



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

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

Vol. 91 No. 2

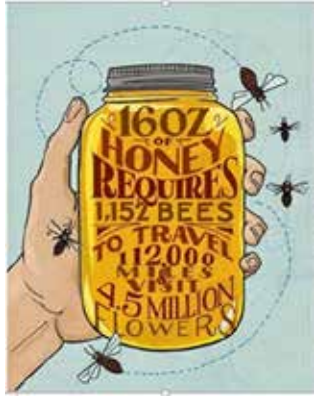
Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

February 2017

Beekeeping Courses offered at the Farm Bureau

The Cook County Farm Bureau and the Cook Du Page Beekeepers Assoc. have joined together to help get you started down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees, by offering beekeeping workshops at the Farm Bureau! Pete Soltesz of the CDBA will be conducting the classes.



1 Day Advanced Beekeeping Course (8 hour)

I'm a Beekeeper-How to survive the first years!

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM |with a working lunch

Cost: \$85 for CCFB & CDBA Members / \$110 for non-members

1 Day Beginning Beekeeping Course (8 hour):

I want to be a Beekeeper-Launching the Adventure!

Date: Saturday, March 11th, 2017 **(Date Change)**

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$85 for CCFB & CDBA Members / \$110 for non-members

Registration: Call Debbie (CCFB) at 708-354-3276 or email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Payment: Credit card payment accepted by phone at no additional charge or mail in a check made out to the Cook County Farm Bureau

Location: Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-3276

For Course outline go to: www.cookcfb.org/Events or visit the [Buy-Local/Programs](#) page



Each January, the Cook County Farm Bureau staff picks a local organization to provide a "give back" day. This year, the staff picked the Meals from the Heart program at the Ronald McDonald House in Oak lawn near Hope Children's Hospital. Staff members prepared and served a meal to the parents and families of the seriously ill children in the hospital. Serving the meal included Cook County Farm Bureau staff members (L to R) Bona Heinsohn, Diane Merrion, Melanie Paffumi, Debbie Voltz, Kelli McSherry, Linda Tobias, and Katie Smith. Photo by Bob Rohrer.

The CCFB Foundation cordially invites you to the 1st Annual

Farming for our Future Gala

"Sowing the Seeds of Greatness"

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Ruffled Feathers Country Club
1 Pete Dye Drive, Lemont IL
6:00 PM-11:30 PM

\$125 donation after 1/31/17
\$1,000 donation for a table of 10
Only 250 seats* available
*Each seat purchased is also an entry for a door prize. A number of \$100/\$500 door prizes will be distributed.

Call 708.354.3276 to order tickets or for more info go to www.cookcfb.org

The evening includes filet mignon/chicken dinner, open bar, The Belvederes band, door prizes, silent auction, live auction, lucky chance and 50/50 opportunities!

black tie optional

Gala Order Form

Name: _____ Farm Bureau #: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

Number of People Attending: _____ Ticket Price \$125 x _____ Total = _____

Send to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation
6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525

No Seating Preference
 I would like to sit with another guest (Tables of 10)

Attending Guest Name (s): _____

Question of the Month

What is a female pig, which is used for breeding, called?

Call the Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276, fax your answer to (708)579-6056, or email your answer to: membershiplinda@cookcfb.org (Please include Name, FB# and phone number) for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25.00 gas card.

January's winner is **Paula Matzek**.

Last Month's Question: Cook County Farm Bureau just entered a new partnership with a company that provides a number of tour & travel destinations. What is the name of the company that we're partnering with?

Answer: Mayflower Tours

THE POWER OF (A)

AWARDS

Cook County Farm Bureau
Winner of the Power of 'A'
2012 Summit Award

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate Is my food safe for my family to eat?

Answered by Cook County Farmer Janet McCabe



Janet McCabe, a Cook County farmer and nurse, raises corn and soybeans in south Cook County with her family.

I'm a mother, a farmer and a nurse and I'm confident that the food I grow is safe to eat. We regularly check our crops for insects, weeds, and disease and only when needed, do we use crop protectants. The crop protectants of today are extremely precise, effective, and leave virtually no residue. They're also extensively tested and proven safe by the Food and Drug Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Before farmers can purchase or apply any chemical, we are educated, tested, and certified by the Department of Agriculture. I'm committed to growing high-quality, healthy products that feed my family and yours.

Got a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of *The Co-Operator*.



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Statement from the Illinois Farm Bureau Regarding the nomination of USDA Secretary



Richard Guebert, Jr.

The following is a statement from Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding the nomination of former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue as Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

secretary and are hopeful Perdue is quickly confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"Farm Bureau members are confident that Perdue has the leadership skills necessary to run an agency with a \$155 billion budget and more than 100,000 employees scattered across nearly every county in the nation.

"Illinois farmers will be counting on Perdue to be a strong and influential advocate for farmers and U.S. agriculture within the administration, before Congress, and with the non-farm public."

"Illinois Farm Bureau members are relieved that President-elect Trump has finally named an agriculture

Dear Reader,

You receive the "Cooperator" because you or a family member is a Farm Bureau member. Our farm owners and operators, as members, benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to a strong and productive agricultural way of life.

Members without direct ties to farming, help to promote a strong local and regional farming lifestyle, encourage wise use of our limited natural resources, and help preserve our farming heritage. In addition, members are provided the opportunity to enjoy our affiliated company, Country Financial and access to the many other benefits provided by Cook County Farm Bureau.

Thank you for your membership and continued support. We welcome member input on content, including suggestions of farm, home, food, natural resource, renewable energy, agricultural heritage and farm history for future issues.

Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Editor

P.S. For more information, please access www.cookcfb.org and checkout the "Who We Are" video and the Country Financial Connection history.

Statement From The Illinois Farm Bureau Regarding Withdrawal Of The U.S. From The Trans-Pacific Partnership

"Illinois agriculture depends on free trade agreements to sell our products. Currently, 46 percent of Illinois exports go to Trans-Pacific countries. The TPP was expected to increase Illinois' cash receipts and net exports by \$281.1 million and \$127.4 million per year respectively. It is estimated that the increased marketing opportunities for Illinois farmers would have added more than 960 jobs to the Illinois economy.

"President Trump's executive order to withdraw the United States from the TPP is another setback to an already struggling

economy. With TPP being halted, we implore the administration to start working toward opening new markets for Illinois crop and livestock farmers.

"Illinois agriculture also has benefited from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). We hope the administration will recognize the importance of NAFTA to Illinois farmers' income when renegotiating the deal. We look forward to working with our members of Congress and the administration to send the message that trade deals create opportunities for consumers and farmers."

The "Cooperator", the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, is available to members through mail delivery, e-mail, or by viewing at www.cookcfb.org. Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to membershiplinda@cookcfb.org with the subject: E-Cooperator.

Co-Operator

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Gracias THANK YOU *Gratified*

The Gratitude Box

Each month we would like to give thanks to those who have helped us in some way.

No matter how big or small...We appreciate you!

