



# 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

- SEPTEMBER**
- 10 AITC Monthly Author Interview Pg. 6
  - 17 Fall Planter Workshop/Zoom Pg. 12
  - 19 PD in Your PJ's - Pumpkins Pg. 6
- OCTOBER**
- 1 Virtual Field Trip-Heap Pumpkin Patch Pg. 6
  - 3 Giant Pumpkin/Local Honey Contest Pg. 12
  - 13 Preparing Wills and Trust Workshop Pg. 12
  - 17 Shred Day Pg. 12
- NOVEMBER**
- 7 Succulent 100yr Celebration Workshop Pg. 12
  - 12 Virtual Farm/Business Legacy Seminar Pg. 12
  - 14 Planning for Organic Certification Pg. 12
  - 17 Land Lease & Trends Webinar Pg. 12

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org), or contact the office at 708-354-3276. You can register for most programs by using the member service center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).

## Historical Question of the Month

See page 2 for a historic photo from the CCFB's first 100 years and respond to the question related to the photo.

August Winner is Jason Holste



Last month's question: Fourth grade students at Forest School in Des Plaines participated in what Cook County Farm Bureau program?

Answer: Ag in the Classroom.

## But Wait, There's More!

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

- Cook County Receives AFBF Education Grant
- IFB Comments On Proposed Safety Training
- Illinois Census Numbers Lag
- Member to Member Buy Local
- Pritzker Announces Grant for New Chicago Farm
- Cook County Braces for Budget Deficit and Odyssey Fun World Discount

## Sweetcorn Donation

Through a sweetcorn delivery facilitated by the Mercer County Farm Bureau, Senator Laura Murphy along with Cook County Farm Bureau® donated fresh sweetcorn to Catholic Charities, Center of Concern, Des Plaines Food Pantry, Elk Grove Township Food Pantry, Schaumburg Barn, and Schaumburg Township Food Pantry. Senator Murphy is "adopted" by the Mercer County Farm Bureau and Cook County Farm Bureau partners in efforts with various County Farm Bureaus to communicate and coordinate with local legislators.



## The Cook County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom "Pivots" to Meet Needs

We are here for teachers, home schoolers, and families!

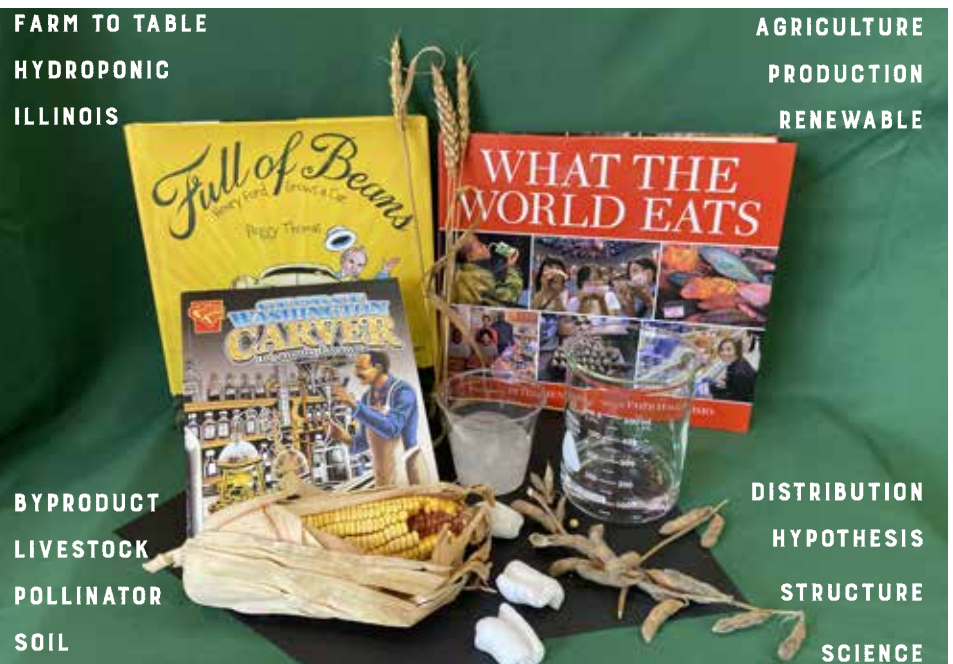
The Cook County Farm Bureau Agriculture Literacy Program has demonstrated great resourcefulness and creativity during the past six months of the pandemic in its efforts to support educators, students, and member families. The CCFB Agriculture Literacy Program's resourcefulness and creativity continues as the new school year begins.

