



# 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

- MAY
- 15 - IL Veterinary Ed & Training Loan Program pg. 3
  - 21 - Industrial hemp – one year later webinar pg. 2

## 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.

April Winner is Janice McArthur



April question: Bernadine Horcher received what award from Illinois Farm Bureau® in 1999?

**Answer:** The "Apple for the Teacher" award in 1999.

## But Wait, There's More!

Go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) for these extras...

- Farm and Food Bytes
- Safe Grocery Shopping
- 5 things members should know about Cook County Farm Bureau
- Member to Member Buy Local
- Soil Test Kits
- Beekeeping Resources
- USDA announces Coronavirus Agricultural Assistance program
- Shop Spring local

## Thank You – Volunteers!



The collage above was posted on the Cook County Farm Bureau Facebook page recently. April 19 through the 26th was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. The Cook County Farm Bureau depends on, values and appreciates our many volunteers that provide such a wide range of support and dedication to area agriculture and Farm Bureau membership. We celebrate members that provide strategic vision, organizational enthusiasm, online communications to elected officials, support of our many programming and ag literacy efforts and so much more. In celebration and recognition of our many volunteers, the Cook County Farm Bureau provided a donation to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

## Farm Bureau Affiliates Stepping up During Crisis

### COUNTRY providing 15% auto premium refunds

COUNTRY Financial® will provide every client with a personal auto insurance policy as of April 1 with a 15% refund for two months of auto premium in anticipation of a decrease in driving activity in April and May. The refund is part of the company's ongoing efforts to assist clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our clients are doing their part during COVID-19 and staying home. That means fewer accidents and lower claims costs," said Jim Jacobs, COUNTRY CEO. "We always work hard to

provide the protection our clients need. When we can do that for less cost, we believe returning money to our clients is the right thing to do, especially during challenging times."

Pending regulatory approval, the company will mail refund checks in May. Clients do not need to take any action to receive a refund check.

Last month, the company announced it had extended payment deadlines for clients to prevent cancellations, late fees, and non-renewals.

**...Story Continued on Page 2**

## Dear Cook County Farm Bureau® members,

We have made it to the month of May... finally! The month of April was full of disruption, chaos, anxiety, financial stress, and more for many of our Cook County Farm Bureau members and families. Our hearts go out to all that have been affected (likely everyone) by COVID-19.

We would like to thank our area farmers and agriculturalists for the hard work you continue to do to keep grocery store shelves stocked with safe, nutritious food, the products that we all enjoy every day and the plants that provide food and beauty in our gardens, properties, and communities. We have many members that are involved in healthcare and first response and we tip our hats to your amazing efforts.

We know that many of our members with farm/agricultural enterprises and small business owners are facing serious financial consequences. In addition, many of our members work in businesses and organizations that are feeling the impacts of the shelter at home order and facing economic crisis. Government at federal, state, and local levels are attempting to help bridge the gap through unemployment expansion, financial programs, forgivable and low interest loans, etc. These efforts will help but will not make most "whole".

During these difficult times, the Cook County Farm Bureau is here to help you, your family, and your business. You will notice that within this publication, we have dedicated much of our space to ways to help members economically, mentally, and emotionally through these trying times.

We have created a special 4-page insert designed to support our agricultural friends and emphasize the importance of buying local to support our area small businesses. Please pull out the special 4-page section and keep local member businesses in mind in coming months during the extended recovery period. We have attempted to make the list comprehensive but likely have unintentionally missed some. Please let us know and we can add your business to the Buy Local area of our website.

Thank you for being a part of the Cook County Farm Bureau family through your membership. Please be safe and healthy.

Yours truly and respectfully,

Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Manager  
Cook County Farm Bureau

## 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 biofuels. 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!

# Farm Bureau Affiliates Stepping up During Crisis

## COUNTRY Financial® to Donate \$3 Million to First Responders, Healthcare Workers through Operation Helping Heroes Program

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the U.S. and add pressure to the nation's hospitals, healthcare workers and first responders, COUNTRY Financial® is stepping in to provide funds for much-needed equipment and supplies. Through its Operation Helping Heroes program, the company will donate \$3 million to first responders, medical workers and military service members in the communities it does business in.

"Healthcare workers and first responders are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic,

risking their lives every day to take care of those in our communities. We believe it's our responsibility to take care of them," said Tim Harris, executive vice president for COUNTRY Financial.

COUNTRY Financial announced earlier this year that it would donate \$1 million through its Operation Helping Heroes program to first responders and military service members. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the company will now triple its investment in the program. The \$3 million donation will be allocated to the company's more than 2,000 representatives and agents who will each be able to provide funds to support their local first responders.

Operation Helping Heroes was created in 2015 to support non-profit organizations that support active duty service members, veterans and their families.

## Prairie Farms Boosting Food Bank Donations

Our Caps Your Cause, Prairie Farms' charitable giving program, will quadruple points for cap codes redeemed for food banks through May. That means each cap is worth 20 cents instead of 5 cents.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Prairie Farms is giving back even more by increasing support for nearly 50 food banks that are currently registered as an Our Caps Your Cause charity.

Anyone may participate by:

1. Simply purchasing gallons or half-gallons of Prairie Farms milk
2. Peeling the sticker on the cap to reveal the code
3. Visit [prairiefarms.com/ocyc-redeemcodes](http://prairiefarms.com/ocyc-redeemcodes) to select a food bank and entering the cap code

Once the 1,000-cap goal is met, the food bank will receive a check for \$200.

Because of COVID-19, Prairie Farms has also launched [www.prairiefarms.com/stayathome/](http://www.prairiefarms.com/stayathome/) which offers a variety of resources, including recipes, Chef Rob "how-to" cooking tips, coupons, and a video series featuring Prairie Farms dairy farm families.

## Rescheduled: Hemp ...1 Year Later "Fireside" Webinar

Join us for a fireside webinar to discuss Hemp 1 year of legalization in IL. Jarret Burke, KifCure and Phil Alberti, Extension will discuss updates to legislation, processing & markets, seed and more. Email: [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org) to register or for additional details or questions.