This month, we would like to thank:

- All of the Members who are busy planning, preparing for and attending the Farming for Our Future Gala on March 4 at Ruffled Feathers Country Club in Lemont.
- All of the members and affiliate companies who sent Christmas and Holiday cards/gifts sent to the CCFB office, Staff, and Board.

Gracias THANK YOU *Gratified*



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

few contestants on American Ninja Warrior with the skill.

Cityscapes traditionally provide a natural course for Parkour...buildings, walls, man-made hurdles, roofs, fences, steps, ridiculous angles, railings and other impediments. However, with most things, I envision parkour with a farm spin.

Parkour reminds me of the wild barn cats that roamed the farmstead when I was growing up. These wild cats were extremely anti-humans and human touch. They would do nearly anything to avoid a petting from kids (including scratching, biting and tearing up my brother's arms). Those cats could traverse obstacles...over, under, around, and through with stunning speed and agility. Only now do I realize they were Parkour cats.

Of course, YouTube offers all kinds of videos from parkour amateurs that have varying levels of skill. Curious, I searched for parkour on the farm and was disappointed that all I found were videos of teens and preteens that emphasized a lot of running around but not much parkour skill.

I envision a human (not a cat) parkour-ist bouncing off tractors and farm implements, running up the side of grain bins and silos, gliding across the roof of the red barn and corn crib, flipping over and sliding under docile cows and drowsy horses, leaping

Hey James Bond fans... Do you remember the opening scene of the 2006 movie Casino Royale (with Daniel Craig as 007)? Bond chases a man through a construction zone/building in Madagascar. (Nothing unusual about Bond chasing a guy in a movie) However this chase scene is more unusual...the man who Bond is chasing is an expert Parkour-ist with wonderful agility and speed. Amazing!

Parkour is the sport of running, jumping, climbing, balancing, flipping and rolling rapidly, usually through an urban environment. When you see someone with extreme parkour skills, like the man that Bond was chasing, it seems as if the person glides and flies through areas that a normal person would have trouble walking and climbing through (like a lead footed Bob Rohrer for example). People with this ability to Parkour seem to be able to defy gravity. How do they do that?

Parkour requires extraordinary skill and the trade-off is seemingly broken bones, a smashed face, and serious injury just one "misstep" away. After seeing the scene from Casino Royale, I've been more aware of the sport and have recently seen a

barbed wire fences, flipping off of heights onto hay bales, running up the straw bale elevator and scampering atop the wood rail fence. Just like those wild cats did in my memory.

In fact, this could be the making of a new reality TV show called "Agri - Ninja Warrior" - freestyle ...

We are quickly approaching the 1st Annual Farming for our Future Gala! (Saturday, March 4th, 2017 at Ruffled Feathers in Lemont) It's a good thing it is not a Wedding...I might be

considered Bridezilla! This will be a great event! It will feature great food, beverages, outstanding music, friends and huge fun... Call it "Date Night for a Cause"! And what is the Cause? With your support, the Foundation will be able to:

- Teach Ag Literacy to help urban kids and their parents understand how and who provides the food, clothing, bio-fuels, and other farm based essentials for their family.
- Provide scholarships to help area college-bound youth who want to improve

farming and food through an agriculturally related career. (Farmer, dietian, veterinarian, food science, etc.)

• Provide hands-on, farm & food based educational events for urban teachers, schools, and families from Chicago and suburban Cook County

I did hear from one member that she has a new fancy dress so she is going so she can wear it again! If you want to show off your new dress, crazy tie or dancing shoes, what a great reason to support a great cause! See you there.



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2017 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection



Recipes Wanted!

The 2017 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is looking for your favorite recipes that you proudly cook using the freshest locally grown and raised ingredients.

Recipes submitted will be included in a special drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to a member Farm Stand or grocery retailer near you. Mail or email your recipe along with your name and phone number to: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org,

or mail to:

Cook County Farm Bureau, Attn: Debbie
6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside IL 60525

Deadline: March 24, 2017

Helping you protect what matters most

o816-55oHO



Exclusive Member Savings to travel locally or see the world!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® is proud to announce our newest

Exclusive Member Benefit:

MayflowerTours

Travel is fun and members can enjoy the benefits of travelling with MayflowerTours, enjoy life enriching experiences while creating lasting memories! The Cook County Farm Bureau has partnered with MayflowerTours as they offer amazing benefits for the travelers by offering high quality...

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CCFB members and their guests will enjoy an exclusive Cook County Farm Bureau savings on top of any and all discounts, promotions, and travel deals offered by MayflowerTours. Members simply provide our exclusive member discount code: **ccfb16** to receive the direct savings! Farm Bureau bonus savings increases with trip duration!

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Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau

Each month we highlight a volunteer, staff member, or ag partner of the Cook County Farm Bureau. This month's "Face of CCFB" is ...

Josh Van Namen



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Stuffed Green Peppers

- Serves on the Member Relations Team at the Cook County Farm Bureau.
- Has been married for 6 years and has 2 great kids.
- Is a 4th Generation Country Financial Agent and currently works for the South Holland Agency in Worth, IL.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Discovering all the old farm tools on my Grandpa's farm.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD AFTER A TOUGH DAY?

Eggs and Bacon...
Quick and Easy

IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?

A beef cattle farmer.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

All the times my mom made pork chops. I remember they always seemed to be dry, but it never stopped her from always making them because the gravy was so good it didn't matter.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?

The smell of old barn wood.

Farm and Food Bytes

GOING ORGANIC JUST GOT EASIER –(Reuters) The USDA recently launched a program to certify farmland that growers are in the process of switching to organic, allowing farming to sell products raised on that farmland, in accordance with organic guidelines, for higher prices than conventionally-grown foods. The certification, and accompanying rise in revenue, should help growers cover the extra costs associated with transitioning to organic farming, making the switch easier.

CALIFORNIA FARMERS TEST WATER STORAGE – (NPR's The Salt) California's record-breaking drought is leading some farmers to test a new water-management technique: flooding. As storms have soaked the state the past few weeks, some farmers and groundwater hydrologists are using swollen rivers to flood agricultural land. Once the land is flooded, often continuously through the winter months, the water seeps into depleted aquifers without harming the wintering crops.

ETHANOL BEATS GASOLINE ON EMISSIONS –(Des Moines Register) According to a study released by the USDA, corn ethanol releases 43 percent fewer greenhouse gases than gasoline, making the renewable fuel greener than the federal government initially estimated. What's more, ethanol carbon emission could drop to about half of gasoline's by 2022 with improvements in corn yields and shifting fuel used during production.