With 33 years of reaching students directly in-person through classroom visits, the Cook County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program has necessarily adjusted to meet school and family needs in a host of new learning situations.

Diane Merrion, Director of Ag Literacy for the Cook County Farm Bureau, said, "We aren't going to let coronavirus stop our outreach now! We revised the model of our agriculture outreach program to ensure students in grades K-12 still have the opportunity to understand the farm to table process including how their food, fiber, and fuel provides our most basic necessities."

The key adjustments made to program offerings include virtual learning opportunities. We have combined forces with local farmers, professional business members, and the renowned Illinois Ag in the Classroom to deliver FREE resources to...

- parents who are taking on the role of teacher
- home school organizations looking to enrich their curriculum
- classroom teachers in need of virtual curriculum that addresses learning standards in science and social science



- families looking for new opportunities to have fun learning and exploring together

The traditional in-person "in school field trip" that has been a key cornerstone of the program for 33 years for teachers throughout the county has been converted to a high quality, focused online format that can be used as a standalone or through live online presentation. For those schools that are conducting in-person classroom formats, Ag Literacy presenters are available to serve individual needs.

The many program enhancements that have been provided through our friends at Illinois

Ag in the Classroom have broadened our local offerings. For a glimpse of these innovative offerings and other resources, we encourage teachers, parents, and students to visit the Cook County Farm Bureau website at <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>

Teachers, parents or students seeking more information or looking for a customized presentation/activities, please contact Diane or Jill through email at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org) or by calling 708-354-3276.

## 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!

## Plans Developing for Centennial Virtual Historic Displays, Archives And More

When the March 28 100-Year Anniversary Open House "Breakfast at the Farm Bureau" was postponed due to the COVID-19 shelter in place order, we also put on hold the celebration of the 100 years of Cook County Farm Bureau®. However, in recent months, we have begun to move forward with various celebratory activities.

The Board of Directors commemorated the planting of the white oak tree in July. Construction of the Centennial Legacy Patio, in which members purchased pavers to benefit the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation, has also begun.

The antique tool displays and historic archives are being converted into an online virtual viewing

option. We will also provide to those stopping in to take a look on a first-come, first-served basis.

In October, the Board is planning a special CCFB building drive through for members to pick up the 100-year goodie bag. The special giveaway items include a historic coffee table photo book, coffee tumbler mug sponsored by COUNTRY Financial, centennial hat sponsored by Tee Jet, throwback recipe brochure with cedar cooking board, and more! During the drive through, members will have the opportunity to view the commemorative patio, the white oak and other related Centennial items. Watch for details next month.

## Farm Bureau Delivers Meat Donations to Local Food Pantries

Cook County Farm Bureau® donated two hogs and a lamb to Cook County food pantries, Together We Cope and Elk Grove Township Food Pantry. The meat was processed and donated

after Farm Bureau leaders purchased the animals from local 4-H members during the Lake County Fair Virtual 4-H Auction.



Elk Grove Township Food Pantry



Together We Cope

## Team Updates

### Public Relations Team News:

Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders purchased three animals from local 4H members during the virtual Lake County Fair Animal Auction. Meat from two pigs and a lamb will be donated to local charities, including Together We Cope. Together We Cope was the partner food pantry for the 2020 Food Checkout Day. The meat was delivered to families in need in August.

### Young Leaders News:

The Young Leaders Group tentatively scheduled a group cookout at Wagner Farm in Glenview on Friday, September 25, at 6:00pm. Contact the office at 708-354-3276 for details.

The Group will be adopting an urban classroom again from Summit, Illinois. Members will provide short update videos regarding agricultural activities on the farm and also connect remotely with the classroom to answer student questions about farming during the school year.

During this unprecedented time, families are suffering financially. The Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders group is in the process of developing a charitable effort to collect coats for the needy just in time for winter. Details will be published next month in the Co-Operator or watch the Cook County Farm Bureau Facebook and website for details.

## 5 Things A Member Should Know About The Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag Literacy Program for the Upcoming School Year...