### Rescheduled Date:

**Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Registration: Email name, phone to: [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org) and meeting link/ld will be provided. CCFB Members may also register online using their account at the Member Center ([www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org))



## 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...

- Our many members that are farmers, landowners, greenhouse operators, garden centers, teachers, healthcare professionals, small business owners and staff, frontline responders, public and private institution employees, and so many more for remaining strong and optimistic during this difficult time. Our inspiration and hope lie with you.
- Our Board of Directors, staff, members, COUNTRY Financial® staff, and the public for being so supportive and helpful as the organization has sought to help members with the COVID-19 circumstances.

- Our many current and new followers on social media that are engaging in our agriculture literacy activities, agricultural trivia, stay at home agricultural scavenger hunt, and various messages.
- The Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs and Communications staff that has worked to represent all aspects of agriculture at the Federal and State level on behalf of the horticulture, equine, specialty, livestock, and commodity crop industries in the Cook County area.

## Historical Question of the Month



This Cook County Farm Bureau display featured dairy, vegetable, and grain farms. Where was this display used in 1949?

Answers (if not at the tip of your tongue) are available online at [cookcfb.org/ccfb/ourhistory](http://cookcfb.org/ccfb/ourhistory). Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, fax your answer to 708-579-6056, or email [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## IAA CREDIT UNION IS HERE TO HELP YOU THROUGH THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES!

For help navigating COVID-19 financial questions: Visit IAACU's dedicated Response page at [www.iaacu.org/coronavirus](http://www.iaacu.org/coronavirus)



IAACU serves the members and employees of the Illinois Farm Bureau and related Family of Companies.

## \$20 Gifts Available

Want a \$20 CookFresh funds gift card redeemable to one of our area greenhouses, garden centers, farm stands or other farm businesses? Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer, or professional member. If they join, you will receive \$20 in Cookfresh funds! Call our office at 708-354-3276 to let us know that you referred a member.

Individuals can join the Cook County Farm Bureau by going to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.

## Co-Operator

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Cook County Farm Bureau

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# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager  
**“Control That”**

It only took a matter of a few days for a new reality to set in. The realization that there is a new normal. We are in the midst of life-changing events.

Businesses were forced to rework approaches to their model, most built over a number of years, in a matter of days. Many workers were faced with the prospect of unemployment, something that never crossed their minds before. Parents became homeschoolers overnight. Technology infrastructure was tested beyond its limits. Healthcare providers and first responders have carried the enormous weight of duty with the pressure and responsibility of family health concerns.

Have Americans learned more about how government regulations and red tape roadblocks prevent the delivery of solutions? FDA testing rules, food labeling rules, transportation rules, state to state commerce rules, and a myriad of healthcare rules have been exposed during this crisis.

Was the Shelter in Place order in Illinois to “flatten the curve” the right thing to do? History will tell. Much of the Shelter in Place order picked winners and losers through the determination of essential and nonessential industries and workers. No matter what the order stated, most people believe they are essential. Our farm, agricultural and horticultural workers certainly are.

Farming and agriculture have been seriously affected. Our area green industry has taken a big hit with a major chunk of our greenhouses, garden centers, farmers markets, and nurseries dependent on spring sales. Local small vegetable producers who have cultivated direct relationships with area restaurants and chefs face major challenges. Our state’s milk producers have suffered greatly as school lunch programs closed and restaurants were restricted. Livestock producers are seeing how breaks in the farm to-table- food chain create total disruption both on the farm and for supermarkets. Consumers have been affected as food access from restaurants and school lunch menus have migrated to a heavy emphasis of “at home” food consumption.

Society has become accustomed to being able to access avocados, bananas, grapefruit, broccoli, and grapes whenever we please, year-round. It is a shock to the system when choice and availability seems to be at risk. We have certainly learned the interconnected nature of our world. Just look at the logistics of the basic food chain...

- The consumer depends upon the supermarkets/restaurants for food and products.
- The supermarkets/restaurants depend upon transportation (and drivers) to deliver the food and products.
- The transportation industry depends upon manufacturing and processing industry to provide products, product packaging, marketing and logistics to fill the delivery requests.
- The manufacturing and processing industry depend upon the commodity markets including meat packing plants, grain elevators, and wholesalers for the products.
- The commodity markets depend upon farmers to produce food, milk, grains, fuel, plants, and all the agricultural related products that the world uses every day.
- The farmers depend upon the ability to access inputs (such as fertilizer, fuel on the farm, seeds, etc.), labor, and their markets/consumers in order to provide the products that the food chain depends upon.

It is important to realize that the farm supply of eggs, milk, bacon, steaks, flour, and other food staples are plentiful, however, when one of the links in the chain is broken, Americans see economic stress, shortages, pricing pressures, and a lack of choice and selection. And, everyone in the food chain suffers including farmers.

People are really grasping at something, anything about this situation that they can “control”:

- I have turned off the doom and gloom news... I can control that!
- I have focused my early mornings on 30-60 minutes of a cardio workout... I can control that!
- I have enjoyed lunches with my wife every day during the stay-at-home order... I can control that!
- I have spent time on some house and property projects... I can control that!

As an organization, CCFB has spent time brainstorming on how we can support our members... We can control that!

Local farms and member small businesses need our help, and we encourage you to shop local, buy local, support local. (See our special insert, pages 5 through 8, dedicated to lending a helping hand to our friends and our neighbors, our Farm Bureau family members.)

**We can control that!**

The next month and beyond will be focused on reopening America. Certainly, the Monday morning quarterbacks will not go on unemployment!

Bob can be reached at [brohrer@cookcfb.org](mailto:brohrer@cookcfb.org)

**Recipe of the Month: Nutty Rhubarb Muffins**  
 1999

**Ingredients:**

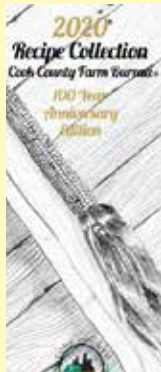
- 1 c diced fresh rhubarb
- ¾ c packed brown sugar
- ½ c buttermilk or sour milk (½ c milk + ½ T vinegar)
- c vegetable oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 t vanilla
- 2 c flour
- 1 t baking soda
- ½ t salt

**Topping:**

- ½ c packed brown sugar
- ¾ c chopped nuts
- ½ t ground cinnamon

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 375°. In small mixing bowl, combine brown sugar, buttermilk, oil, egg, and vanilla. Mix well and set aside. In a medium mixing bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt. Add egg mixture and diced rhubarb; stir until just combined. Spoon batter into paper-lined muffin tin. Mix topping, sprinkle on top, and press down. Bake at 375° for 20 minutes. Makes 18 muffins.