CROWD-SOURCING FOR COWS? – For small beef producers, especially those who raise specialty beef for niche markets, selling directly to consumers can be tough. Enter Crowd Cow, an internet start-up which sells whole cows from small ranchers, divided into manageable orders and delivered to homes as frozen, vacuum-sealed cuts. Crowd Cow brands the meat it buys with ranchers' own labels and helps ranchers tell their stories. (New York Times)

USDA SETS TOUGHER ORGANIC STANDARDS – The USDA released more stringent animal-welfare standards for farmers who market meat and eggs as organic. The new rules, which take effect in March 2018, require a minimum amount of space for chickens, and require cattle, pigs and poultry to be allowed outdoors each day to feed. The USDA estimated it will cost organic farmers up to \$31 million to comply with the new laws. (Wall Street Journal)

Hot Issues in Agriculture

There is new legislation that been introduced in the United States Senate that would enforce the proper labeling of imitation dairy products. The Dairy Pride Act, introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), would protect the integrity of food standards by prompting the Food and Drug Administration to enforce existing labeling requirements, specifying that foods labeled as "milk" and "cheese" have to come from dairy animals. The bill would require FDA to issue a guidance for nationwide enforcement of these definitions within 90 days. It also would require FDA to report to Congress two years after the bill's enactment to hold the agency accountable for this update in their enforcement obligations. The legislation has drawn the endorsement from the International Dairy Foods Association and the National Milk Producers Federation. These organizations are concerned that the FDA has allowed the misbranding of imitation dairy products coming from vegetables and nuts. FDA regulations define milk as a product of a cow, with similar stipulations for yogurt and cheese.

The lack of enforcement of proper dairy terms in the United States market contrasts with how the matter is handled in other countries. As an example, the term "almond milk" is seen on products sold in the United States but it is absent from the same brand of almond beverage also sold in Canada and the United Kingdom.



Hannah Thompson-Weeman, Vice President of Communications for Agricultural Alliance, was a special guest of the Cook County Farm Bureau Board during a recent meeting. The Board discussed animal productions and animal rights and various animal rights related issues.

"Where Am I?"

If you can guess where Calvin is (in Cook County) when this photo was taken while hanging out with Country Financial Rep. Mike Basile, you will be entered to win a \$25 gas gift card!

To enter, simply call us at 708-354-3276 with your answer OR email your answer (please include name & member number) to: membership@linda@cookcfb.org using the subject "Where Am I?"

A name will be drawn at random.



“From the Country” Use Caution This Winter When Using Space Heaters



Joe Youngman
Country Agency
Manager
Chicago
Northeast Agency

With home heating costs on the rise this winter, many people are turning to alternate heating sources to keep costs down. If you plan to use space heaters this winter, use extreme caution. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), portable and fixed space heaters caused a disproportionate share of home heating fire deaths in 2007. Space heaters were involved in 32 percent of home heating fires, but 79 percent of the deaths. In addition, heating equipment was responsible for \$608 million in property damage.

How To Choose The Right Space Heater

- Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element to protect children and clothing.
- Choose a heater that has been certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Buy a heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat. The wrong size heater could

produce more pollutants and may not be an efficient use of energy.

- Read and follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions, and make sure all members of the household understand how to operate the heater safely.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic “tip-switch,” a cutoff device that turns off electric or kerosene heaters if they tip over.

How To Prevent Space Heater Fires

- Place the heater on a level, hard, noncombustible surface.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from bedding, drapes, furniture or other combustible items.
- Turn off the space heater when you leave the area, and never leave a space heater on while sleeping or if you leave home.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Do not use older space heaters or heaters with cords that are cracked or frayed.

When used correctly, space heaters can make a cold room comfortable and can help curb heating costs during the winter months. By following a few precautionary measures when using space heaters, you can ensure your family’s safety and warmth.

Trivia

- A sow is a female pig used for breeding... It is easy to remember the gestation period of a sow... Three months, three weeks, and three days.
- An average litter is 8 to 12 piglets. At birth, piglets weigh to a half pounds average.



Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager, was pleased to present a Cook County Agriculture Basket, packed with local farm and food agricultural products and goodness, to member Christine Grzebielucha and her husband Mark (not pictured). Chris was one of 28 Cook County Farm Bureau members who completed all 12 word search activities as a part of the Ag Adventures for Families page of the Cooperator in 2016. Her name was randomly drawn as a winner for her persistency. The Grzebieluchas have been members for over 30 years! They also had very nice things to say about their Country Financial Rep, Bob Smith as well! Kudos!

On-the-Road Seminar Motor Vehicle Regulations for Illinois Farmers

Trucking regulations are complicated, and farm exemptions compound that complexity. Seems everyone has a different answer to your question. We have worked with our friends at Will County Farm Bureau for members to attend a session to sort truth from conjecture and fact from rumor. **Come join us at 6:00 pm at Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Road in Joliet on March 30, 2017.**

The program is a two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws—both new and well-worn—specifically for farmers. We’ll take a special look at the latest rules and you’ll have the chance to ask those farm trucking questions for which answers are so elusive.

Laws have been reshaped in the past 24 months with more changes scheduled for 2017! Rules recently affected include: the medical card, equipment inspection requirements, out-

of-state CDL use, the USDOT Number, post-trip inspections, and something called the URS. New for 2017 is the MSCR-1, Process Agents and Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs).

We’ll cover these and some of the more-established—but still misunderstood—rules such as the USDOT Number, UCR registrations, and driver’s license classifications.

Presenting the seminar will be Kevin Rund who has specialized in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau® for more than 35 years. And you’ll receive take-home materials covering these topics.

The seminar is free courtesy of Will and Cook County FBs and Illinois Farm Bureau®, but advance registration is requested. There will be snacks available but no meal. **Please call 708-354-3276 to reserve your place at the On-the-Road Seminar.**

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Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit By Diane Merrion



Share your stories

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture unveiled their 2017 Book of the Year, Sleep Tight Farm by Eugenie Doyle. Below is the speech given by Ms. Doyle on

January 8, 2017 as she accepted her award.

“Thank you, this award is delicious!

Writing, much like farming, involves long hours of work and little acclaim. And that’s okay. We don’t chose those careers for their promise of celebrity status. Still, it is encouraging to have our work recognized and I thank you.

I want to say thank to my editor at Chronicle, Melissa Manlove, and of the brilliant illustrator of STF, Becca Stadlander. Clearly a picture book is not a picture book without visual images, and I am capable only of drawing with words.

I mention these two collaborators because they represented for me a challenge familiar to any farmer trying to illuminate the world of agriculture to those who through no fault of their own, are ag illiterates. To her great credit, my editor wanted to publish the book to fill a void in children’s literature about contemporary farms. As you certainly know, most farm books are outdated and or romanticized. And yet, the process of matching images to my text demanded patience from all involved. Melissa would send me Becca’s sketches and I would respond: Weelll, that’s a picture of a skep not a modern beehive, or the mother shouldn’t be handing the dad tools and standing around with clean clothes and a kerchief on her head, or, why is there a horse? The text says nothing about a horse and my husband has always called them expensive pets. Or, you can’t put two people on that tractor. No seat, no rider! I lost on the horse argument but I believe all the factual errors were corrected.

In other words, while I had written a book to expand a child’s understanding of a contemporary farm and its working family, even the construction of the book required careful explanation to illustrator and editor and the slashing of stereotypes.

It is time for this process to happen on a large scale. We farmers are so few, (less than 2% of the population) and yet everyone else eats. We need that larger group to understand the joys and challenges of our tiny group. Understanding is the first step towards compassion and respect. I believe that the true bridge between farmers and non-farmers is storytelling.

