farm Bureau members since 1964 (56yrs), we are a fourth-generation family business established in 1908 by my Great Grandfather Mathias Hoffman.
- We are specialists in filling your life with flowers, beautifying landscapes and creative thinking.
- Growers and suppliers of fabulous annuals, perennials, roses, shrubs, trees, veggies, soil amendments, garden art, specialty floral, indoor houseplants and much more.



West End Florist & Garden Center
 3800 Old Glenview Rd.
 Evanston, IL 60201
 Ph: 847-251-1943
 Hours:
 Varies by season- check the website.
 Online:
www.westendflorist.com
 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/westendflorist

WHAT BRINGS JOY TO YOU?
 Going camping with my husband and fur babies.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM RELATED MEMORY?
 Having my dad teach me how to operate a backhoe tractor.

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE GREENHOUSE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
 It depends on the season; high season (spring/summer/fall/early winter): seeing to client's needs, ordering plants, receiving shipments, designing gardens and pots, overseeing staff; off-seasons (Jan-Mar): planning and organizing the upcoming seasons.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLANT?
 I love Helenium! They are hardy in our area, pollinators love them, and they give a great show in fall when things start looking a little tired.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
 Spaghetti and meatballs.

WHAT DO YOU "SPECIALIZE" IN?
 I curate gardens and plants to fill and fit the needs of our clients. Whether the need is increased privacy, creating a peaceful and restful garden, or teaching and providing the tools to grow your own food for your families, pollinators or animals.

HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR CUSTOMERS TO VIEW YOU?
 I am considered a problem solver, from bugs and disease to correct culture and practice.



Your Chicago South Agency

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Farm Bureau Recognizes Country Financial Managers/Financial Reps

On an annual basis, the Cook County Farm Bureau® pays special tribute to the Country Financial Managers and Financial Representatives that earn All American honors as well as those that are named in the top 10 recruiters of membership. In order to earn the recognition, Country Financial Reps must be "Farm Bureau certified" by seeking additional knowledge and information about the Cook County Farm Bureau. The following Country Financial Managers and Financial Reps were recognized this past winter include...

Orland Park Country Financial Agency, Cary Tate, Manager

All Americans: Jim Andresen, Tom Geraghty, Brian Zielinski, Dan Gallivan
Top 10 Recruiter of the Year: Mike Spadoni

South Holland Country Financial Agency, Jeff Orman, Manager

All Americans: Tim VanZuidam, Jim Verduin, Tim Perchinski, Jim Parthemore, Jeff Orman

Chicago South Country Financial Agency, Jeff Maxson, Manager

All Americans: Alonzo Nevarez, Nick Zegar, Jeff Maxson
Top 10 Recruiters of the Year: Alonzo Nevarez, Gwen Shaw, Martha Dominguez, David De Santiago

Chicago Northeast Country Financial Agency, Sharon Stemke, Manager

All Americans: Nader Mikhaeil, Ray Massie, Sr, Tim Hranka, Ibrahim Essa, Sharon Stemke
Top 10 Recruiter of the Year: Nader Mikhaeil

Chicago Northwest Country Financial Agency, Jack Smith, Manager

All American: John Doherty

Chicago North Country Financial Agency, Victoria Nygren, Manager

Top 10 Recruiters of the Year: Margaret Jura (#1), Matt Whitsett, Ilir Numani, Robert Barron, Vicki Nygren (#1 recruiting agency)



Manager Bob Rohrer presents Country Financial Rep, Alonzo Nevarez, with a letter from the Cook County Farm Bureau commending him for his All-American status and recognizing his top 10 recruiter honor.



Country Financial Rep, Ibrahim Essa, was recognized as an All-American for the first time!



Gwen Shaw, Country Financial Rep, earned Top 10 Recruiter of the Year honors.



Tim Van Zuidam was recognized for achieving All-American status.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?




GINA MODICA
CCFB Young Leaders Group

Education/Degree: Murray State University - Murray, KY / Bachelor of Science in Agriculture / Animal Science with a Food Animal Emphasis.

Current Role: Works in sales for Land O'Lakes and represents the Purina brand specifically related to Horse, Backyard Chicken, Goat, Sheep, Cattle, and Show Animal Nutrition. Works closely with farm managers and trainers as well as Independent Family Owned and Operated retailers or "Feed Stores".

Why Agriculture: I grew up in the suburbs of DuPage County and was only exposed to agriculture once a year on a family vacation to Wisconsin. My family vacationed at a Dude Ranch and I would help take care of the horses, baby pigs, and baby goats. I just loved being around the animals and was drawn to the "agriculture lifestyle". I chose my major based on what I was passionate about, Animal Agriculture.