The 2020 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is a special “throwback” edition for our 100th year with recipes selected from decades of submissions to commemorate our Centennial! Recipe Booklets are available now!

## Illinois Veterinary Education and Training Loan Program

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focused on Illinois food animal medicine.

The IVET Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of 2 to 3 years. IVET awards recipients receive a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

“Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals. To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry,” said Tasha Bunting, associate director of commodities & livestock programs, IFB. “It’s an opportunity to help bring a calf into the world and share in the love that farmers have for their animals.”

Applications are due May 15, 2020 and can be found online at [www.ifb.org/IVET](http://www.ifb.org/IVET). The selection committee will interview applicants in spring 2020. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$430,000 to 24 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

## IFB Young Leader Facebook Campaign Benefits Food Banks

### CCFB Young Leaders join in

The Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) State Young Leader Committee’s Harvest for All initiative on Facebook raised more than \$21,000 for eight food banks across the state.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders joined in by contributing \$437 to the Greater Chicago Food Depository as a part of the program. Jessica Biernacki, chairman of the group, said, “We were planning to donate the funds in March as a part of our Young Leader packing day at the Greater Food Depository, but the event was canceled when COVID-19 hit. Area food banks are facing significant need and can use the funds immediately... We wanted to play our part.”

The two-week Facebook campaign included donations as well as IFB matching funds. An extra \$1,000 per food bank was provided through Harvest for All funds.

Food banks receiving funds include Central Illinois Foodbank of Springfield; Greater Chicago Food Depository; Northern Illinois Food Bank of Geneva; Eastern Illinois Foodbank of Urbana; Peoria Area Food Bank; River Bend Foodbank of Davenport, Iowa; St. Louis Area Foodbank and Tri-State Food Bank of Evansville, Indiana.

## Your Chicago South Agency

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# Planting Presses Through Another Unprecedented Season



When the wall calendar changed in January, we looked to the 2020 planting season with anxious optimism. Our family, farm friends, and even fields needed a fresh start after 2019. Last year's growing season was brutal, from its unprecedented widespread planting delays and trade wars to a muddy harvest that crept into the month of December.

Then entered the novel coronavirus, a biological threat sweeping the globe and turning lifestyles and economies on their heads. We now begin another historic planting season with challenges beyond our control. As a business deemed essential, farm operations continue, and we stand determined to plant corn and soybeans in a timely manner while mindful of social distancing guidelines.

Hours in the tractor cab naturally isolate farm families like ours this time of year. We take comfort in this seasonal confinement and the priority task of planting, a welcome distraction from the troubling news of the world. I most enjoy the swift precision of the season. The planting process takes a fraction of the time of harvest and resembles an incredible work

of technological art. The tractor drives itself straight and hands-free. The high-tech planter places seed at precise spacing. Automatic sensors adjust ground pressure per planter row to sow seed at uniform depths. Software prescriptions vary the seeding rate with the guidance of global-positioning satellites. That guidance controls automatic row shut-offs on the planter to prevent overlapped planting of seed.

A machinery breakdown and overdue haircuts (even worse than in a normal spring season) will promptly remind us of the world's issues. With non-essential businesses shut down and essential agribusinesses closed to walk-in traffic, farmers forgo haircuts and order parts by phone to pick up in parking lots. Stresses will elevate if the pandemic infects any of us or the supply chain of parts, fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and other supplies or services necessary to plant crops. That includes grocery pickups to feed the planting crew.

At our farm's grain storage facility, a lit heart in the scale house window shares the universal message of togetherness and encouragement. It seems we have entered another year when we again hope that changing the calendar brings a better start.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois. This is a program developed by the Cook County Farm Bureau Commodities/Marketing Team*

## Resources Available to Assist Businesses During COVID- 19

Information on COVID- 19 and available resources are changing daily; however, the following resources are available at the time of publication:

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (federal program)-Specially for small businesses, it includes \$347 billion for the Small Business Administration to administer the Paycheck Protection Program, a forgivable loan for businesses, non-profits, farms, and 1099 workers impacted by the COVID- 19 pandemic.
- Cook County Community Recovery Fund (county program) This loan fund offers one-time, zero-interest loans of up to \$20,000 for small businesses and \$10,000 for independent contractors in suburban Cook County. Loans will be administered by the Chicago Community Loan Fund and provided by a network of community

lenders. Applications open in mid-April on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Chicago COVID- 19 resources (Chicago program) Specifically for residents and businesses located in Chicago, these programs assist consumers and businesses.
- Small business loans (federal program) Specifically for small businesses, small business loans can assist small businesses with accessing federal resources, including access to capital.

Information on all programs is available on Cook County Farm Bureau's website at [cookcfb.org/stay-updated/covid-19-resources](http://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/covid-19-resources) and Illinois Farm Bureau's website at [ilfb.org/resources/covid-19-resources](http://ilfb.org/resources/covid-19-resources).

Please note that this information is ever changing, so please visit the resource pages for the most up to date links and information.

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

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

**Don Rietveld, owner of Crete Garden Center & Nursery**

- Don Rietveld started mowing lawns at the age of 10 for all the farmers in the area. At 16 he started working in a machine shop for 12 years.
- His father was in property management and Don started mowing his properties after work. Within 2 years Don had so much work that he left the machine shop and started landscaping full time.
- In 2007 Don bought out Paarlberg Chemical which sold agricultural chemicals moved it to Crete and opened Crete Garden Center.
- In addition to a large inventory of trees, shrubs, perennials, decorative stone, and Unilock products, they also sell custom grass seed, and a large selection of fertilizer.



Crete Garden Center & Nursery  
Address: 1625 East Richton Rd.  
Crete, IL 60417  
Ph: 708-672-0900  
Hours: Mon- Fri 8 am - 5pm  
Closed Sundays  
Saturday 8 am - 3 pm  
Online: [www.cretegarden.com](http://www.cretegarden.com)  
FB: Crete Garden Center & Nurse

**IF YOU/FAMILY WAS NOT DOING THIS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Retired on a beach.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM RELATED MEMORY?**

Time with grandpa.