And I don’t mean simply branding, or marketing. We all know the value of telling our farm stories to market our products. Images of smiling farm families, beautiful fields, and healthy animals are used to sell crops to consumers and equipment and inputs to

producers.

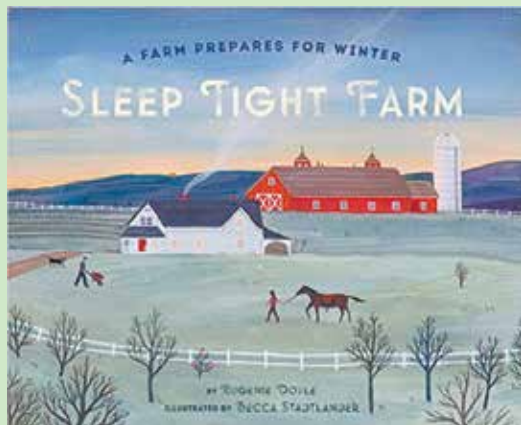
I would like to see us deepen the stories that we tell our non-farm neighbors. 32 years ago, the great Minnesotan writer, Lois Phillips Hudson wrote, “I submit that the time is ripe for a novel examining all the human problems involved in getting an edible tomato from the field to the table an urban apartment dweller.” That novel has still not been published. Nor has the movie appeared, or the TV series been made. Because, I believe no one can tell the human stories of farm people except farmers.

My story has included an urban childhood, falling in love with a dairy farmer, two auctions, returning to school, transitioning to organic berry and vegetable and hay farming, raising three children including twins, turning the farm over to one of them. My writing has focused on the farm life as I or my neighbors have experienced it during the end of the 20th century and the start of the 21st, an era during which our farm population has plummeted.

What I really want to say to you today is, join me! Write your stories down or tell them to your children, grandchildren. Be a pen pal to schoolchildren. Write a blog! Write of your decisions. What lies behind your choices? Sell the cows or no? Organic or no? Plant GMO seed or not? Hire H2A workers or no? Plant this or that? Get a divorce? Adopt a child? Cheat on taxes? Survive cancer, survive a fire? A drought?

Our stories are every bit as interesting as those better known in our culture. But if we don’t tell them, they will be lost, and the other 98% may continue to believe that food, fiber, and farmed fuel appears in their lives by magic. Let us at least accurately describe that magic.”

We congratulate Ms. Doyle on her award and feel ever more compelled to spread her message and those of all farmers through our Ag in the Classroom Programming. We don’t want their stories to be lost and we want the people living in our county to understand the importance of our farmers.



Butterflies, Bees & Pollination

*Free Teacher
Professional Development*



When: Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Time: 4:30-6:30 PM
Where: Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside 60525

Join us as we explore the important role pollinators' play in agriculture and in nature. We will examine the lifecycles of these insects with a University of IL Master Educator and a honey bee expert from Westside BeeBoyz (who currently manages hives across the Chicagoland area from Lincoln Park Zoo to the Shedd Aquarium to Chicago’s downtown rooftops). You will learn ways to bring this exciting topic back to your classroom with lesson ideas and resources will you earn 2 free PDCH’s. First 20 registrants (who are also present) will receive a pollinator book bundle.

Contact Jill at 708-354-3276 or aitc2@cookcfb.org to register.

Foundation Grant for National Conference

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® will be offering one scholarship for a teacher to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference which will take place June 20-23, 2017 in Kansas City, MO. For conference details, go to <http://naitconference.usu.edu/index.cfm>. To access the scholarship application, go to our website at <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy/teachers-resources/grants> and look for National Conference Grant or call us at 708-354-3276 and ask for Diane.

Thank You!



We would like to show our sincere appreciation to Charlotte Sellers for volunteering many days to label our reminder postcards for Ag in the Classroom Programming. Charlotte has volunteered every fall and winter to help us reach out to schools

about our free programming.

Our thanks to her and her sister, Martha, for their dedication to volunteering at the Cook County Farm Bureau.

SUMMER AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE 2017



SAI 1 June 26-30

Engaging Students through Agriculture

SAI 2 July 11-14

Food, Fiber, Fuel-Bringing STEM to your Classroom

Registration now open! Earn graduate credits or PDCH. Call 708-354-3276 for details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Diane Merrion, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator
aitc@cookcfb.org

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



The Chicago Auto Show takes place this month at McCormick Place. The show runs from February 11th thru the 20th. Did you know that the Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America? It has been held more times than any other auto exposition on the continent.

The show dates back all the way to 1901 when Chicago played host to its first auto show. It was held at the Chicago Coliseum where visitors paid 50 cents to see the latest fill the ground floor of the exhibit hall. The Coliseum, however, would hold its final Chicago show in 1935. The next year, the International Amphitheatre hosted the auto show. In 1942, Chicago was among the many auto shows that would go into hiatus due to the country's involvement in World War II but it resumed in 1950. In 1961, the Show would move to McCormick Place. Back then, it was 300,000 square feet in space and held 400 cars on its show floor. Over the years, Chicago would grow to become the biggest auto show space in the country, yielding the largest consumer auto show attendance in North America.



Source: Randystern.net

What is the connection between cars & agriculture?



Then... George Washington Carver convinced farmers in the south to plant peanuts as an alternative to cotton and helped revitalize the area's agriculture and became one of the most respected and influential scientists in the country.

He is also known for his efforts in discovering that soybeans were a valuable source of protein and oil. Like Carver, Ford was very interested in soil science and the potential of alternative crops like peanuts and soybeans to produce plastics, paint, fuel and other products for cars. The protein from the soybeans under heat was made into hard plastic parts for Ford's cars. By 1935 Mr. Ford was using one bushel of beans for every car he manufactured. Ford and Carver developed a deep respect for each other and that led to collaborative efforts in scientific and technological advancement for both the agricultural and automobile industries.



Now...

Ford Motor Company introduced the industry's first soy-based foam in seat cushions and seat backs over a decade ago. Today, renewable materials based on natural fibers are used to reinforce plastic in all Ford vehicles. Using fibers from sustainable grown trees, wheat-straw reinforced plastic and flax fiber, Ford has been able to make many parts for their cars. Currently, they are focusing on ways to use the waste from existing crop productions to make even more parts for their vehicles.

Source: Minnesota Ag in the Classroom & Corporate.Ford.com

Henry Ford's Model T

The Model T was an automobile built by the Ford Motor Company from 1908 until 1927. Conceived by Henry Ford as practical, affordable transportation for the common man, it quickly became prized for its low cost, durability, versatility, and ease of maintenance.

Henry Ford used agriculture in the innovation of his cars. The Model T was intended to be "a farmer's car" that served the transportation needs of a nation of farmers. Its popularity was bound to wane as the country urbanized and as rural regions got out of the mud with passage of the 1916 Federal Aid Road Act and the 1921 Federal Highway Act. Moreover, the Model T remained basically unchanged long after it was technologically obsolete. Model T owners began to trade up to larger, faster, smoother riding, more stylish cars. Lots of Model T Ford cars were converted into trucks, often by using aftermarket kits that provided extended frames and heavier duty rear ends.