1. Our traditional "in school" field trip presentation has been converted to a "virtual in school" field trip presentation that can be requested through our Ag Literacy Department and presented virtually live or pre-recorded.
2. For those schools that have students returning in person, our traditional "in school" field trip presentation option remains available to teachers.
3. Our Ag Literacy program is providing information and access to the innovation and creativity of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom virtual field trips and hands-on lessons through Facebook and our website.
4. Our Ag Literacy program is developing more virtual activities and agricultural experiences for families to enjoy together.
5. Our Ag Literacy program is working with middle and high schools in the Chicagoland area by providing agricultural science and agricultural career connections for students.



Diane can be reached at airc@cookcfb.org.

## Historical Question of the Month



Former Cook County Farm Bureau President Henry Eichholz (pictured center) received what recognition from Harold Bergman, Chairman of the Cook County Agricultural Extension Council (pictured left) and William Whiteside, Cook County Senior Extension Advisor-Agriculture (pictured right)?

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.



## 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, both big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

### The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- The many farmer member volunteer leaders that have offered to assist our Ag Literacy Program through access to farm facilities as well as their knowledge to better serve our classrooms and families in Cook County.
- Our Activator Trustees (Pat Horcher, Jim Gutzmer, Ruth Zeldenrust, Kim Morton and others) who have spent hours meeting, interviewing and discussing Friend of Agriculture Candidates and voting records.
- C/M Team members, Dan & Karen Biernacki and Rick & Cathy Johnson for visiting Cookfresh Community Garden Grant recipient gardens, representing the Farm Bureau.
- The U of I Extension Master Gardeners who volunteer to work with our members and the public through email and phone to answer gardening, turf and soil questions!
- Jim Gutzmer and Tim Stuenkel for representing the organization during the Lake County 4-H Fair Livestock Auction and Glenview Wagner Farm Manager, Blake Lanphier, for sending a nice thank you to the organization for their efforts to support the 4H club.
- Cook County Farm Bureau FBACT members and leaders who completed 100% of the Farm Bureau action request contacting legislators during last year including Dan Biernacki, James Bloomstrand, Roger Freeman, James Gutzmer, Todd Price, Timothy Stuenkel, Mark Yunker, Kim Morton, Karen Biernacki, Richard Johnson, Robert Rohrer, and Bona Heinsohn. We also appreciate the long list of 80+ plus'ers shown on page 9.

## Co-Operator

published monthly

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# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

## “Strange Times indeed!”

These are unusual times. Stressful times. Historic times.

Today's life is being directly affected by COVID-19 and the response to it by government, the media, businesses, workers, schools, churches, organizations, and individuals. At this point, there are two channels of thought for most people...

1. "I can't wait for life to go back to normal as it used to be!"

Or

2. "I can't wait for the new normal to get here!"

I do not hear anyone toting a third option of "continuing this current pandemic lifestyle" as a preference!

Most people are not fans of the current status quo...wearing masks, maintaining distance from people, no handshakes for a greeting, no hugging family and friends, remote school and learning. People are tolerating these guidelines to "flatten the curve" and to wait in anticipation for a vaccine/treatment by modern medicine and scientists.

However, life has a way of moving forward despite the obstacles. Overseas trips, exotic hotel resorts, cruises, concerts, and sporting events are OUT. What is IN? The COVID Effect!

For over several decades, I have enjoyed starting many days with a morning run. Most of these runs occur between 5:30 and 6:30am. Through the years, I have been privileged to witness and celebrate many amazing sunrises...usually by myself. However, in recent months, there has been a marked increase of individuals out running the neighborhoods with me (and sharing my beautiful sunrises). The COVID Effect?

Last month, I went to the least populated state in the union for a few days in an effort to get away from everything and everyone. However, COVID has changed even Wyoming. One day, I went to a remote, somewhat difficult to access canyon for some fishing. You can imagine my shock when I came around a corner and ran into two other fishermen. And, I kept running into different fishermen, six groups in all, throughout the day. I had not seen that many people total in that area over the past 20 years. The COVID Effect?

Last month, random people in Illinois and across the country began receiving unsolicited "Mystery Seeds" in the mail. Were the seeds invasive plants or a threat to our environment set to be unleashed on the unsuspecting public? The COVID Effect? (or the China Effect?)