Recipe of the Month: Rhubarb Berry Coffee Cake
Joyce Holste, Midlothian

Ingredients
 1 pkg yellow cake mix (regular size) divided
 1/2 c packed brown sugar
 2 T butter
 2/3 c chopped walnuts
 1 c (8 oz) sour cream
 2 eggs
 1/4 c all-purpose flour
 1 1/2 c finely chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
 1 1/2 c sliced fresh strawberries

Directions
 In small bowl, combine 1/2 cup cake mix and sugar; cut in butter until crumbly. Add walnuts; set aside. In another bowl, combine sour cream, eggs, flour, and remaining cake mix; beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium for 2 minutes. Fold in rhubarb and strawberries. Spread into greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Bake 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. If desired, drizzle with frosting or serve with ice cream. Yield 12-15 servings.

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

5 Things Members Should Know About Cook County Farm Bureau® ...

1. The organization is 100 years old (young).
2. The organization is led by its "grassroots" as members serve on the Board of Directors, teams and in many other volunteer positions.
3. The organization has a staff of 10 employees with an accumulated 118 years of service to Farm Bureau, agriculture and members.
4. Membership dues are a great bargain in today's economic environment and provide access to outstanding discounts and services.
5. Farmers and other members work together for a common goal: strong and successful agriculture in the area.




Sara Velander
Financial Representative

Unlimited earning potential. An opportunity to help others. Recognition of your hard work. Welcome to a career at COUNTRY Financial®.

COUNTRY Financial is an A+ Superior rated* Fortune 1000 company that's been around since 1925. We offer a wide range of insurance and financial services to help our customers protect what's important while helping them prepare for the future. We are actively seeking individuals with an entrepreneurial spirit who share a passion to help others achieve their financial goals.
Sound like a career for you? Contact me to find out more!



Robert Saunders
Agency Sales Recruiter – Northern Illinois & Chicagoland
(309) 821-5226
Want to book some time for us to talk?
Go to <https://calendy.com/rob-at-country>

*Second best of 16 ratings. Best's Rating Report, February, 2017. For the latest rating, access www.ambest.com. 0518-586HO



Agricultural Literacy

AG LIT BIT

May the Lessons Continue



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

The past decades appear to have changed the landscape of education drastically, but have things really changed? Tools and terminology changes moved from encyclopedias to Google, filmstrip projectors to YouTube, chalkboards to Smartboards, slide rules to calculators to name a few.

Report cards still evaluate students on their mastery of reading, writing, and math while other subjects are no longer emphasized such as handwriting, spelling, art, music and physical education. I know the most important part of my report card was the non-subject areas including effort, citizenship, work habits and attendance.

As the Farm Bureau turns 100 this month, the emphasis on literacy is just important now as it was in 1920. Mr. Dooley, the first president of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, sought “to make the Cook County Farm Bureau second to none in the state”. That goal has not changed today in 2020, nor has the goal of ensuring that our educational efforts are second to none in teaching our communities about ag literacy.

In the early days of our farm bureau, there was an understanding of where food came from which was lost as the years progressed. As early as the 1940s, the Farm Bureau had an exhibit at the county fair at Soldier Field educating Chicagoans about the 3,700 farms in our

county and many people realized for the first time that agriculture was right here in Cook County.

When our Ag in the Classroom began in the 1980s we had our work cut out for us as we began to provide free programming to schools, communities and teachers and we haven't stop since. It's crazy to think that all these years later the most common comment we hear is, “Who knew these facts about agriculture?” There are new questions about GMO's and plant-based meats, but most are still wanting to know the difference between hay and straw, sweet corn and field corn and organic vs. conventional.

My sense is 2120 will bring new terminology along with new ways of farming, but the same excited and curious students will be partaking in Agriculture in the Classroom lessons. I'm not sure if we'll be there presenting it to them or if they'll be going on field trips to farms in their space-aged school buses.

*Thank you to those who carried the AITC torch before me. Our impact would not have begun if it were not for the early efforts of Merlyn and Helen Heyen who began our outreach through Agriculture “Story Tellers”. Their message continued through the leadership of Ag in the Classroom Coordinators Gail Petersdorff, Katie Schmidbauer and Haley Loy-Siergiej and through the through talented, passionate AITC Presenters who have reached over a half million students.

Diane can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Ag Leadership Showcases Careers



One of the three tours included a visit to the Garfield Park Conservatory where students learned about the wide variety of plants including those shown here in the Palm House.

FFA students from two Chicago high schools participated in Agriculture Leadership Academy funded by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation in conjunction with Compeer Financial. The theme for this year's program was Urban Ag Careers and included visits three Chicago organizations. The 39 students first visited Gourmet Gorilla, a healthy school lunch provider that has grown from providing 200 school lunches per day to over 40,000 in just ten years. Students learned the USDA requirements for preparing a healthy breakfast and lunch and were put to the test to create their own lunches using ingredients that met the strict guidelines. The focus of the next tour was horticulture at the Garfield Park Conservatory where our group took a behind the scenes tour of their greenhouses. The guides explained the growing conditions necessary for tropical and subtropical plants and the work that is involved all year to keep their indoor and outdoor gardens vibrant and healthy. A Q&A followed the tour which provided sound advice for entering jobs related to plant sciences. A panel discussion on food waste closed out the day at Hazel Technologies Inc. The panel was made up of Hazel staff and management, along with partner organizations including Mighty Vines, Mindful Waste and Refed. The day allowed these high school sophomore and juniors to explore jobs within the food, horticulture and technology segments of our industry. We thank all the company leaders and staff for taking time to discuss the careers available in their organizations and the path that led them to their jobs.