It didn't take long for inventors and tinkers to see the possibilities of adapting the car into a more or less serviceable farm engine for pulling the horse-drawn implements that every farmer then had, even though some experts said the Ford was entirely unsuitable. That didn't stop them, however!



Source: History.com

Renewable materials used in automobile production includes:



Auto Word Search

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

Auto Show
 Automobile
 Car
 Carver
 Chicago
 Ford
 Jeans
 Materials

Model T
 Peanuts
 Plastic
 Recycled
 Renewable
 Soybeans
 Wheat
 Yarn

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____
 (Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 2 Movie Tix

(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Choose your prize: Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *AMC Movie Tickets (2 Green tix) *AMC Green tickets can be used for any movie except those that are distributed by The Walt Disney Company, which include: Disney, Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm, Ltd.

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: membership@cookcfb.org

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2017 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.



Carlos Perez

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!



'Tis the season for farmland TLC

I set annual mandatory assignments for myself as our family's primary homemaker. The porch must be scrubbed when the field dust settles after planting season. The windows washed again ahead of my daughter's fall birthday party. And the carpets steam-cleaned every November before my beloved Christmas decorations infiltrate nearly every room of the house.

Something like a deep household cleaning, our farms also need regular maintenance. We call it our land improvement list: Cut brush from fence rows. Remove or trim trees invading field edges. Improve land drainage. Evaluate more sensitive lands for enrollment in conservation programs. Confer with the Farm Service Agency when necessary, because as with tillage practices and pesticide applications, farmers have rules to follow for land improvement, too.

With frozen ground underfoot, the winter season ramps up our farm maintenance efforts outside for our backhoe, excavator and chainsaw operators. Meanwhile, those of us devoted to bookwork feel the chill of spreadsheets and tax time documents in the office. Thank goodness for hot cider K-Cups and chocolate. But back to the backhoe and its heated cab.

The desire to keep farms well-maintained and healthy motivates our commitment to annual farm clean-up. The tillable land around here stays

farmable when you prevent or fix the encroachment of trees that can rob water, nutrients and sunlight from crops. The removal of undesirable or invasive woody species, such as Russian olive, from pastures and field edges helps grasses re-establish and native trees thrive. The resulting healthier land enhances environmental stewardship and improves farm profitability and land value. The preservation of grasses and desirable trees also creates wildlife habitat. The latter makes great perch points for the bald eagles that frequent our farm this time of year.

Those big coils of black tube make their debut in farm country during winter, too, and represent another farm improvement practice on most farmers' to-do or wish lists. Their in-ground installation improves field drainage, which increases productivity and thus the land's value.

In short, when the crops don't grow, we still have plenty to do on the farm. Between farm clean-up, winter meetings and workshops, hauling grain, machinery maintenance, cattle chores and bookwork, the days fill up pretty quickly. Land improvement alone can consume a decent amount of winter's daylight hours. Those hours in the frozen fields bring a gratifying result, as does that freshly cleaned window at the kitchen sink.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, also works in her family's farm office in West-Central Illinois.

From the Farm Desk...

PRAIRIE FARMS TO ACQUIRE SWISS VALLEY (Cedar Rapids Gazette) – Prairie Farms Dairy and Swiss Valley Farms officials announced plans to merge the farmer-owned dairy cooperatives. Prairie Farms will combine the assets of Swiss Valley Farms into Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. The terms of the merge agreement must be approved by each company's co-op members

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS LOANING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO JUMPSTART URBAN FARMING – Every year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture devotes millions of dollars to farmers in rural areas and is starting to offer assistance to urban farms, too. In 2015, the USDA funded a dozen urban farms, Van Dolcini, the administrator for the USDA Farm Services Agency, tells [Business Insider](#).

BUMBLEBEE SPECIES JOINS FEDERAL ENDANGERED LIST (AP) – The rusty patched bumblebee has become the first bee species in the continental U.S. to be declared endangered after suffering a dramatic population decline over the past 20 years, federal officials said Tuesday.

ADM EXPANDING PET FOOD BUSINESS (Herald

& Review) – Archer Daniels Midland Co. is planning to expand further into the pet food business. The company signed an agreement to acquire Crosswind Industries, Inc., a Kansas based producer of dry expanded, dual texture, semi-dry and semi-moist trade products for pets. ADM already sells more than 50 ingredients and commodities used by more than 70 percent of all pet food companies in North America, said Ben Fenton, ADM's Animal nutrition business president.

CHINESE TARIFF HIKE LIKELY TO AFFECT ILLINOIS (Peoria Journal Star) – Tariffs imposed by China's government recently will have a significant effect on Illinois ethanol producers and the farmers who supply corn to create the fuel. "The true impact is yet to be seen, because we're going to have to wait and see how much prices soften," said Mike Doherty, senior economist with Illinois Farm Bureau.

MOFFITT NAMED TO IDOA ([State Journal-Register](#)) – Don Moffitt, who retired recently after more than 20 years in the state legislature, was named as the assistant director of the IDOA by Governor Bruce Rauner. Moffitt is a lifelong farmer and past agricultural education

teacher. He also received the IFB's Distinguished Service Award in 2016 for his service to farmers and agriculture in Illinois.

IFB COMPILES POLLINATOR RESOURCES ONLINE ([FarmWeekNow.com](#)) – A new IFB webpage offers a variety of online resources about pollinators and their habitats. Dubbed The Buzz, the [page](#) offers links to related pollinator resources, information for pesticide applicators and an interactive map and database that includes locations of Illinois beehives and other pesticide-sensitive crops and location. New information and updates will be added regularly.

BUSINESSES PUSH TO SAVE TPP – Business and ag groups are lobbying the Trump transition officials to save the TPP, despite President-elect Trump's plans to scrap the deal. The groups are arguing that the Trump administration should review, renegotiate and rename the deal, turning it into a Trump initiative to boost U.S. exports. Supporters say the deal will increase jobs and open new markets, as well as position the U.S. as a trade leader in the Asian-Pacific region. ([Wall Street Journal](#))



2017 Cookfresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Program Applications Available!

Cookfresh® Community Urban garden Grant Program is designed to "help" community gardens access needed plantings, seed, raised bed construction material, soil, compost, fencing and more.

Cookfresh® Cook County will award five \$300.00 grants to urban/community gardens in Cook County that are seeking to enhance their garden's success. A grant application sub-committee will evaluate applications and award five garden grants.

Awarded Cookfresh® grant funds are in the form of vouchers, redeemable same as cash at participating CCFB member Greenhouses and Garden Centers.

To download an application, go to <http://cookcfb.org/buy-local/programs> or contact Debbie: 708-354-3276 or by email at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

Grant applications need to be emailed, faxed or postmarked by: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to be considered.

Encourage your community garden coordinator to apply!

**Cleaner Engines,
Better Performance**

• **Dieslex® Gold**
• **AkroGold® Gasoline**
• **Suprex® Gold Lubricants**

**Try our Synthetic
5W-40 for better
fuel economy**

Call Now! 800.924.9942

CONSERV FS Serving Your Community Since 1928

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Coming to Your Mailboxes Soon: Viewpoint Surveys

Cook County Farm Bureau® works hard to be a leader on legislative and regulatory issues that impact Farm Bureau members. As we prepare to represent farmers' interests, we're reaching out to you to determine what our highest priority advocacy activities should be in 2017.