My daughter and her husband went to purchase a new camper a couple of months ago. When they arrived at the camper store, the inventory available for purchase was very limited, namely two options to choose from in their price range. Apparently, campers have been flying off the lot. The COVID Effect? (And now there are a bunch of camping "amateurs" out there on our nation's highways and in the remote areas fishing in my spots!)

My mom, the beekeeper, told me that her bees were building wacky honeycomb structures in her beehive. Instead of building the honeycomb within the frames, they built honeycomb extensions and bridges from the frames in unique, but less efficient, fashion. The COVID Effect?

A couple of months ago, a bike shop owner I know reported that the availability of new bikes in the \$500 and under price range were nonexistent throughout the world. Demand went through the roof during shelter at home. Is it my imagination or are there more people out biking than ever before? The COVID Effect?



Even the bees feeling the COVID Effect?

Yes, strange times...strange times, indeed! There is no guarantee that life will ever return to what it looked like pre-COVID-19. And, there is no guarantee that we will have a vaccination within the next few months, next year, next five years, or ever for that matter.

As an organization, we have gained appreciation that "living" today is the best thing that we can do to serve our members. Therefore, the Cook County Farm Bureau continues to adapt and lead through these strange times.

In August, our six Program Teams spent time discussing what programming, activities, information, workshops, etc. to bring to members and the public in the next year and beyond. It was exciting to see the focus by your volunteer leaders on creativity and innovation, understanding that members can best be served by:

- Being present
- Connecting with you in your space and time frame
- Delivering relevant information that fit within the current circumstances.

This may be strange times, but we look forward to experiencing it with you!

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

### Recipe of the Month: *Cauliflower Au gratin* 1980

- Ingredients:**  
 1 med head cauliflower  
 2 T minute tapioca  
 ½ t salt  
 1/8 t paprika  
 2 c milk  
 1 c grated American cheese  
 1 c breadcrumbs, butter

**Directions:** Cut and cook cauliflower until tender, drain. Place in greased baking dish, combine tapioca, salt, paprika, milk in top of double boiler. Cook 8-10 minutes, stir occasionally. Add cheese and stir until melted. Pour mixture over cauliflower, cover with crumbs browned in butter. Bake 20 minutes at 350°.



### Recipe of the Month: *Italian Style Marinated Tomatoes* 1985

- Ingredients:**  
 20 lg tomatoes, sliced into wedges  
 1 c olive or vegetable oil  
 ½ c red wine vinegar  
 ½ c fresh chopped basil  
 2 t dried oregano leaves  
 2 t salt  
 ½ t pepper  
 4 cloves garlic, minced

**Directions:** Place tomatoes in large bowl. In jar with tight fitting lid, place oil and remaining ingredients, cover and shake well. Pour over tomatoes, toss gently to mix well. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours to blend flavors. Makes 20 c or 24 servings.

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! To receive a copy of the 2020 Cookfresh Recipe Brochure, Email [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org) or call 708-354-3276 or find it online: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes>.



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# FALL...IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! WHAT WILL YOU PLANT IN YOUR GARDEN THIS FALL?

Pat Horcher, owner of Horcher Florist & Greenhouse has a few ideas to share:

Everyone knows Fall means Mums but there is so much more for Fall color and texture!



- Ornamental Kales can be striking in garden beds with lacey variegated varieties surrounding broad leaf burgand varieties. Cabbage is also becoming popular as a fall planting...both last long after a frost.



- Fall is also a good time to look at your garden and think about textures for Winter. Most annuals and perennials wilt as soon as they freeze leaving a large barren space until spring. To break this up consider some hardier perennials an or ornamental grasses. Grasses come in a variety of heights and generally stay upright after frosts. They are also useful in dried flower arrangements. Consider perennials like Autumn joy Sedum, or Stone crop, also stay up right through winter.



- By spacing sturdier items like these throughout your garden you can have some more interesting textures through all the seasons.

Horcher Florist & Greenhouse, and all CCFB member garden centers, greenhouses, farmstands, landscaping, feed, and specialty producers can be found at our online Discover Local page:  
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local>.



Members are also encouraged to contact the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Resource Center at [mastergardener@cookcfb.org](mailto:mastergardener@cookcfb.org) with questions and for assistance with gardening and lawn questions.