If your organization would like to host future job shadow experiences, please contact Diane Merrion at aitc@cookcfb.org.



We were excited to visit Dirksen School in Schaumburg to celebrate the 100th Ag in the Classroom Presentation of 2020! It's hard to believe it only took one month for our incredible eight presenters to reach 100 classrooms. The school received a gift basket with agriculture books, pencils and a \$100 gift card to purchase supplies for the school. Assistant Principal Ms. Laurie Mandarino thanked the Farm Bureau for their commitment to agricultural educational programming. Our thanks to Ms. Bonnie Wisniewski for the coordination of our school programming in District 54 throughout the years.

Dimes for Dairy

Students at five local schools filled milk cartons during our Dimes for Dairy Challenge last month collecting a total of \$ 3,306.28. In honor of our 100th anniversary, the Farm Bureau funded a \$100 match for each school donation for a grand total of \$3,806.28. Participating schools included St Germaine School (Oak Lawn), Fulton Elementary (Tinley Park), St. John Fisher School, Lavizzo School and George Washington High School, all in Chicago.

“It was a blast!! I can't explain to you how much fun the kids had running around the school with baggies of coins to donate!! They are very generous, and they are always up for helping out,” shared teacher Carole Scannell about the enthusiasm of her students at St. John Fisher during the collection challenge at her school.

This money will be used to provide fresh dairy products through Prairie Farms for the local food pantry, Together We Cope, that services the south suburbs. This collection effort was done in support of our Food Checkout Day program.



Ag Day at Wagner Farm in Glenview

Bring your classroom to the farm on April 8th to learn the importance of agriculture right here in Cook County. This free opportunity provides a two-hour experience for third grade students to rotate through eight learning stations on topics such as plants, soil, cows, poultry and more. Email us at aitc2@cookcfb.org for more information.

Agriculture Adventure for Families

Ag Adventures in Cook County have changed a great deal over the past 100 years, and we hope you enjoy some highlights of that journey this month. One thing that hasn't changed is you, our loyal families who enjoy this page and enter our word searches regularly. We hope to share many new ag facts during the next 100 years.



Calvin loves looking at photos of Cook County farm history throughout the years...



Farm Machines Long Ago & Today

Planter



Modern planters are pulled behind tractors, and have large tanks to store seed.

Seeds would be placed in the box and dropped into the soil as the handles are pushed together.



Combine

This broad corn knife helped farmers cut down corn stalks.



The modern combine cuts the crops, separates the grain from the stalks and transfers grain to a loader.

Cow Milking

Hand-milking has been replaced by automated and robotic milking methods.



Match...

- Cook County farmers grow this grain that is used in breads.
- What is the most common livestock animal in Cook County, along with bees, alpacas, and beef cattle?
- What is the number one crop grown in Cook County?
- What is the official Illinois state snack?
- These crops can be processed to make crayons? (prang)
- This type of corn is a vegetable we eat in the summer that is very sweet.
- These are one of the top specialty crops grown in or county and Illinois and are used on sandwiches and to make pasta sauce.

- A. Flowers/Garden Plants
- B. Wheat
- C. Sweet Corn
- D. Tomatoes
- E. Popcorn
- F. Horses
- G. Soybeans

Answers: 1-B, 2-F, 3-A, 4-E, 5-G, 6-C, 7-D

March Word Search

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Combine | Horses |
| Cook | Livestock |
| County | Milking |
| Crops | Planter |
| Families | Straw |
| Farmers | Soybeans |
| Floriculture | Tomatoes |
| Hay | Wheat |

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

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)

Choose your prize:
 Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau
 Ag Adventures Word Search
 6438 Joliet Rd
 Countryside, IL 60525
 Fax to: 708-579-6056
 Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2019 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is...
Fred Sass



Calving Cameras Intend to Simplify Season

How we care for our farm's small herd of beef cows gives off a nostalgic vibe: The lineage of the cows traces back to Grandpa's herd. Cows give birth to calves in the shelter of a century-old barn. Hedge posts harvested from the farm frame the pasture fence, and we paid the local FFA chapter to build the feed bunks in the cattle lots.

I love all that old-fashioned charm but share equal excitement with some modern technology about to bless a barn that predates electricity. Soon, a cellular hot spot and motion-sensing cameras will monitor activity in the calving pens. The men who built that barn in the early 1900s would have passed me off as kooky to tell of such a thing.