**WHAT BRINGS JOY TO YOU?**

Being with family.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A FARM BUREAU MEMBER?**

This is my 36th year but I know my dad and grandfather were also Farm Bureau Members... for a long time.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?**

Fall, everything is usually slowing down.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLANT?**

Korean Spice Viburnum

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST VALUABLE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT?**

Payloader purchased last year.

**WHAT DO YOU "SPECIALIZE" IN?**

Landscaping

## Meet the 2020 Cookfresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients!

- **Urban Autism Solutions-Growing Solutions Farm** located in Chicago's Near West Side neighborhood is an urban ag and vocational learning site that is specifically designed for young adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is a 1.2-acre farm with over 100 raised beds, fruit trees, cooling, and hoop house with classroom space. Grant funds will be used to purchase seedlings and vegetable plantings for the garden's beds.
- **Willard-Lathrop Garden** located in Cook County's Harvey neighborhood is located on two neighborhood lots that have been empty for decades. Produce grown at the garden will benefit the community as produce is donated weekly to their Food Pantry, as well as in weekly meals provided to children in after school programs and summer day camp, as well as to community residents. The garden also promotes a sense of community. Grant funds will be used to purchase soil, mulch, vegetable plants, and garden tools.
- **Sacred Greens Community Garden** located in Chicago's near south side Fernwood neighborhood is a garden that continues Green Lot Project's mission of neighborhood beautification, food provisions for members and neighbors, educational opportunities, and helping to create a local food system. Grant funds will be used to purchase vegetable plants, perennial herbs, fruit trees, and garden equipment.
- **Kirby's Cove** located in Cook County's Ford Heights neighborhood is a community garden that will educate young people how to grow their own food, learn how to eat healthy, and to beautify and take pride in your neighborhood. Grant funds will be used to purchase plants, fertilizer and garden equipment.
- **Maxwell Street Community Garden** located in Chicago's Near West Side neighborhood is a community garden that provides an area for neighbors to garden and enjoy nature. Over 50 households will have access to their own garden plot with access to clean soil to grow their own produce and sharing with public housing residents. The garden also has space for community members to meet and interact daily while gardening. Grant funds will be used to purchase seedlings, plants, annuals, fertilizer and garden tools.
- **Palos Park Public Library Pollinator Garden** located in Cook County's Palos Park community is a garden that provides hands on opportunities to educate the public on the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem. Youth activities, crafts, and lectures take place with the garden as its focus. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plants, garden supplies and tools.

*Cookfresh® is an assistance program created by the Commodities/Marketing Team designed for Community Gardens in Cook County to beautify their "places and palates". The Cookfresh Community Urban Garden Grant program offered six \$300.00 grants to support urban agriculturists seeking assistance with a community garden. The community gardens will receive \$350 in the form of Cook County Farm Bureau "Cookfresh Funds".*

# LOVE YOUR CAR, BUT NOT THE LOAN?

REFINANCE WITH IAACU AND LET US CRUSH YOUR RATE! PLUS, HAVE NO PAYMENTS UNTIL JULY!\*

CONTACT US AT 800-676-2541 OR ONLINE [WWW.IAACU.ORG](http://WWW.IAACU.ORG)

\*CURRENT IAACU AUTO LOANS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THIS REFINANCE PROMOTION. NORMAL UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES WILL APPLY. RATES ARE BASED ON CREDIT WORTHINESS, ABILITY TO REPAY, AND COLLATERAL LOAN TO VALUE. NEW LOANS WILL HAVE A RATE FLOOR OF 1.99%. OFFER ENDS MAY 31, 2020.

### LEVERAGE YOUR FARM BUREAU® MEMBERSHIP & SAVE

Did you know our national contract with Grainger offers product discounts and service benefits? Take advantage of our relationship with Grainger and Farm Bureau-specific key supplier programs that offer special pricing.

- Access to 1.5 million products
- Online purchasing solutions
- Products, services and resources to help keep your people and facilities safe
- Free standard shipping
- Same-day shipping on in-stock items\*
- And much more

**GRAINGER'S GOT YOUR BACK®**  
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It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. IL Farm Bureau Members - Account Number #853007128
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3. Start saving!

**Key Farm Bureau Suppliers**



# Co-Operator Pull-out Section

May 2020

## Featured Local Businesses

- Flowers
- Vegetables
- Landscape
- Farm Stands
- Honey & Bees
- Livestock & Feed
- Hay & Straw

And Much More!!

## Shop Local, Shop Small

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® in supporting agricultural and small businesses.

Hours may change, call before you go!

## Greenhouse, Farm Stands, & Landscape

Big John's Farm Market  
1754 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Heights  
(708) 758-2711



Brandau Farm & Produce  
10544 W. 191 St., Mokena  
(708) 479-7575



Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse  
2785 E. Lincoln Hwy., Lynwood  
(708) 758-1565



Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot  
2061 E 14th St., Lynwood  
(708) 758-8500



Crete Garden Center & Nursery  
1625 East Richton Rd., Crete  
(708) 672-0900



Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center  
40 W. Higgins Rd., South Barrington  
(847) 428-6727



Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch  
42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire  
(847) 464-5952



Gorman Farm Fresh Produce  
6607 West Bruns Rd., Monee  
(708) 534-2375



Horchers Farm & Country Flower Shop  
910 McHenry Rd., Wheeling  
(847) 541-3276



Kolze's Corner Gardens  
12717 Rt. 176, Woodstock  
(815) 338-1475



M & D Farms  
14946 Bell Rd., Homer Glen  
(708) 935-1715



McCarthy Farms  
9700 W 167th St., Orland Park  
(708) 349-2158



Melka Landscaping and Garden Center  
11606 179th St., Mokena  
(708) 349-6989



# Greenhouse, Farm Stands, Landscape cont.

Hours may change, call before you go!