# Your Orland Park Agency

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## Farm Bureau Awards Over \$6,000 in Grants to Local Food Pantries



The impacts of COVID-19 will be felt for months to come. Families are suffering. Businesses are suffering. Farms are suffering. Together with members, Cook County Farm Bureau® and local farmers growing healthy and nutritious food are poised to provide local food pantries assistance during this difficult time in Illinois and the entire United States.

To support local food pantries and the families in need of healthy and nutritious food, Cook County Farm Bureau created a Food Pantry Grant Program, with cash donation being made to each of the following pantries in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$200.

**Grant Recipients**

- Breakthrough Fresh March, Chicago
- Eve's Garden Foundation, Chicago
- Evergreen Park Village Pantry Collection, Evergreen Park
- Grab and Go Groceries, Chicago
- Hanover Township Food Pantry, Hanover Park
- Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry, Oak Forest
- Harmony Food Pantry, Chicago
- Humanity First USA, Chicago
- Humanity Relief, Chicago
- Iglesia Evangelica Emanuel, Chicago
- Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Chicago
- Lansing Community Food Pantry, Lansing
- Lemont Open Pantries, Lemont
- Leyden Township Food Pantry, Franklin Park
- Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry, Chicago
- Mission of our Lady of the Angels, Chicago
- Mt. Zion 24 Hour Emergency Pantry, Lansing
- Onward Neighborhood House, Chicago
- Orland Township Food Pantry Foundation, Orland Park
- Palos Food Pantry, Palos Heights
- Pilsen Food Pantry, Chicago
- Put Your Hands Together- Family Food Pop-up Pantry, Hillside
- Redeemers Little Free Pantry, Oak Forest
- Society of St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, Midlothian
- Southeast Side of Chicago Food Pantry, Chicago
- St. Agatha Catholic Church Food Pantry, Chicago
- St. Cletus Food Pantry, LaGrange
- St. Columbanus Food Pantry, Chicago
- St. Ireanaeus/Catholic Charities Food Pantry, Lemont
- St. Matthews United Methodist Church Food Pantry, Chicago
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Our Lady of the Ridge Parish, Chicago Ridge
- The Southwest Collective, Chicago
- Together We Cope, Tinley Park
- Trident Ministries International, Chicago
- Westchester Food Pantry, Westchester
- Wheeling Township Food Pantry, Arlington Heights

Program promotions were funded in part by the Illinois Farm Bureau® Consumer Communications Grant Program.

## Meet a "face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau

Pat Horcher, Owner Horcher Florist & Greenhouse



### Horcher Florist & Greenhouse

910 McHenry Rd Wheeling IL

Phone: 847-541-3276

Website: <https://horchers.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Horchersflowers/>

- Horcher Florist & Greenhouse and the Horcher family has lived in Wheeling and been serving the community since 1848! The Horcher farm was purchased in 1848, one original structure still stands, and 3 other civil war era structures remain.

- Pat's father who is 86, farmed with horses and had Holsteins ( dairy cattle ). He and his brothers also raised pigs and beef cattle and chickens.

- Sometime in the 70s they started growing vegetables and that continued until this year. In the mid-80s they built their first greenhouse.

- Pat has been a Farm Bureau member since 1991 and is also on the Board of Directors and the Governmental Affairs Team.

#### WHAT DO YOU "SPECIALIZE" IN?

We specialize in flower arrangements for all occasions and offer a nursery full of annual, perennial, and bedding plants, as well as hanging baskets, succulents, fall flowers and firewood. We also sell Christmas trees and handmade wreaths during the holiday season.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLANT?

My favorite plant is jade. Basically, it does not need a lot of attention to thrive for decades.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?

My favorite season is fall, for the colors and temperature.

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

The most valuable piece of equipment we have are the greenhouses; they make everything else possible.

#### IF YOU WERE NOT DOING THIS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I have no idea what I would be doing if not what I do now.

# Ag Lit Bit

“Welcome Back to Learning”



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

Normally it would be great to say to all of you in September, “Welcome back to school!”

This COVID year, however, does not afford me the opportunity to use that phase as I have no idea as of this writing who will be going back

to school. I am hopeful that all students will be going to back learning whether it be in-person, remote, via homeschool, or through a hybrid model of some type.