This quality-of-life improvement means my dad can use his smartphone to view live video and hear live audio from the calving pens while in bed at midnight. In fact, he can view the barn's activities from any place in the world where he has phone reception. He used to pull on the coveralls and boots to enter the chilly night to check cows with behaviors that signaled an imminent birth. He still may lose sleep during calving season, but only when the activity on his phone warrants it.

Tech-savvy cattlemen and women adopted this technology years ago, and we're late to the luxury. I don't expect these calving cameras to trump machinery auto guidance, my dad's favorite farm invention of his lifetime. But, fingers crossed, the system makes his top 10 list.

The potential impact extends to all of us in the family, kids included. Between afterschool activities and homework, the kids can check calving action from my phone, keeping them connected to the farm when middle school schedules sometimes limit it.

I remember those impressionable moments of my childhood when I watched Dad or Grandpa milk a cow to feed colostrum to a newborn calf struggling to nurse. On occasion, they pulled calves, assisting the cow with a difficult birth. I learned the reality that a few didn't make it. Yet, I witnessed healthy calves taking their miraculous first steps within just 20 minutes of birth.

Now, modern technology makes this viewing experience accessible miles from the barn.

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

READERS CHOOSE PRAIRIE FARMS (FarmWeek) - Prairie Farms Cottage Cheese Cups have been named to Dairy Foods Magazine's Top 10 Readers' Choice list of best dairy products from 2019. Prairie Farms Dairy introduced its award-winning cottage cheese last fall with the introduction of Small Batch Cups with flavor options including Garden Veggie, Zesty Fiesta, Pineapple, Strawberry and Peach.

DEADLINE LOOMS FOR REAL ID DRIVER'S LICENSES (FarmWeek) - October 1 is the federal deadline requiring a Real ID driver's license, valid passport or military ID to go through transportation security administration (TSA) checkpoints or enter a secure federal building, such as a courthouse. After the October deadline, Illinois residents may still use the traditional driver's license for identification but those licenses will no longer be valid as a federal identification. The Illinois Real ID resembles the traditional Illinois driver's license except for a star in a gold circle in the upper right of the license.

ILLINOIS CORN FARMERS GO ON OFFENSE DURING THE BIG GAME (Illinois Farm Families) - During the biggest game in football, IL Corn went on offense to remind consumers around the state that Illinois runs on homegrown corn. Viewers in major Illinois TV markets saw Illinois corn farmers during the Feb. 2 game's commercial breaks. A 30-second "Illinois Runs on Homegrown Corn" commercial showcased the Swanson family, one of the many thousands of farmers who grow corn, a product that drives our state's economy.

CAROL STREAM JOINS B20 CLUB (FarmWeek) - The Village of Carol Stream has become a new member of the B20 Club in recognition of the municipality's work to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality for its residents. The B20 Club is a partnership between the Illinois Soybean Association checkout program and the American Lung Association that recognizes Illinois - based fleets that are committed to using biodiesel blends of 20% or greater.

U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY UNSURE IF CORONAVIRUS WILL SLOW CHINA'S FARM IMPORTS (Reuters) - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said he does not know whether China's coronavirus outbreak will upset Beijing's pledge to radically increase purchases of American farm goods as part of the countries' recent trade deal. The virus has cast further doubt on China's ability to buy \$36.5 billion of U.S. agricultural goods in 2020.

AFBF BOOK OF YEAR FULL OF BEANS (FarmWeek) - The American Farm Bureau® Foundation for Agriculture presented its 13th book of the year award to Peggy Thomas for Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car. The book describes Henry Ford's drive to incorporate soybeans into every part of his life. After the Great Depression, the famous carmaker and businessman wanted to support ailing farmers and using research at his Ford Motor Company, Ford and his team discovered that soybeans were the perfect answer, especially for plastic parts.

EPA REASSERTS GLYPHOSATE SAFE TO USE, PROBABLY NOT CARCINOGENIC (Agri-Pulse) - The Environmental Protection Agency reaffirms that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Roundup, is safe to use and unlikely to cause cancer.

CHICAGO MAY BAN SINGLE USE CONTAINERS (FarmWeek) - Two Chicago council members are proposing to ban single-use polystyrene food containers and reduce use of plastic utensils in the city, according to an "Eater" report from the Specialty Food Association. The proposal would require reusable plates and bowls at dine-in restaurants. Plastic straws, paper napkins and foil could be used - if compostable or recyclable. Plastic silverware and drink tops could be used only if the customer asked for them or at "self-serve stations".

FARMLAND MARKET FIRMLY GROUNDED (FarmWeekNow) - Farmland prices have eased down 15 to 20% in some areas of the country after reaching record highs in 2013-14 but generally remain strong due in part to a tight supply of available land, healthy demand and low interest rates. The Market Facilitation Program has, over the past 2 years, helped buffer some farmers from significant income pressures due to low commodity prices. debt to asset ratio (13.6% average) has increased but still is low historically speaking.