Ray's Quality Greenhouse  
117 E. 231st St., Steger  
(312) 608-7042



Santa Fe Landscaping & Nursery Inc  
3450 W Crete Monee Rd., Monee  
(708) 534-3600



Schroeder's Home Landscape & Drainage Supply  
10800 Southwest Hwy., Worth  
(708) 448-1144



Smits Farms  
3437 E. Sauk Trail, Chicago Hts  
(708) 758-1244



Ted's Greenhouse, Inc.  
16930 S. 84th Ave., Tinley Park  
(708) 532-3575



Van Kalker Farms & Greenhouses  
1808 E. Joe Orr Rd., Chicago Hts  
(708) 758-1732



VanderGriends Farm Stand  
2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd., Lansing  
(708) 474-1255



Wagner Farms  
1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview  
(847) 657-1506



West End Florist & Garden Center  
3800 Old Glenview Rd., Evanston  
(847) 251-1943



Zeldenrust Farm Market  
1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Hts  
(708) 758-5058



# Livestock, Equine, Hay & Straw

Deer Creek Farms  
360 E Glenwood-Dyer Rd., Glenwood  
(708) 441-7751



Forest View Farms  
16717 S Lockwood, Tinley Park  
(708) 560-0306



Janet McCabe  
8420 W. 135 St., Orland Park  
(708) 259-7319



Kopping Farms  
12300 115th St., Lemont  
(630) 257-7271



Ludwig's Feed Store  
13205 131st St., Lemont  
(630) 257-3097



Mark Yunker  
24400 S Scheer Rd., Frankfort  
(708) 309-2622



Mike Rauch  
18330 67th Ct., Tinley Park  
(708) 269-6961



Stanley Luke Farms  
10101 5th Ave Cutoff, LaGrange  
(708) 352-1073



The Feed Store  
5400 S Harlem Ave., Summit, IL  
(708) 458-1327



- Equine - Farm Stand - Feed - Flowers - Hay/Straw - Honey - Herbs - Landscape - Livestock - Vegetables

# Honey & Bees

Brad's Bees & Honey  
(262) 749-0716

Deer Creek Farms  
360 E Glenwood Dyer Rd., Glenwood  
(708) 441-7751

Bee Wild Honey  
2831 Edgewood Pkwy., Woodridge  
(630) 853-2704

Puckerville Farms  
13332 Bell Rd., Lemont  
(708) 508-0906

S & S Apiaries  
24222 S Center Rd., Frankfort  
(815) 464-1566

The Hive  
3414 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago  
(312) 995-9508

Zee's Bees  
1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Hts  
(708) 758-5058



# Value Added

**Agritourism**

GlennArt Farm  
5749 W. Midway Park, Chicago  
(847) 612-7315

**Garlic & Herbs**

Galena Garlic Company  
311 S Main St., Galena  
(815) 777-9625

**Crop Protectants**

Conserv FS  
1110 McConnell Rd., Woodstock  
(815) 334-5950

Galena Garlic Company  
318 W State St., Geneva  
(855) 464-2754

Conserv FS  
7851 183rd St., Tinley Park  
(708) 532-4723

Herbally Yours  
409 Forest Ave., Willow Springs  
(708) 839-8969

**Distillery/Winery**

Windy City Winery &  
Little City Vineyards  
(800) 341-4101

**Florists**

Kiko's Flower Shop  
127 N. NW Hwy., Park Ridge  
(847) 696-4226

Whiskey Acres Distilling Co.  
11504 Keslinger Rd., DeKalb  
(844) 494-4753

MilleFiori Florists  
1943 Central St., Evanston  
(847) 570-0300

**Fencing**

Freeman Fencing  
3515 Cleveland Ave., Brookfield  
(800) 495-0485

**Hemp**

Hemp Cultivation Consultant  
(815) 790-9565

We always run the risk of leaving a Cook County Farm Bureau member agricultural specialty business off a list like this and that is certainly not our intention. We continue to update the "Buy Local" area of our website and encourage any member who wants to be added to the database to contact the office at 708-354-3276 or email us at [ccfb@cookcfb.org](mailto:ccfb@cookcfb.org).

In addition, the Chicago Farmers Market Collective has compiled resources for people to support local vendors (many are CCFB members) through pick up locations, home delivery, or Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) options. The Chicago's various farmers markets online information is available at ... [www.chicagofarmersmarketcollective.org/online-farmers-market](http://www.chicagofarmersmarketcollective.org/online-farmers-market)



**SUPPORT LOCAL!**

# MEMBER TO MEMBER

HELP US TO PROMOTE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS



**Cook County Farm Bureau is here for you!**  
We want to support our small businesses by encouraging members to shop local.

**Promotion will include social media and inclusion in the Co-Operator and on our website.**

*Check out businesses that are already part of the program at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)!*

**If you choose to participate in this program, please email [juanita@cookcfb.org](mailto:juanita@cookcfb.org).**

# 10 Ways CCFB is helping members



## 10. Gardening resources and connections

Visit <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-products-locator> for information on area greenhouses, garden centers, and farmstands

## 9. Resources for the entire family

Visit <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources> for family activities

## 8. Fun without leaving your home

Visit our Facebook page for trivia, scavenger hunts, photo contests, and more

## 7. Amazing volunteers

Farm Bureau volunteers, leaders, and staff are committed to assisting members and creating programs, activities, and benefits our members want

## 6. "Buy Local"

Discounts to restaurants like Home Run Inn, Beggars Pizza, and Culver's for you and your family

## 5. Discounts to help you save money

Rebates to Ford and discounts to Grainger and John Deere

## 4. Banking resources

Members are eligible to utilize the IAA Credit Union to take advantage of industry low rates for mortgage and loans, credit card rates etc.

## 3. The "Abenity" App

Over 300,000 member discounts available at your fingertips through your phone or computer



- Sam's Club
- Omaha Steaks
- Petmate
- Home Chef
- Keurig
- Raleigh
- FitBit
- Burst
- Costco
- TireBuyer
- and much more!

## 2. A "Team" Approach

We believe that the best way to help the community, is to work with our neighbors and that's why we donate time, talent, and financial resources to different organizations like the Greater Chicago Food Depository and local food pantries

## 1. Value

Every dollar of membership dues goes to support your organization's efforts to support local farmers and the healthy and nutritious food they grow and raise



### Cook County Farm Bureau

6438 Joliet Road  
Countryside, IL 60525  
(708) 354-3276  
ccfb@cookcfb.org

### Visit our website

[www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

### Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL](https://facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL)

# Your membership means more today than ever before!



# Illinois County Zoning and Agriculture

by Brenda Matherly, Illinois Farm Bureau®

Is zoning the “four letter” word it is often perceived to be? The answer to that question often depends on who’s asking.