Farmer members are encouraged to share their expertise and concerns by responding to the Viewpoint Survey. Farm Bureau will use your feedback to make critical decisions regarding our legislative activities for the year.

Survey topics include: local government consolidation, government pensions, and county taxation.

Voting members are encouraged to return their surveys as soon as possible.

Members are Encouraged to Discuss Policy Issues Without Leaving Home

Cook County Farm Bureau® will host a policy discussion on **Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7 p.m.** This discussion will take place via conference call and all farmer members are invited to join in.

The discussion will primarily focus on private property rights, including the acquisition of land by the government or public utilities. This remains a timely and pertinent issue given the Great Lakes Basin Railroad and the Rock Island Clean Line energy project. Both projects will involve the acquisition, likely through eminent domain of private property. Farmer members

participating on the call will have ample opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues of concern to them, not related to the topic.

To participate in the discussion: Farmer members will receive an automated call just prior to 7 p.m. asking if they want to participate in the discussion.

Once on the call, members will be able to hear the discussion, ask questions, and discuss topics of interest to them.

Additional information regarding the call will be available on the website. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Vehicle Laws Important to Farmers

Members of the Cook County Farm Bureau have expressed concerns regarding the difficulties of moving farm vehicles and implements on Cook County roadways. In an effort to assist members moving farm vehicles on local roadways, we wanted to provide some basic, up to date information. If you'd like additional information please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.

Commercial Motor Vehicles

- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued guidance clarifying that implements of husbandry are not "**commercial motor vehicles**" (76 FR 50434, August 15, 2011); therefore, implements of husbandry are not subject to Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, but are instead regulated under the laws found in the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- The driver of a motor vehicle operated by a farmer is not required to have a **Commercial Driver's License (CDL)** when such vehicle is being used to transport the farmer's own: agricultural products; implements of husbandry; or farm supplies to and from a farm, as long as such movement is not over 150 air miles from the originating farm. The exemption extends beyond 150 miles within Illinois, if the vehicle qualifies as a "Covered Farm Vehicle" (625 ILCS 5/18b-101). This does not apply to the driver of any motor vehicle being used in a common or contract carrier type operation (625 ILCS 5/6-507).

Implements of Husbandry

- **Implements of husbandry** are vehicles designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock raising operations, including farm wagons, wagon trailers, or like vehicles used in conjunction with farming (625 ILCS 5/1-130).
- Implements of husbandry are generally not subject to **vehicle registration** (625 ILCS 5/3-402) or **mandatory insurance** requirements (625 ILCS 5/7-601). Some fertilizer equipment can be required to display specialized plates (625 ILCS 5/3-809(c)).
- A **driver's license** is not required to operate a farm tractor on public roads from farm-to-field or field-to-field (625 ILCS 5/6-102). "Farm tractor" include any self-propelled implement of husbandry (625 ILCS 5/1-120).
- Implements of husbandry are not required to have the lighting and markings of commercial vehicles. Example: some wagons may not have **turn signals**. Implements manufactured prior to 2003 are treated differently than those that are manufactured that year or after that time. Standards for markings on farm equipment and nationally-recognized industries are set by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. In Illinois, the ASABE lighting and marking standards (S279.11) apply only on equipment manufactured in 2003 or later. (625 ILCS 5/12-205 and 12-205.1)

Roundtable Discussion on Farm Bureau's Legislative Issues Scheduled for March 27

On Monday, March 27 Cook County legislators and their staffs are invited to join Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about pertinent national and state legislative issues.

Speakers will discuss Farm

Bureau's legislative priorities for 2017 and pertinent state and federal legislative issues. The goal of this discussion is to provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about the issues and for audience members to ask questions and discuss issues.

The discussion will begin at noon on March 27 in the Community Room at the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie in Chicago. For additional information or to register for the event please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bona Heinsohn

Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations
6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525 bona@cookcfb.org phone: 708.354.3276 fax: 708.579.6056

Please visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL to be updated on agricultural issues and Cook County Government.



By Bona Heinsohn

Spring also ushers in the every two-year trek of new Illinois General Assembly members. As well as the exodus of experienced of experienced legislators.

This year's trek will be led by Representative Theresa Mah who claimed the second House district. Mah who was on faculty at the University of Chicago will represent the Pilsen, Chinatown, Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Brighton Park and Back of the Yards neighborhoods. Mah's service record includes rallying the Chinese American community to push for a single district in 2012. In Springfield, she'll continue her work for working families, education, job growth, and immigration reform. Mah was endorsed by Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia among others.

Mah will be joined by Representative Juliana

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Soon families and college-aged students will prepare for the annual exodus to warmer climates, vacation rentals, and hotels situated along cascading currents of water. Chlorinated and otherwise.

Stratton. Stratton trounced former State Representative Ken Dunkin last spring. During the Primary Election, Stratton focused her rhetoric on the lack of a state budget, state services, and school funding. However, critics contend that the race was truly a showdown between House Speaker Mike Madigan and Governor Bruce Rauner. Prior to the election, Dunkin sided with Rauner on several important votes. Stratton's district includes portions of the Near North Side, Near South Side, South Loop, Washington Park, West Woodlawn, and Grand Crossing. Stratton was supported by former U.S. President Barack Obama who went as far as cutting ads for her. Obama rarely engaged in state politics during his tenure as POTUS.

Stratton will be joined by Representative Justin Slaughter who was appointed to replace former State Representative Monique Davis who retired suddenly in January. Slaughter has held multiple roles since receiving his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Chicago and Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University. Slaughter's work history

includes roles with Cook County government, State Senator Kwame Raoul, and Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore. Slaughter's district includes parts of Beverly, Chatham, Morgan Park, Roseland, Washington Heights, and West Pullman as well as Alsip, Blue Island, Crestwood, Orland Park, Palos Heights, and Robbins in the South suburbs. Slaughter a 2015 New Leadership Council Chicago Fellow filed to run against Davis but withdrew before the March Primary.

In the Senate, Illinois Senator Cristina Castro was elected to fill the seat vacated by former Senator Michael Noland from Elgin. Castro was elected to the Kane County board in 2008 and re-elected in 2012 to a four-year term. Castro is a lifelong Elgin resident with a Master's in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Northern Illinois University. Noland ran an unsuccessful race for Congress.

As Senators and Representatives take office, Farm Bureau will continue its efforts to engage legislators and expand their knowledge and awareness of the organization and farming issues.

MEMBER RELATIONS



Sunday, February 26, at 7pm
VS Iowa Wild

Thursday, March 9, at 7pm
VS Cleveland Monsters

Saturday, March 18, at 7pm
VS Grand Rapids Griffins

SPECIAL TICKET OFFER FOR COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS, PURCHASE 15+ TICKETS AND RECEIVE A FREE HAT FOR EACH GROUP MEMBER!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits> and click on "Entertainment".