E-COMMERCE PILOT ALLOWS FARMERS TO SELL DIRECT TO CONSUMERS (FarmWeekNow) - A new e-commerce platform allows Illinois farmers to sell directly to consumers through a pilot project launched recently by the Illinois Farm Bureau® and MarketMaker, an interactive database. Through the pilot program, any Illinois farmer with a MarketMaker account may set up an electronic store at no cost. Farmers may have to pay a small transaction fee on each order received. Farmers may choose payment terms in different options, such as delivery to customers or for customers to pick up their purchases. No special equipment is needed; however, farmers need a computer and Internet access for e-commerce transactions.

FARMER VETERAN GROUPS EXCITED COUNTRY ARTIST CATERING WITH FARMER VETERAN FOOD (FarmWeekNow) - The national and Illinois Farmer Veteran Coalitions praised country artist Brantley Gilbert's decision to buy food produced by a farmer veteran to cater meals during his 25-city tour. Gilbert's agents announced his team would work with the Farmer Veteran Coalition to buy products for catering at each concert stop. The plan is to spotlight the value locally produced meat, dairy and produce can make on each community.

ILLINOIS LOSES 9% OF DAIRIES; FARMERS INVESTIGATE OPTIONS (FarmWeekNow) - Farmers at the annual Illinois Dairy Summit in Bloomington considered options to improve their bottom lines. And for good reason. The recent upturn in milk prices could tail off through winter. This, after a multiyear run of tight margins and losses, forced some farmers out of business.

ENTRY LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENT DELAYED (IFB) - The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has announced a 2-year delay in the implementation of Entry Level Driver Training (EDLT) requirements. Beginning February 7, 2022, before a driver may apply for or upgrade to a Class A or B CDL or seek an endorsement for hazardous materials (H), passengers (P), or school busses (S), the driver must complete entry-level driver training.

This training only applies to drivers applying for a CDL, upgrading to a new class of CDL, or seeking an additional endorsement. Those renewing an existing CDL and not seeking to change the class of license or add an endorsement will not be required to undergo training. Those with a non-CDL driver's license are also not required to have training. This includes the non-CDL J50, and the non-CDL J51 license available to those that qualify for farmer exemptions from the CDL.

More information can be viewed on the FMCSA's Website.

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

2020 Illinois Farm Bureau National Priority Issues

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
- 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 questions or comments.

‘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.



State Representative Dan Didech joined the Jo Daviess and Cook County Farm Bureaus for a farm visit in January. Didech (pictured left) examines dairy cattle feed with Jo Daviess farmer Ron Lawfer. Ron and his wife Julie operate a grain and dairy farm with their two sons. The farm recently converted to a robotic milking operation.



Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton (pictured left) visits with Cook County Farm Bureau members Bob Rohrer (centered), Jim Gutzmer (pictured right) and Illinois Farm Bureau Board Member Tammy Halterman during the Statewide Legislative Reception in Springfield.

WOTUS is Replaced!

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) was a rule created by the President Obama administration that put much of the country’s “waters” under control of federal jurisdiction. Farm Bureau members have been fighting for a reasonable alternative since that time.

In January, USEPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have finalized the WOTUS replacement rule with the new and improved “Navigable Waters Protection Rule.” The agencies provided more information and a pre-publication draft at

the following link: <https://bit.ly/2uRpIQW>

The new Navigable Waters Protection Rule now moves to publication in the Federal Register, which will take a week or more. When that day comes, the effective date of the rule is 60 days after publication. During that window, we anticipate lawsuits to enjoin the law from taking effect.

The White House briefing on the new rule highlighted a few points that Farm Bureau staff believe are worthy of sharing at this early stage:

- All maps in existence are now irrelevant
- The new WOTUS definition presents a “unifying legal theory”.
- This is a policy that lands on certainty, respects states’ rights to regulate water, and is the product of interagency collaboration to get to this point, as well as LISTENING to stakeholders for several years.
- Four categories of waters are federally regulated:
 - Territorial seas and traditional navigable waters
 - Perennial and intermittent tributaries to those waters
 - Certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments; and
 - Wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters
- Twelve exclusions to WOTUS, including:
 - Features that only contain water in direct response to rainfall
 - Groundwater
 - Many ditches, including most roadside and farm ditches
 - Farm and stock watering ponds
 - Waste treatment systems; and
 - Prior converted cropland
- The agencies are looking forward to moving into the implementation phase of this rule. As additional details are revealed, we will continue to share with members.

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.



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

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Since 2010, Cook County Farm Bureau® has operated a Political Action Committee (PAC) designed to support candidates who are supportive of the policies, priorities and mission of the Farm Bureau while promoting the economic and social well-being of farmers and farm-related interests in Cook County.

Since its inception, the PAC has made 54 endorsements. Not all incumbents. Not all challengers. Not all major party candidates. But candidates who Governance Committee members felt would make the largest impact in their district and the county.