**Differing Views**

For landowners concerned about the development of activities and structures built around their property, they might view it as a protective benefit. For those landowners interested in unimpeded development of their own property, they might view it as a restrictive limitation. In reality, each view holds a bit of truth, but neither view, by itself, is entirely accurate. So long as landowners’ unrestrained freedom to exercise their own interests is not threatened by others, they tend to view zoning as a limitation. On the flip side, when landowners’ interests are threatened by the unrestricted actions of others, they tend to view zoning as a protection.

**Essence**

So, maybe the easier question to answer is, what is zoning? The short-and-sweet definition is, the locally designed and administered division of land into different types and degrees of uses.

This type of administration of land use can be useful in many ways. It can prevent

incompatible uses of adjacent property, preserve farmland and open spaces, guide orderly development, provide for more efficient delivery of services, and help protect the public’s safety and well-being.

**Controls**

However, there are also some drawbacks to zoning. It creates some restrictions on the use of property and adds administrative costs to the local units of government. It also institutes “red tape” for citizens, including, permits that governments review for proposed use and associated costs to the property owner. Zoning can impact four primary factors of development for most properties. Those four factors are: location, property use, the intensity of the project and setback limitations.

**Agriculture**

But what impact does zoning have on agriculture? The Illinois statute says, “The powers in this section of statute shall not be exercised... so as to impose regulations or require permits with respect to land used or to be used for agricultural purposes...or with respect to... buildings or structures used or to be used for agricultural purposes upon such land except that

such buildings or structures...may be required to conform to building or set back lines...”In other words, when it comes to agriculture- of the four primary restrictions of zoning mentioned above (location, use, intensity, and setback), only setback limitations apply. Counties may not use zoning to regulate land and buildings used for agricultural purposes including limitations on size, location, and design.

However, the county can require that farmers get a permit when building or expanding structures. While the county may not charge for that permit, the permitting process does allow for easier administration and recording of new/ improved property throughout the county. Counties can also place setback restrictions on ag buildings. These setback restrictions are generally intended to provide some distance between the building and property boundaries, roads and public right-of-way.

An Appellate Court also held up a ruling (DeKalb v. Vidmar 1993) that, in certain cases, considers the farmer’s residence as a part of the farm and thereby is generally subject to only those local zoning regulations that apply to other farm buildings.

**Summary**

Limiting the impacts and restrictions zoning has on agriculture helps to maintain the viability of ag industry statewide. Still, counties that have zoning and those that are considering zoning deal with difficult decisions impacting all property. While zoning may or may not be a “four-letter” word, it does create both limitations and benefits. Balancing those is key to its acceptance as an effective administrative tool for providing for the general welfare of the citizens of the county.

Illinois Counties Zoned



## City of Chicago Approves Horse Carriage Ban

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and our partner organizations, Illinois Horsemen’s Council, Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, and the independent City of Chicago carriage operators are disheartened by the Chicago City Council’s vote to end the licensure of carriage horses. It is unfortunate for all involved that science-based arguments and facts were

ignored in favor of the opinions of a small group of people who hold unfounded beliefs. It is a sad day when the animals that helped build this city are banned from its streets. This is the end of an era. If the city leaders would like to revisit this discussion in the future, we would like to provide them with well-researched and scientific facts about the working equine.



## Cook County Farm Bureau Photo Contest

Submit photos of animals, including pets, livestock, and horses. Win one of three cash prizes in three different categories.

Winning photos will be selected from each of the following categories:

- Pets
- Horses
- Livestock



First place: \$100  
Second place: \$75  
Third place: \$50



Winning entries will be announced in the July Co-Operator. For contest details and to submit entries visit <https://bit.ly/39kGB1b>. The contest is open to all members in good standing.

Contest runs April 1 - June 1

## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

Three years ago, my blue-eyed girl who quietly entered the world one hot Father’s Day joined 4H. Each year, we pour over the 4H project book to select her projects for the year.

Each year I suggest photography. We have a great camera. Dog obedience. Our corgi spent years in lessons until I gave up on him ever having the speed or grace for agility. Plus “Memphis” is quite stubby legged. Cake decorating. I took several weeks of cake decorating lessons though I rarely make the kids’ birthday cakes. Rabbits. Rabbits have wonderful, soft, and cuddly ears. Dairy. We own a dairy farm and can easily find a kind and good-looking spring calf.

For the past three years she’s selected sewing, cooking, and rabbits. I don’t know how to run a sewing machine or read a pattern. I can repair a tear or replace a button but that’s where my skills end. Earlier this year I learned how to use a “tear mender” to fix rips in the big red beast’s blankets.

I can, however, cook. I’m not great and I certainly don’t enjoy it, but I do know how to follow a recipe. My grandma used to enter every foods class at the fair and would routinely clean house. Unfortunately, she passed away before I married my farmer and didn’t leave me her cookbook or her skills.

Rabbits on the other hand are my bailiwick. But our blue-eyed Holland Lop senior buck named “Hedwig” is a 4-H failure. He’s too small and his teeth are crooked. Instead of competing at fair, he moonlights as comic relief and has been “joining” me on Zoom conference calls. He’s currently my favorite remote co-worker.

To my delight, last year my blue-eyed girl signed up for cake decorating. Together we practiced stars. Shell borders. Basket weaving. Drop flowers. Zig zags. And pipe beads. Too put it mildly, we made a colossal homemade buttercream frosting mess and one incredibly small inedible cake.

Last year my blue-eyed girl also signed up to show a March dairy heifer named “Lickey”. Despite our best efforts, “Lickey” never went to fair. Every time my blue-eyed girl went to lead

her around “Lickey” would escape. Through fences. Over fences. Through windows. Needless to say, “Lickey” earned her registered name... “Lickety Split”.



“Applecrisp” exploring her new role of show calf.

This year, my blue-eyed girl selected a gorgeous granddaughter of KHW Regiment Apple-Red-ET. “Apple” is among a very elite group of cows to command a \$1 million price tag when she sold in 2008 and was named the Holstein World’s all-American junior 2-year-old in 2006 and the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association’s all-American as an aged cow in 2011. Although “Apple” passed away earlier this year, her lineage continues to thrive.

Red Carpet Jordy Applecrisp-Red-ET or “Apple crisp” was chosen for her rambunctious and fearless personality rather than her pedigree. My blue-eyed girl named her “Applecrisp” after her grandma and for her dad and great grandpa who love apple crisp. I wanted her to start showing with a decent looking calf so as she got older and could afford better pedigreed animals she would appreciate them more but I lost that battle to my youngest brother-in-law and my blue-eyed girl who claimed the prettiest red and white calf born in March on the farm. Of course, she had to be one of “Apple’s” granddaughters.