CCFB and U of I Extension co-host babysitting class for pre-teen/teens

- When:** Saturday, May 6, 2017
- Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.—Please bring a lunch, CCFB will provide drinks.
- Where:** Cook County Farm Bureau Building in Countryside
- Cost:** \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members
- Goal:** To successfully train pre-teens and teens to be qualified babysitters.
- Inputs:** University of Illinois Extension Educator
- Outputs:** The curriculum will provide participants with the tools necessary to understand the expectations involved and be equipped for the challenges of babysitting. The following lessons will be presented:
 - Lesson 1 – Babysitting Responsibilities
 - Lesson 2 – The Business of Babysitting
 - Lesson 3 – Understanding Children
 - Lesson 4 – Nutrition
 - Lesson 5 – Fun with Children
 - Lesson 6 – Sitting Safely
 - Lesson 7 – Sharing Tool Kits and Portfolios
 Participation in this workshop is open to any pre-teen/teen with the interest in creating a babysitting business. **Attendees will receive certification after completion of class.**
- Outcomes/Impact:**
 - Short-term:** Participants will attend the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop to learn how to be qualified babysitters.
 - Medium-term:** Participants will begin to identify themselves as qualified babysitters as they prepare to develop their businesses.
 - Long-term:** Participants will complete the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop as qualified babysitters and have successful babysitting businesses.
- Deadline:** April 26, 2017

Call the CCFB to register for this important class at 708.354.3276!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie Smith, Director of Membership, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
membershipkatie@cookcfb.org phone: 708.354.3276 fax:708.579.6056

Cook County Farm Bureau's Member Service Center is now on Facebook. We will keep you up-to-date on all upcoming events, new membership benefits and programs. Look us up by searching "Cook County Farm Bureau Membership/Benefits"

Country Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



***Ilir Numani**
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy, Ste 200 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 631-2909. Ilir has been a Career Financial Representative since April 2005.



Sylwia Grochowska
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem Ave in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is (773) 628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



***Yanni Zavakos**
Chicago Northeast Agency, Joe Youngman, Agency Manager
Yanni Zavakos has been named Career Financial Representatives of the Month for December 2016. Yanni's office is located at 333 E. Dundee Rd. in Wheeling, IL. Yanni's phone number is (847) 419-1352. Yanni has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2010.



Joe Munch
Chicago Northeast Agency, Joe Youngman, Agency Manager
Joe Munch has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for December 2016. Joe's office is located at 4190 W. Euclid Ave in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is (847) 963-8835. Joe has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Bill Schutz
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Bill Schutz has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. 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 Career Financial Representative since November 1985.



Frank Hernandez
Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Frank Hernandez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. His office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd. in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is (847) 891-3072. Frank has been a Financial Representative since December 2016.



***Silver Castillo**
Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Silver Castillo has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 284-9000. Silver has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2015.



***Dennis Brown**
Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Dennis Brown has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for December 2016. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 284-9000. Dennis has been a Financial Representative since March 2015.



***Tom Geraghty**
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Tom Geraghty has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for December 2016. His office is located at 5003 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn, IL. His phone number is (708) 425-9700. Tom has been a Career Financial Representative since December 1982.



Paul Froiland
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Paul Froiland has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for December 2016. His office is located at 106 Stephen St., Ste 102A in Lemont, IL. His Phone number is (708) 226-1432. Paul has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Kyle Stevens
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Kyle Stevens has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for December 2016. His office is located at 30 S. Ash in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is (815) 464-9018. Kyle has been a Career Financial Representative since December 2005.



Monica Moore
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Monica Moore has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for December 2016. Her office is located at 4845 167th St, Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is (708) 560-7777. Monica has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.

**Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by Financial Representatives from Country Financial with the Cook County Farm Bureau organization.*

“546,000”
is the number of
Cooperators sent to households
in the last year!

It's no wonder the classified
ad section is so popular
with our members!

Classifieds

All items listed are for the accommodation of the membership and without guarantee of the publisher.

Miscellaneous

2 Heavy door stops. One is a ship, the other is a boot. Also, Lionel train set in box, bought in 1970. Call Bonnie at 219-472-8695.

Jukebox, Rock-ola 460, 1973, includes 1,100 (45) records, \$1,800. Schwinn A10 exercycle \$100. Tools (hand & power) \$1 to \$20. Call 708-269-6987.

Handicap Ramp, approximately 28 ft, built to required safety specs, in 4 1/2 - 10 1/2 ft lengths. You disassemble (screwed together) and it's yours! ALSO FREE: Hospital Bed with removable rails and electronic control. Call Marilyn 708-926-4566.

Hang Ups Inversion table F7000, assembled with VHS instructions \$125 OBO. Call 708-278-4168.

Motorized Vehicles and Accessories

2005 Itasca 37B motor home, class A, many upgrades, low mileage plus extras. \$65,000. Call 708-474-5662.

2004 Honda Goldwing trike, low mileage, excellent condition, extras. \$25,000. Call 708-474-5662.

1994 Chevy S10 P/U, extended cab, 4.3 (6 cyl), auto, 142,000 miles, runs great, good body, new cab corners, recent tires. \$1,650. Call 708-439-9770.

Camping trailer, 2001 sportsman coyote, 25 ft hybrid, new tires, very good condition, will send pictures. Call 708-672-6942.

Polaris Sportman 700ATV, 4WD, 1,300 miles, adult driven, VG cond. \$3,000. Call 708-606-6049.

65' Falcon Futura, hardtop, parts, windows, trims, doors. Call 708-602-2663.

Real Estate For Sale/Rent

Approx. 15,000 sq. ft vacant land zoned C3 at 8025 W. Grand Ave in River Grove, IL. Now a small garden center with Greenhouses. For only \$550,000. The price of land alone, greenhouses FREE. Call 708-707-7423.

Industrial Building, offices, parking, and fenced yard. 2300 sq. ft. modern masonry building with 2 overhead doors and dock. Wired for heavy duty electrical. Located in Worth, IL near Southwest Highway and 111th Street. Available for rent, call 708-670-2118.

Vacation Sales/Rentals

Hilton Head Island 2BR 2BA condo, walk to beach, pools, tennis, restaurants, shopping. Spacious, fully-equipped. Winter is booked, spring & summer are starting to fill up \$700-\$1,015 per week + taxes + fees. Call 973-615-8484.

5 star resort 3br/2ba condo 2 miles from Disney World Orland. Rental rates from \$80/night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com/218673.

Florida Keys condo for rent. Furnished 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, full kitchen, washer, dryer, decks, & pool. Located in the Middle Keys with easy access to ocean or gulf. Boat slip included with condo rental. Coral Lagoon, UNIT 18, Marathon, FL. 305-289-2212.

Westin St. John Resort, Virgin Islands, 8 days, 7 nights, June 17-24. Fully furnished studio, sleeps four. Kitchenette, washer/dryer, 2 pools (one semi-private), spa, exercise center, more. Check www.westinresortstjohn.com for photos. Call 847-426-9552.

Wanted

Top dollar paid, instant cash for your car or truck, running or not. Call 224-465-4733.

Older hot wheels, die cast cars, etc. Also old toys & old bicycles, old motor bikes, old radios, transistors & table tops. Call 708-361-8230.