Members of the Cook CFB PAC Governance Committee are charged with making endorsements. When considering a candidate, members consider the results of the candidates’ interviews, questionnaires, support of Farm Bureau policies, and when applicable, voting record.

Of the candidates running for Cook County office, Governance Committee members interviewed candidates for Cook County Clerk, State’s Attorney, Board of Review and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Four years ago, Cook CFB PAC endorsed then incumbent Anita Alvarez over Donna More and Kim Foxx. Four years ago, the PAC passed on endorsing Foxx due to her lack of prosecutorial experience and

the fact that she served as Preckwinkle’s Chief of Staff during the county’s largest sales tax increase. Cook County Farm Bureau strongly opposed and actively worked against the sales tax increase. Political newcomer Bill Conway is a fresh face and has new ideas. For Cook CFB PAC, its Donna More. More brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the race and is natural fit for the office. More will take the politics out of the State’s Attorney Office.

On the Republican ticket for State’s Attorney there are two highly qualified candidates vying for votes. Christopher Pfannkuche is a pilot and an experienced litigator, author and trainer. For Cook CFB PAC, it’s Patrick ‘Pat’ O’Brien. O’Brien, like Pfannkuche, is a skilled litigator but he’s also a mentor and a leader and what the State’s Attorney’s office needs most is a leader.

Four years ago, Cook CFB PAC railed against then incumbent Dorothy Brown and the numerous investigations, allegations and missteps. Under her leadership the office has continued to dog technology upgrades and electronic filing advancements and for these reasons and many more Cook CFB PAC endorsed Jacob Meister. Unfortunately, Meister was unsuccessful in 2016. This round he faces off against former Commissioner Richard Boykin, Board of Review Commissioner Michael Cabonargi and Senator Iris Martinez. All four candidates would be a radical step forward. For Cook CFB PAC its Jacob Meister.

Meister is a longtime attorney and has successfully litigated cases in state and federal courts throughout the country. His experience has given him extensive knowledge of how different court systems are operated and how the Cook County court system should run. Meister was also the only candidate of the four who challenged Brown rather than waiting for a Brown free contest.

Cook CFB PAC opted not to make an endorsement in the Democratic primary for Cook County Board of Review, first district.

The race for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is crowded. Newcomers Mike Cashman, Patricia Theresa Flynn and Eria Corral Sepulveda are outstanding candidates with new ideas and will be outstanding leaders. However, in this race for Cook CFB PAC it’s the three incumbents- Frank Avila, Cameron ‘Cam’ Davis and Kimberly Dubuclet- who truly stood out. Avila is an engineer with a wealth of experience. Davis was a standout candidate two years ago and remains committed to working with partners, including Farm Bureau to improve the environment. Two years ago, Cook CFB PAC endorsed Dubuclet citing her legislative experience and although the Illinois General Assembly is different than the MWRD, her experience and contacts makes her an excellent commissioner.

Members are reminded to vote on March 17. Bona can be reached at bona@cookcfb.org.



Members Urged to Complete 2020 Census Survey

The national 2020 United States census is set to begin in earnest this spring. This will be the first time the U.S. Census Bureau will ask household residents to complete the survey online.

The Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is seeking a strong response from the farm and rural community and has asked county farm bureaus to become involved in the process by assisting members gain access to online survey completion. Each county farm bureau has received an iPad to be used in coordination with IFB's efforts to assist both members and non-members in getting access to the internet to complete their 2020 Census survey.

"The U.S. Census is directly related to Illinois' representation in the U.S. House of Representatives," said Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr. "With Illinois losing population over the last several years, the state could lose one, maybe two, seats in the U.S. House. That makes this survey extremely important for the state to have widespread participation and accurate responses from its citizens."

Reapportioning occurs after each U.S. Census, starting with the number of seats given to each state in the U.S. House of Representatives. From there, boundaries will be redrawn for those seats as well as for the General Assembly and county

boards.

Federal funding heavily relies on Census results. U.S. Census data determines how \$675 billion dollars is distributed, impacting education, fire and emergency response services, transportation, employment, housing, health care and public policy.

Illinois Farm Bureau offers the following timeline for the 2020 Census:

- In mid-March, the U.S. Census Bureau will send an "Invitation to Respond" to every citizen. Residents may fill out their census online or call the listed contact number to either fill the census out via phone or to request a hard copy via U.S. Postal Service.
- April 1, 2020 is Census Day. IFB members and non-members are encouraged to make this date their goal for census completion and to consider what their household will look like on that date when answering questions.
- After Census Day, U.S. Census Bureau representatives will make home visits to assist citizens in filling out the survey in person. Completing a survey is required for every U.S. citizen.

If any Cook County Farm Bureau member needs online access to complete your census survey, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau office at 708-354-3276.

FARM BUREAU ADVANTAGE

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.