Like everyone else, we’re not sure that “Applecrisp” will make her showing debut this summer but that isn’t stopping my blue-eyed girl from putting in the hours and the work to build their relationship. 4H is a lot like that. Time. Work. And an opportunity to learn and grow.

Bona can be reached at [Bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:Bona@cookcfb.org)

### Classifieds

All ads that we receive for The Co-Operator are also listed on our website at [cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds](http://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](mailto: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

\*SPRING BEE HIVE NUC PACKAGE PRE-ORDER [www.bradbeesandhoney.com](http://www.bradbeesandhoney.com) FB: bradsbeesandhoney. Prices online: 50% deposit required. Delivery Available. Call/Text Brad 262-749-0716

\*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.

Werner 24ft. extension ladder \$150 or best offer. 9ft. soft cushion couch lite cream. Call Eddy at 708-758-9119. (Preferably afternoons).

AT&T pre-paid iPhone 6SE brand new in box \$175 unopened in box space grey. Call Philip at 708-525-5111.

A.R.E Fiberglass Tonneau cover, grey, will fit a 2007 to 2013 GMC Sierra crew cab \$600 or best offer. Call Mark at 219-617-0363.

Waterway pool filter (clear water cartridge filter) \$25. Stainless pool steps for in ground \$15. Call 708-429-6691.

SAE 30 weight motor oil Pennzoil & Valvoline \$2 qt. Thule bike trunk mount carrier \$50. Call Robert at 708-426-9065.

### Vehicle

2013 Nissan Altima 4.5s like new condition, extended Nissan, newer tires, brakes, just tuned, very clean one owner, mostly highway miles. \$5900. Call Louie at 847-361-9292.

### Wanted

1972 older cars, truck/parts unfinished projects. Call Attilio at 708-439-9770.

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

One thing to buy your electric trains and slot cars turn those unwanted trains and slot cars into cash. Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

#### 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](mailto:juanita@cookcfb.org)

Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum.



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## 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. Master Gardeners (MG) are a vital link in getting horticulture information to the public through Illinois Extension offices.

**Application for the South Suburban Cook County Master Gardener Program is open. Deadline is May 7th.**

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener training will take place this fall at rotating locations in the south and southwest suburbs of Cook County. The training begins on September 1, 2020 and runs for 11 consecutive Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Extension Horticulture Educators will deliver a comprehensive training covering a breadth of home landscape and gardening topics. If accepted into the program, attendance at all 11 training sessions and completion of 60 volunteer hours is a requirement to become a certified

Master Gardener.

To apply visit [go.illinois.edu/cooksouthmg](http://go.illinois.edu/cooksouthmg). Application deadline is May 7, 2020. All instruction, manuals and materials are included in the \$350 program fee. For additional information e-mail Margaret Burns-Westmeyer, at [mburnswe@illinois.edu](mailto:mburnswe@illinois.edu) or 708-679-6894.

#### CCFB Foundation Scholarship Available

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.

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



# Cook County Financial Representatives of the Month

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



#### \*Ilir Numani

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

\*Ilir Numani has been named Certified Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy., #200 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a 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 March 2020. Her office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Ave., in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



#### Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. E, in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Matt has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2005



#### \*Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 25 NW Point Blvd, Ste.850, in Elk Grove Village IL. His phone number is 847-963-8851. Ibrahim has been a Financial Representative since January 2017.



#### Erin Coon

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Erin Coon has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. Her office is located at 23042 N. Main St., in Prairie View IL. Her phone number is 847-415-2666. Erin has been a Financial Representative since March 2019.



#### Matthew Below

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Matthew Below has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd. Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3151. Matthew has been a Financial Representative since September 2019.



#### \*Nick Zegar

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Nick Zegar has been named Certified Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 16614 W. 159TH St., #303, in Lockport IL. His phone number is 708-352-5560. Nick has been a Financial Representative since July 1998.



#### Ed Beavers

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Ed Beavers has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2020. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Suite 150, Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-588-1404. Ed has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.



#### Tim Hartnell

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Tim Hartnell has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2020. His office is located at 1938 E. Oak Park Ave., Ste. C&D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is 815-462-0023. Tim has been a Financial Representative since January 1993.



#### Nadia Abueid

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Nadia Abueid has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for March 2020. Her office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. Her phone is 708-995-0233. Nadia has been a Financial Representative since December 2019.



#### Andy Erler

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Andy Erler has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2020. His office is located at 21195 S. La Grange Rd., Unit 1E in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-3260. Andy has been a Financial Representative since June 2000.



#### John Tymmm

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

John Tymmm has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for February 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.

\*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.

## Ag Lit Bit

“Keep the Learning Going”



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

We have been asked to do a lot this past month and have also been asked to not do a lot. While every individual has had to make their own choices, parents didn't have a choice in taking on the role of teacher.

The experience reminds me of the day I came home from the hospital with our first baby. I wasn't quite sure I knew how to handle everything, but I learned very quickly.

Each day provided a new lesson, just like these past months of homeschooling. When I look at the lesson plans parents are administering between doing their other roles, I marvel. I wonder how well it would have gone if my boys were 6, 8, and 10? I do know whatever their ages would have been it would be tough to teach, work, cook, and stay healthy emotionally and physically.

While Ag in the Classroom cannot help in all ways, we sure hope that some of our resources have eased the burden with our Facebook posts, website links, and newsletters. We hope you have enjoyed our new e-learning resources, as well as those we share from Illinois Ag in the Classroom and our many ag partners. (Please refer to the links found on this page.)

We look forward to the time when we can return to what we enjoy the most which is

providing hands-on learning with our partners. In the meantime, we will continue to help you keep the learning going.

Here are a few things I have learned about Ag Literacy and life this month.

- Agriculture is filled with people helping people.
- Give thanks when you have the chance.
- Learning is the key to understanding. We have learned a lot and have a long way to go.
- Illinois Ag in the Classroom provides ag educational programming second to none.
- Teachers are the key to our future. Always embrace educators and support your child's learning.
- Every opportunity to form a partnership should be embraced. You will need each other.
- Rise to the challenge of helping others and making each day matter.
- Add humor to your interactions; it sure helps lift the clouds.
- Camera. Make sure your computer has a camera and if it does not, do wait for a pandemic to try to purchase one.
- Yearn to go beyond your comfort zone every day. You never know when you will need to rely on those skills you have acquired.