I learned many lessons on learning models this spring when meetings took a turn from in-person to Zoom. At first everyone was active and present during every Zoom interaction, but then came the gradual change when larger meetings showed videos turned off and participants automatically muted by the host.

Not one to typically have issues paying attention, I found myself multitasking while speakers were presenting and sometimes lost all focus on what was being said. Guilty as charged. It proved to be tough to be engaged when no one can see or hear you.

This guilt has made me realize that students are going to need very engaging presentations to prevent them from muting and tuning out with virtual learning. Which brought us another challenge called “technology”! It has been a truly challenging summer.

Realizing our AITC program’s success is due in large part to our amazing team of presenters and the hands-on nature of the program, we are working on ways to keep students engaged while they learn about agriculture in Illinois. We have brought our “A” game to the table and are ready to offer several program options (see information on this page).

A special shout out to Jill Drover, AITC Assistant, whose technical abilities made this new platform come to life. We cannot wait to teach and engage with students from elementary school through high school beginning this month.

We want to look back and know we made a difference!

Be sure to follow our programming and resources at <https://bit.ly/32aXY6a>.

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

## Students Grow (Food) in Suburban Cook County Schools



Luke Allen

If there’s one thing that the recent COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, it’s that we all rely on an efficient food supply chain to meet the needs of a growing population.

Challenges to that supply chain have demonstrated the need to reevaluate not only the source of food products but the path those products take to reach our kitchens. Two suburban Cook County schools have been trend-setters in preparing students to study the food supply chain and even going so far as to teach students how to grow their own food.

Rolling Meadows High School, located in Northwest suburban Rolling Meadows, is beginning their second year of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) courses following a two-year planning process.

“At Rolling Meadows High School and across District 214, we believe strongly in providing real-world opportunities and viable career pathway courses for students to engage, learn, and problem-solve in. We are incredibly excited to offer the courses of Ag Biology, Food Science, and Veterinary Science to our students as part of our Agriculture Pathway.” -Eileen Hart, Principal

The courses were so popular in their first year that 145 students enrolled to learn about how food is grown, animals are cared for, and manufactured to be prepared for the consumer.

In south suburban Chicago Heights, middle school students at the Barack Obama School of

Leadership and STEM in School District 163 have begun studying plant biology through growing food in the schools’ newly built greenhouse and on-site permaculture-designed gardens. Students from grades 5-8 have the opportunity to learn about how food is grown and the many careers in agriculture.

“This year, my school launches our new AgEd program. Students will love the hands-on, student-led activities that make learning relevant to them. Lessons will be cross curricular and engaging which are the key ingredients to academic success. What’s even more exciting will be how my students can participate in the FFA activities which prepare them for leadership roles, promote personal growth and teaches skills leading to career success.

It’s as if all the best teacher practices were combined giving students academic growth and valuable experiences to prepare for their future.” Nancy Herschberger, Agriculture Teacher, Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM

Students who study agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR) are given opportunities to study STEM subjects in real-world situations- and that leads to increased learning. Illinois Agricultural Education is providing students with the opportunity to study agriculture courses online if their school does not currently offer the subject. To learn more, visit <https://www.ilaged.org/secondary-hs-programs>

Author Luke Allen is an Ag Education Program Advisor for all schools in Northeast Illinois. He can be reached at [lallen@ILAgEd.org](mailto:lallen@ILAgEd.org)



School is in session and Ag in the Classroom is ready to visit virtually

We look forward to joining you in your classroom virtually via Google Meet, Hangout, or Zoom

### Intro to Illinois Agriculture



This presentation is offered to all 4th grade classes in Cook County and has been updated to accommodate remote learning. This free program includes:

- Teaching students to recognize that agriculture provides our most basic necessities: food, fiber, energy and shelter.
- A discussion about local, urban, and Illinois agriculture highlighting jobs involved in the production, processing, manufacturing, and distribution of products.
- Includes student worksheet, pre/post-tests and Kahoot It.

Next Generation Science Standards: Earth & Human Activity 4-ESS3.A - Structure & Processes 4-LS1-1 Social Science Standards: SSG.3.4, SSEC.2.4, SSG.1.4 Common Core Science Standards: SL.4.1 - SL.4.3, RI.4.3, 4.4, 4.5 MathContent.AMD.1, 4NF.B.4

### Free Teacher Resources

Ag Mags Non-fiction newspaper style readers in a variety of topics. Free classroom sets of 30 available. Interactive, on-line Ag Mags also available.