2020 FORD SWEEPSTAKES

Farm Bureau members can enter to win a chance at a 2-year lease on a new Ford vehicle! Members can sign up now through September 30, 2020. Text the word SWEEPS to 46786** to enter. Or enter using this link: <https://www.fordspecialoffer.com/FarmBureau/Sweeps>

Disclaimers:
*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENT OF U.S. OR D.C., 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE TO ENTER AND A CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBER. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/2020. For entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details, visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

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.



Matt Whitsett

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Matt Whitsett has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 4306 N. Lincoln Ave., #2F in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-267-1584. Matt has been a Financial Representative since November 2009.



Robert Barron

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Robert Barron has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave., Ste 280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 414-630-7515. Cody has been a Financial Representative since October 2016.



Nader Mikhaeil

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Nader Mikhaeil has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8874. Nader has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2006.



Ray Massie Jr.

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Ray Massie Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 25 NW. Point Blvd., Ste. 850, in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-794-1218. Ray has been a Financial Representative since May 2019.



Bill Schutz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Bill Schutz has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 51 W. Seegers Rd., Ste.1, in Arlington Heights IL. His phone number is 847-690-1980. Bill has been a Financial Representative since November 1985.



Renata Bondarowicz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd. Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



Nick Zegar

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Nick Zegar has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 16614 W 159TH St., #303 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 708-352-5560. Nick has been a Financial Representative since July 1998.



Steve Phillips

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager
Steve Phillips has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2020. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Suite 150, Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-583-1416. Steve has been a Financial Representative since November 2014.



Rocky Dellamano

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Rocky Dellamano has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2020. 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.



John Nataneck

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
John Nataneck has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2020. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-480-5097. John has been a Financial Representative since March 2019.



Andy Erlen

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Andy Erlen has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2020. His office is located at 301 White St. in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-3260. Andy has been a Financial Representative since June 2000.



John Tymms

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
John Tymms has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2020. 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.

For Sale

Commercial Building 2300sq. ft. with full basement. Fantastic opportunity, excellent location a mile from the expressway, 1/2 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

52inch bathroom sink and cabinet, Honey Oak, \$100. HP 19inch computer monitor, \$40. Call Jim at 708-594-6399.

Courvoisier Erte collection Limited Edition un-open, brand new power tools, high end guns. A ten horsepower Ryobi snow blower \$250 or best offer. Call Jim at 773-581-4400.

Werner 24ft. ladder asking \$225 or better offer. 2 piano lamps \$25. Call Eddy at 708-758-9119 (preferably afternoons).

Casita Screen House. In very good condition, 11'1 diameter octagon, Model number 83265. It is in original box. Brown with tan top. \$125.00 cannot deliver, pick-up or trailer to take it. Call Rod at 708-474-9169 from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

29 Gallon Fish Aquarium \$20 dollars. 30w Motor oil Valvoline and Pennzoil brand, \$2 a quart (28quart). Call Bob at 708-426-9065.

Story & Clark upright piano \$150 quality beer steins, Norman Rockwell, Lladro and Hummel figurines for sale- price to be discussed. Call/ Text Dale between 4-7pm 630-862-4087.

2300 sq. ft. Industrial Building. Office, fenced yard, asphalt parking area, located in Worth IL. Good road access. For more information call Rich at 708-670-2118.

Two houses for family home or investment. Rental property for students of EIU. 5 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms, Charleston IL near EIU. Asking \$69,000 each, possible short sale! Come take a look. Real Estate unlimited call 217-232-6987 or 217-345-8351.

Vehicle

2013 Nissan Altima 4.5s like new condition, extended Nissan, newer tires, brakes, just tuned, very clean one owner, mostly highway miles, \$5,900. Call Louie at 847-361-9292.

2002 Jaguar XKR 100 Limited Edition Supercharged convertible every available option, with 16k on it. For details call Jim at 773-581-4400.

2005 F-150 Lariat Truck 4x4 Super Crew Cab 120,000 miles (80% highway driven) Black. All leather seats, interior like new, well taken care of. Premium sound 6disc CD player. 5.4L V8. Spray in bed liner, hard shell tonneau cover, Borla dual exhaust. \$8500 or B/O pictures available upon request. Call Jeff at 708-629-0317

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.

1972 Older cars, trucks/parts unfinished projects. Call Attilio at 708-439-9770.

Portable Oxygen concentrator for my infant grandchild. Your help is greatly appreciated! Call Nancy at 708-849-3483 or 219-680-8462.