Diane can be reached at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org)

## E-Learning for All

The Cook County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom is here to help teachers and families with new resources being added regularly to our website. Check out the farm videos, classroom lessons and much more at <https://bit.ly/AgLesson>

Coming in May, family garden fun. Let us know if we can help you find a resource.



## Thank You for Our Presenters

As the school year transferred over to e-learning, our Agriculture in the Classroom presenters didn't get a chance to visit their scheduled 4th grade classroom visits. We hoped to be able to return to school but realize that will not be a possibility this year. We feel lucky to have reached 18,494 students and 773 classrooms before we had to stop in mid-March. Our presenters, Mr. Bloomstrand, Ms. DeLaurentis, Mrs. Dunn, Ms. Jones, Ms. Koukol, Ms. Lesser, Ms. Schaeffer and Ms. Toth wish their students good health and continued learning through their school e-learning programs.

## Victory Gardens Return to Headlines



Source photo: Wikimedia.org

The food challenges we are facing today as part of COVID-19 were not even a thought back in April 2015 when our Ag Lit Bit topic was planting a Victory Garden. The origins of the gardens date back to WWI when the National War Garden Commission promoted

home gardening and food preservation which became known as Victory Gardens. At the beginning of World War II, the importance of these home gardens grew once again, ultimately supplying nearly 40% of the fruits and vegetables consumed in the U.S. The concept not only provided individuals with a source of their own food security, but also was a way to boost morale. This past month we have seen another resurgence in gardening with seed sales exploding and families planning their summer gardens. We will have a wide variety of resources available for families and educators during the next few months which can be found on our webpage at: <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/spring-and-summer-family-fun-and-learning>.

- A few examples include:  
 Starting seedlings in a paper pot - <https://cookcfb.org/file/557/Newspaper%20Pot.pdf>

- Plant a Victory Garden - <https://bayareane.ws/2KMIEV4>  
 Garden Webinar - <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-series>



## Join Farm Bureau for Online Ag Trivia

Stuck inside? Join Cook County Farm Bureau for online ag trivia. Daily questions will be posted on Farm Bureau's Facebook page. Participants who respond with the correct answer will be entered to win a \$25 gift card.

Four winners will be drawn and announced on May 1 and June 1. Participants can enter the contest daily and all correct entries remain eligible for the duration of the contest.

On average, how many pickup trucks filled with vegetables will one American consume in their lifetime?

More than 100,000; more than 250,000; more than 150,000; or more than 300,000

Yesterdays Answer: Cloven

Participants who select the correct answer will be entered to win a \$25 gift card. Four winners will be drawn and announced on May 1 and June 1. Participants can enter the contest daily and all entries remain eligible for the duration of the contest.

## Remote Work Makes for a Lonely Building



The Cook County Farm Bureau building is looking lonely with limited access to tenants and staff during the COVID-19 stay at home order.

# Agriculture Adventures for Families

We cannot begin to list all the people who are doing jobs every day to help us this past month, but we wanted to share just a few. Putting food on the table every day is a difficult task that we don't always consider. Farmers take care of the land in order to grow our food and rely on many others to get it from the farm to our table. Much is out of their control such as the weather and this current crisis. Thank you for being loyal followers of our Ag Adventures and for supporting our farmers.



## Farmers

Since the start of the virus a common scene had been the rush to the store for food. Initially carts were filled to the brim, but shoppers soon realized that our nation's farmers wouldn't disappoint. It may have been the first time many realized the importance of agriculture. Truly no farmers, no food.

## Who am I?

1. My first letter is in Food, Family, and Fun.
2. My second letter is in Almonds and Paper.
3. My third letter is in Grocery twice.
4. My fourth letter is the sixth letter in Customer.
5. My fifth letter is in Tree and Beehive.
6. My sixth letter is the fourth letter in Store.

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## Truck Drivers

Truckers have continued to move our food and agriculture products from farm to store despite the challenges they have faced. With even more limited resources to stop, stretch and dine, they have kept supplies moving as fast as they can. Not only are they moving agriculture, but they are moving other important parts of the food chain including bee hives. Many growers rent bee hives to pollinate their orchards such as blueberries, apples, almonds and many more.

## Grocery Store Workers

From unloading trucks to stocking shelves to checking customers out, our nations grocers have provided us with a steady supply of goods without missing a beat.

## Veterinarians

Like health care workers for individuals, veterinarians are still needed to treat ill and injured pets and livestock and have continued to use specialized practices in the field and in their local clinics maintaining proper social distancing while delivering necessary medical treatment.

## Processors

Not only are food processors keeping up, but so are the processors of another farm product: toilet paper. Again, no farmer no product. Toilet paper is made from tree pulp and recycled pulp. Processors are taking steps to accelerate production and relocating inventory to meet demand. Like food processors, TP suppliers may have to redesign factory production to make more of one type of product and less of another (less bathroom paper towels and more toilet paper).

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

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

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

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2020 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is...  
**Evelyn Amador**

## May Word Search

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Beehive<br>Care<br>Challenge<br>Customer<br>Family<br>Farm<br>Food<br>Goods<br>Grocery<br>Grow | Help<br>Jobs<br>Paper<br>Product<br>Store<br>Support<br>Table<br>Thank<br>Tree<br>Trucks | U Y R E M O T S U C C P L E H<br>W L R J C R T O B H A E X Q J<br>M O O E O F G D A P R L T R G<br>H B R U C U A L E Y S B R M Y<br>S S N G U O L R G L T A E Y G<br>D J P F M E R W M C Z T E R K<br>D F B B N X F G U F O O D G E<br>F G A G T C P D A V G R T Q R<br>N E E M O N O S U P P O R T A<br>S V U T I R I K M L G E U Y C<br>X I K J P L K S Z H H S C I H<br>J H N R K T Y N I K D S K M P<br>R E D E R O T S A O R P S Z L<br>H E N M N S T K O H Y B X S D<br>K B N E E J O G J M T X Y K E |
|--|--|---|

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

**If you were to win, check your preference:**  
 \_\_\_ Beggar's Pizza GC \_\_\_ HRI GC \_\_\_ 3 Movie Tix  
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.