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! I'm retired

and just enjoy trains. I realize that some may need work from sitting for a long time, but I have the time to fix them! TURN THOSE UNWANTED TRAIN ITEMS INTO CASH, and give me a call! I also buy slot cars. Call 630-272-4433 ask for Ron. Thanks!

NEW If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us and we will include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website along with your ad. All ads that we receive for the Cooperator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. Email your photo along with your ad to membershiplinda@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 15th of each month.

Category: For Sale Misc. 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 membershiplinda@cookcfb.org
Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum.

Are GMOs really safe? Really?

Join area libraries and Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about how your food is grown and the decisions today's farmers make. Speakers will provide an overview of modern farming practices, organic farming, and the use of GMOs. Speakers will also address audience members' questions.

March 13, 2017
6:30 p.m.
Homewood Public Library
17917 Dixie Highway in Homewood

March 20, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Poplar Creek Library
4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park

Speakers



Kim Morton, a former farm manager for the Northern Trust Company and farm owner, is one of Chicagoland's premier speakers on GMO testing and use. In her role with the Northern Trust Company, she became the second woman in the nation to receive the "Accredited Farm Manager" designation and was a member of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Class of 1998.

Morton is an active member of the Cook County Farm Bureau®.



Tim Stuenkel is the Global Marketing Communications Manager at TeeJet Technologies, a leading global manufacturer of crop protection application and precision farming equipment based in Wheaton, Illinois. Stuenkel has served in various roles including technical support, sales, and international market development since joining the company in 2000. Stuenkel was a member of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Class of 2012.

Stuenkel was raised on the same corn and soybean farm in Cook County that he and his sisters now run. Stuenkel is an active member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors.

Jeff Heinsohn serves as Agronomy and Machinery Manager for Walnut Grove Farms in Kirkland, Illinois. Walnut Grove Farms is a 400-cow dairy farm. Heinsohn is directly responsible for the management of over 2,500-acres of both organic and conventional crops. Over 860-acres of the farm are certified organic by the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. Heinsohn was a member of the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Class of 2006.

Heinsohn is a third generation family farmer and is a member of DeKalb County Farm Bureau®.

About Cook County Farm Bureau®

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.

The Cooperator, official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, does accept paid advertising. A copy of the rate card may be accessed at www.cookcfb.org in News and Views or call the CCFB office at 708.354.3276 for a copy. The publication goes to more than 40,000 households each month.

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

Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2017
from 6:30-9 p.m.

Where: Country Financial Building
25 NW Point, Suite 850,
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Cost: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members
\$10 per person for non-members

To Pre-register: Call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Register by: Wednesday, April 12, 2017—Limited seating!

Speakers and Program

Descriptions:
Estate Planning and Trust Administration

Presented by Linda S. Fine, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Ms. Fine concentrates her practice in estate planning for high net worth clients, estate and trust administration, estate and gift taxation, guardianships, contested estates, and complex probate matters. Ms. Fine also represents business owners with respect to the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

Presented by Robert A. Holland, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Mr. Holland concentrates his practice in estate planning, estate and trust administration, taxation, corporate transactional work, business planning, asset

protection, residential and commercial real estate transactions and antenuptial agreements. Mr. Holland's business planning practice includes representation regarding the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, including ownership agreements, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and not-for-profit planning.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa's Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa's pocket watch, or even Grandma's pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue; deciding what you want to accomplish; deciding what the word "fair" means in your family; identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences; and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.

**Cook County Farm Bureau is Hosting..
Electronic Recycling/Shred Day Saturday, April 1
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
4190 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows**



Shredding: You can bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like have shredded.

Electronic Recycling: Don't let your old electronics end up in a land-fill!

Items that **CAN** be dropped off for recycling include:

- computers
- speakers
- printers/faxes
- batteries
- cables
- phones (all types)
- stereo equipment
- servers
- laptops
- circuit boards
- copiers
- networking equipment

Items that **CANNOT** be dropped off for recycling include:

- microwaves
- T.V.'s
- air conditioners
- food processing equipment
- washers/dryers
- refrigerators
- freezers

**Because of environmental protection rules, we need to charge \$10 per computer monitor to cover the costs of proper recycling and disposal.

Please call the CCFB at 708.354.3276 to make a reservation.



**Partner with us to
Support Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana**

On February 14, Farm Bureau families and partners will join together to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when a child is ill. Through your support, we can make this year's Food Checkout Day a tremendous success.

Through YOUR support we've been able to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is not a concern of theirs during these times.

Help us to collect non-perishable food, money, and pop tabs.

Food, cash and pop tab donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

**Cook County Farm
Bureau®
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, Illinois 60525
(708) 354-3276**

Last year we were able to donate over \$20,000 to the five area Ronald McDonald Houses. Due to your efforts, Ronald McDonald Houses remain open to all families regardless of an individual's

ability to pay.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow.

Please partner with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.

Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

Veggies Sponsor

Includes inclusion on all advance promotions and significant event signage.

\$500

Sweet Corn Sponsor

Includes inclusion on all advanced promotions and cart signs at Chicago and Oak Lawn grocery store events.

\$250

Grains Sponsor

Includes event signage.

\$150

**2017 Chicago Flower
& Garden Show
March 18th-26th Chicago's Navy Pier**



Receive \$2 off the current online ticket pricing. To purchase your discounted tickets to the Flower and Garden show, please visit: <http://chicagoflower.com/tickets/> and use Code: CCFB17

- *Advance Weekday ticket prices: \$13
- *Advance Weekend ticket prices: \$15
- *Must purchase tickets before March 18th

Online Weekday ticket price: \$15 (purchased on or after March 18th)
Online Weekend ticket price: \$17 (purchased on or after March 18th)
Children Ticket Price (Ages 4-12): \$5

Flower & Garden Show Hours:

Sunday thru Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Last
Chance 2017 Foundation Scholarship
Applications Being Accepted**

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 19th Annual Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue his/her higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided ten scholarships ranging from \$1,000.00 - \$3,000 a piece. The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award a scholarship (s) to college students pursuing agriculturally related fields of study. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to a High School Senior in an approved FFA Program.

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

- Applications are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation office located at 6438 Joliet Road in Countryside, Illinois. We will also send applications upon request by calling 708-354-3276 or they can be printed out on the Foundation page of www.cookcfb.org.
- **Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 17th, 2017.** Late applications will not be considered.
- All applicants must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year. (Except for the Conserv FS FFA Award)

- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.
- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agriculturally related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

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

**Food Checkout Day
SPONSORSHIP 2017**

- ___ \$500 Veggie Sponsor
 - ___ \$250 Sweet Corn Sponsor
 - ___ \$150 Grains Sponsor
 - ___ Other amount
- Indicate which level you are purchasing*

Company/Individual Name _____

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

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

If affiliated with a Country Financial Agency, please indicate _____

___ Please indicate if you are interested in participating in the 2017 social media "Countdown" to Food Checkout Day. Farm Bureau staff will contact you to make arrangements.

**Please make checks payable to:
Ronald McDonald House Charities.**

All proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

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