LP Rock & Roll album records. Retired and looking for music. Turn those old wanted records into cash! Email bbnut123@msn.com or call John at 708-860-9562 or Gary at 708-363-4559.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

- Illinois Farm Bureau & Illinois Farmers Market Association 2020 Live Local: Local Food & Farmers Market Annual Conference, March 10-12, 2020, Peoria, IL. Live Local Conference is also the host of the 2020 ILFMA Annual Conference and Meeting in partnership with the Illinois Farmers Market Association. Registration & Information at: <https://www.ilfb.org/get-involved/events/live-local/>.
- Chicagoland Seed Swap, Saturday March 21, 2020 at Whitney Young High School, Chicago, sponsored by the Chicago Community Gardeners Association. Registration and details contact Sarah Batka at sbatka@illinois.edu or 773-233-2900.
- The Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the spring Tree and Fish Sale. Order forms are available on the District Website (www.will-scookswcd.org) and can be picked up at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District office during business hours. U.S. Mail, email and fax copies can also be requested by calling 815-462-3106 ext. 3. The District has a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees available this fall. Stock ranges in size from 8 inches to 6 ft. linear stock, and one, two and three-gallon potted stock. Fish varieties for sale include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Hybrid Sunfish, Fathead Minnows, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Triploid Grass Carp and Albino Catfish (new). Grass Carp must be ordered by Thursday April 9th. All other orders must be received by Monday, April 13th. Orders are pre-paid only. Tree orders will be available for pick-up on Thurs & Fri, April 23/24, 10 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox. Fish stock will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 18th, 8 a.m. only at the SWCD building. For more information on the sale or to register for the Workshop, call 815-462-3106 ext. 3 or email 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.

Soil Testing Kits Available

Cook County Farm Bureau offers both members and non-members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth's store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables, or crops. Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous and other key elements to begin the soil improvement process.

Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as well as mailing information included in the test kit and members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks. Members are also encouraged to contact the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Resource Center, available at the Farm Bureau office starting April 13th to mid-November, for assistance with gardening and lawn questions.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$22 | 2 sample kit: \$30 | 3 sample kit: \$45 | 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$48 | 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$40. Non-member pricing also available.

Soil Kits are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau for by phone at 708-354-3276 using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover at no additional charge. Costs are subject to change.

How to Grow a Giant Pumpkin Webinar & Seeds



Contact us to receive a rebroadcast link of the 2019 Webinar on How to Grow a Giant Pumpkin. Free webinar covers seed, soil, planting tips, dealing with harsh weather, cultivation and harvest. This CCFB webinar was presented by George W Hamilton, Ext Field Specialist, Food & Ag, UNH Extension, and included award-winning pumpkin

growers sharing their tips. Webinar registrants will be mailed Giant Pumpkin Seeds to grow a winner to enter at our 20th Giant Pumpkin Contest on October 3rd!

Link/Seed Registration: Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org, or call 708-354-3276, or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

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.

Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program

The scholarship program, now in its 28th year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county farm bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at dgallivan@iflb.org.

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



Teacher Earth Day Workshop

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



Q & A Help for Beekeeper Sessions

To meet with a small group setting to discuss beekeeping.
Dates: Monday, April 20 and Monday May 18
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
Location: Cook County Farm Bureau meeting room, 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside
Price: \$20.00 per session



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: Thursday, March 12, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Evergreen Park Library
Registration: visit www.evergreenparklibrary.org



Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trust and Transferring Non-Titled Property

The program will inform you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need to make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust.
Dates: Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 pm
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Price: Free for members | \$10 non-members
Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to reserve your seat. Space is limited!



Express Succulent Planter Workshop

This express workshop is designed for you to swiftly make & take your beautiful commemorative planter and have time to enjoy the 100- year anniversary event! We are offering two 20-minute workshops. Space is limited so be sure to register early!
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020
Time: 9:20 am and 10:00 am sessions
Location: CCFB Lower level 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



Shred Day! (Just After Tax Day!)

Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers' boxes) that you would like to have shredded.
Dates: Saturday, April 25, 2020
Time: 10 am – 12 pm
Location: Country Financial Building, 4190 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows
Price: Free for members
Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to make a reservation.



Industrial Hemp – 1 Year Later Meeting

Join us for a meeting to discuss Industrial Hemp in Illinois, including updates, rules & regs, 2020 outlook, Q & A and to 2019 growing experiences.
Dates: Thursday, April 2, 2020
Time: 1:00-3:00 pm
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside
Price: \$5.00 member | \$10.00 non-member
Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.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: Saturday, May 16, 2020 (new date)
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

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



The Illinois Farm Bureau has been holding "Rules of the Road" workshops around the state for members. The Final meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 6 pm at the Will County Farm Bureau. RSPV to 815-727-4811 to attend. See the CCFB website for program details.



Are you a business owner and a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau?

The Member-to-Member discount program was created to provide Cook County Farm Bureau members with businesses the opportunity to promote goods and services offered through their business to the other members of the organization. By offering a discount to the members of the organization, business owner members receive free advertising and promotion on our website.

In May and November of 2020, we will be developing a special "pull out" section of

our monthly publication, The Co-Operator, in which the Member-to-Member discounts are emphasized and promoted along with our membership benefits. The program is designed to be a win-win for members of the Cook County Farm Bureau!

Please visit www.cookcfb.org/membermember.html for details, to sign up for the program, and to view a list of current participating member-to-member businesses.