### Our Ag Literacy Mission

To expand students’ awareness and appreciation for the importance of agriculture everywhere.

### There’s Ag on MyPlate



Available in November, this follow-up to the Intro to Illinois Agriculture program is designed to engage students in thoughtful discussion and activities connecting what farmers produce to the USDA MyPlate.

- Discuss the importance of a balanced diet including grains, proteins, fruits, vegetables and dairy through a food journal exercise.
- Allows students to compare and contrast food labels, learning how to read labels and identify important information.

### Custom Experiences K-12

We realize that many educators are including agriculture into their curriculum and we will make every effort to deliver a customized program to classrooms beyond the 4th grade level based on availability. These may include middle or high school topics of Agriculture Science and Careers, Agriculture Technology- Then and Now, or for younger learners, farm animals and crops.



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

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Pumpkins

[HTTPS://IAITC.CO/PDINPJ](https://iaitc.co/pdinpj)



Monthly Themed Resources

for Teachers and Families

### Monthly Virtual Field Trips

September 3, 1:00 PM - Apple Orchard

October 1, 1:00 PM - Heap Giant Pumpkin Patch

Sign up for zoom link: <https://iaitc.co/fieldtrips>

### Monthly Author Interview

September 10, 1:00 PM - Lisa Amstutz, Applesauce Day

Sign up for zoom link: <https://iaitc.co/authorvisits>

Libraries, Scouting Groups, After School Clubs...

This month will find us Zooming with many specialty educational providers with our free resources. If you are looking to add agriculture to your fall line-up on topics such as apples, pumpkins, trees, and cooking contact us to discuss your needs. Teaching the importance of our farmers has never been more relevant than now as the farm to table process needs to be understood by learners of all ages.

Where does your pizza come from? Are all pumpkins alike? What do they do with all of that field corn?

Contact Ag Literacy to learn more at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).



# Agriculture Adventures for Families

Bean awhile since we last saw many of you and we thank you for your continued dedication to submitting your word searches. This month we look at the process of how family farms grow, harvest and transport green beans to be processed for use throughout the year.



Whether fresh, frozen, or canned they are a family favorite throughout the year. Share your favorite recipe for green beans with us or try out a farm bureau favorite here: <https://bit.ly/317fQjj>

## From Soil to Store: Green Bean

Follow along to see a green bean's journey from the soil to the store. What soil to store examples can you think of?



**3.** The plant takes time to grow. It takes 50-55 days for the plant to produce green beans.



**2.** Farmers plant green bean seeds in the soil. These seeds need to grow into a plant. The plant needs water, air, sunlight, and nutrients to grow.

**4.** The farmer then harvests the green beans. They are either shipped to the store or to a processing plant.



**5.** At a processing plants in Illinois and other states, the beans are boiled and placed in a can with a small amount of canning salt. To learn more about beans go to: <https://www.delmontefoods.com>.

### What's in Season?

Below are some of the fruits or vegetables normally ready to be harvested in Illinois in September!

Apples	Cantaloupes	Squash
Asian Pears	Eggplant	Sweet Corn
Beans	Peppers	Sweet Potatoes
Broccoli	Raspberries	Tomatoes
Cabbage	Pumpkins	Watermelon

Source: <https://www.pickyourown.org/ILharvestcalendar.htm>

**6.** At the store you can buy fresh or canned green beans, depending on the season. Remember, it all started with the soil beneath your feet!

### September Word Search

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Air       | Process  |
| Beans     | Season   |
| Canned    | Seeds    |
| Fresh     | Soil     |
| Grow      | Store    |
| Harvest   | Sunlight |
| Journey   | Truck    |
| Nutrients | Water    |

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

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

**If you were to win, check your preference:**  
 Beggar's Pizza GC  HRI GC  Farm Funds  
 (If a choice is not made, HRI GC 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 \$25 in Farm Bureau Farm Fresh Funds.

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 Week's Word  
 Search Winner Is..  
 William Kehoe

# Harvest Routine Brings Normalcy During Pandemic



I hold out hope that the upcoming harvest season delivers a 60-day dose of normalcy, seldom felt since COVID-19 changed our lives. The pandemic-friendly activity naturally isolates us to the cabs of trucks, tractors, and combines. We drive all day yet stay within a 15-mile radius of home. And as usual, our social schedule works around the priority task of harvest, an easier feat this year now that COVID-19 has cleared the calendar.

