

Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture

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IN THIS ISSUE

"Food Evolution" Movie Coming to Chicago	2
Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate	3
Waters of the US	4

The Corner of Clark and Randolph is a publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Governmental Affairs Department.

USEPA Begins Process to Rescind the Waters of the US Rule

Earlier this summer, USEPA issued its proposed rule to rescind the 2015 Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule. This is the first of a two-part approach Administrator Pruitt plans to take to rescind and then replace the WOTUS rule. Both parts of the plan will undergo notice and comment, and therefore, Farm Bureau and interested members will have opportunities at both times to file public comments.

- The rule's definition of "tributary" was so broad that it even included landscape features *invisible* to the human eye.
- Withdrawal of the rule will not harm water quality. The rule has never been implemented because it was stayed by both a federal district court and a federal court of appeals.

The 2015 WOTUS rule- marketed by the USEPA as the "clean water rule" had more to do with land than water.

- It was a land-grab that created confusion and uncertainty for regulators and farmers, ranchers and others who depend on their ability to work the land.
- It imposed enormous regulatory road blocks and costs for simply moving dirt in low spots on the landscape.

The rule was challenged in multiple courts by all sides (31 states and 53 non-state parties, including environmental groups, state and local governments, farmers, landowners, developers, businesses, and recreation groups). Challengers raised numerous substantive and procedural defects in the rule, including that the rule exceeds USEPA's statutory authority, imposes burdensome regulatory uncertainty, was promulgated in violation of mandatory procedural requirements designed to ensure a well-informed result, and is otherwise unlawful.

Farm Bureau leaders welcomed Pruitt's announcement.

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AWARDS

Farm Bureau Remains Opposed to Beverage Tax

For nearly 100 years the Cook County Farm Bureau® has strived to bridge the gap between farmers and our urban neighbors.

As a partner in the food and beverage industry we are concerned about a beverage tax in Cook County. Cook County residents already face heightened taxes that negatively impact the county's business climate, like the increase in sales tax. Commissioners should not be considering another tax that will hurt businesses and job growth in Cook County.

A beverage tax will hurt families in Cook County by increasing costs and cutting jobs. The beverage industry's presence is felt across the state from can manufacturers to delivery drivers to grocers, restaurants, and our member's movie theatres.

Nearly 100,000 Illinois residents are either directly or indirectly employed by the non-alcoholic beverage industry. These jobs create \$6.2 billion in wages.

The proposed tax will add 68 cents to the price of a two-liter bottle. This is a 68 percent tax on a common household item. This tax will add \$1.44 or 32 percent to a 12-pack of soda.

American Farm Bureau Federation policy #159 states that Farm Bureau opposes anyone dictating which foods should and should not be eaten including imposing "health taxes" on food and beverages. The policy also opposes using taxpayers' money for the purpose of legislating or controlling the diets of American people.

The Cook County Farm Bureau® opposes the tax and is actively working to repeal this regressive tax.



Four south suburban Culver's have partnered with the Cook County Farm Bureau® to help guests of all ages make the connection between farm to table dining through reading.

On July 18, the Farm Bureau delivered "book barns" filled with reading materials for children as young as four years old to Culver's restaurants in Tinley Park, Orland Park, Homewood and Matteson.

As part of Culver's nationwide "Thank You Farmers" initiative, the book barns are filled with books that bring agricultural learning to a child's perspective, while teaching them where the food they are enjoying comes from.

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



“Food Evolution” Coming to Chicago

Have a non-farmer friend, relative, your doctor, lawyer, dietician, kid’s teachers or other influencers in the Chicagoland area that could be enlightened and entertained about today’s agriculture? Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Cook County Farm Bureau, Illinois Farm Families (IFF), Illinois Science Council and the Chicago chapter of the Institute of Food Technologists will host a public screening of “Food Evolution” on Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Arc Light Theater in Chicago. Tickets will be \$15.00/person and details announced soon on how to reserve seats online.

To learn more about “Food Evolution” and to view the trailer visit: <https://www.foodevolutionmovie.com/>



Farm Bureau’s fifth giveaway of the summer is a: \$150 grocery store/farmstand gift card AND a \$100 food pantry donation to the food pantry of the winner’s choice. The only thing individuals have to do is LIKE Cook County Farm Bureau®’s Facebook page and COMMENT ON or SHARE the post to enter to win. The winner will be chosen on September 28! Official contest rules are available at cookcfb.org.

Senator Mulroe welcomes farmers from his “adopted” county farm bureau to his northwest Chicago district. Cook and Shelby County Farm Bureau® members visited the Chicago Police Department (District 16) before visiting Eli’s Cheesecake. Senator Mulroe is “adopted” through the Adopt-a-Legislator© program.



For the second year, Farm Bureau donated fresh meat to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. The animals were purchased from Cook County 4-H members at the Lake County 4H animal auction. The Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry feeds approximately 7,000 local families.

Watch Your Emails

Details on this year’s

Fall Combine Rides

to be released Shortly!

If you’d like information in advance, please feel free to contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Let’s Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

Is your farm sustainable? Answered by Ruth Zeldenrust, a vegetable farmer from Chicago Heights

As a fourth-generation family farmer, I’m committed to taking care of my land to ensure that future generations can continue our family tradition, farming.

To improve soil health, we routinely test soil nutrient levels and only apply nutrients if absolutely necessary. To conserve water, we use drip irrigation and only add water when necessary. To minimize chemical use, we scout our fields and identify pests before applying any chemicals.

I’m committed to taking care of my land to ensure that my family can continue farming for many more generations.



State Representative Fran Hurley (pictured left) and Senator Bill Cunningham (pictured middle) listen as NuFarm executives describe their worldwide operations and product development. NuFarm is one of the world’s leading crop protectant manufacturers. While they focus on canola, sorghum, and sunflowers they also manufacture crop protectants for corn, soybeans, cotton, turf grasses, and ornamental grasses.

The Staff Exchange program seeks to provide staff and legislators with a hands-on agricultural experience.



NuFarm’s operations management, Scott Pfantz addresses Cook County Farm Bureau® Staff Exchange participants during a visit to NuFarm’s Chicago Heights manufacturing plant.



Namrita Nelson from the Cook County Board of Review discusses the incubator program at the Legends South Farm with Windy City Staff during the second day of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Staff Exchange program. The Staff Exchange program is designed to enhanced Cook County staff members’ knowledge of farming and the economic impact of agriculture in the county.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food.

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