The local agriculture festival is canceled. The kids' fall sports seasons are postponed. And the 7th grader and freshman in our household will start the school year 100% remotely, making high-speed internet and mobile hotspots a necessity. Remote will reach another level if the kids take their studies along during harvest with me on Snakeden Road, a middle-of-nowhere gravel road as winding as its name implies.

Similarly, harvest provides a time for schooling on the farm. In fact, this season may teach us more about the production impacts of

planting decisions than the last several have. The crop struggled at its start in undesirably cool soil temperatures, fitting of the mood of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time. The economic shutdowns combined with decisions about when to plant made this spring as stressful as the unprecedented planting season last year.

We need a mental reprieve, a feeling of normalcy, and objectives that we can see and achieve. Harvest season brings attainable goals we can check off field by field.

Farm families everywhere can relate to the long hours and natural isolation to gather the harvest. Together, we share satisfaction in productive harvest days and empathize with mechanical breakdowns that derail the task. We relish October sunsets and realize that a hot meal delivered to the field satisfies more than hunger. When it rains, the day fills with maintenance jobs, bookwork, and overdue haircuts, assuming no further barber shop shutdowns.

Consistent with the encouraging messages of the pandemic, "We're in this harvest together." We felt that bond with fellow farm families far before COVID made the phrase popular. Harvest makes it natural to do our part to help ensure normal returns..

*About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans, and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.*

## Horseradish Fun Facts!

- Horseradish is a root vegetable used as a spice.
- The horseradish plant is cultivated primarily for its large, white, tapered root, although the leaves can be eaten.
- Early settlers brought horseradish to North America and began cultivating it in the colonies.
- Horseradish dates to 1500 BC; early Greeks used it as a rub to alleviate lower back pain.
- In the name horseradish, "horse" is believed to denote large size and coarseness, and "radish" comes from the Latin "radix", meaning root.
- Horseradish is a perennial plant that comes from the same family as mustard, wasabi, broccoli, and cabbage.
- Horseradish is celebrated at the International Horseradish festival in Collinsville, Illinois, on the first full weekend of June each year.
- Collinsville, IL, which supplies roughly 60% of the world's horseradish production, is known as the "Horseradish Capital of the World".
- When cut or grated, enzymes from the now-broken plant cells cause changes that produce isothiocyanate, a compound that generates the bite and aroma of the horseradish.
- There are only two calories in a teaspoon of horseradish.
- Unlike hot peppers that burn the tongue, the horseradish is experienced through the nose and sinuses.
- In the U.S., an estimated 24 million pounds of horseradish root are ground and processed annually to yield six million gallons of prepared horseradish.
- The cold winters of Illinois provide the required root dormancy, and the long summers provide excellent growing conditions for horseradish.
- Horseradish is still planted and harvested mostly by hand.



*\*From the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom SM Calendar for Teachers*

## Family Farm and Food Bytes

**ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE** (FarmWeekNow) - Organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Certified producers and handlers are now eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50% of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope.

Applications for eligible certification expenses paid between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020, are due Oct. 31 at local Farm Service Agency offices.

Eligible producers include any certified

producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Eligible expenses for cost-share reimbursement include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

**FOOD PRICES EXPECTED TO GO UP 3%, THE HIGHEST INCREASE SINCE 2011** (CBSLA) - Groceries are taking a bigger bite of household budgets these days. According to Fern's AG Insider, the USDA predicts grocery prices will rise 3% on average this year, the highest increase the U.S. has seen since 2011.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**MADDIE POOLE**  
Scholarship Recipient  
CCFB Foundation

**Education/Degree:** University of Illinois; degree in crop sciences, minor in international development economics. Currently completing Masters Degree in Education.

**Current Role:** Recently graduated and accepted a position in Chicago Public Schools teaching middle school science. Hopes to become more involved with Chicago community gardens, and help develop programs for middle schoolers to learn about the field of agriculture through urban gardening

**Why Agriculture:** I knew I really liked the field of science, but I wanted to major in a science that was specific and applicable to help make measurable changes in the world today. I loved my agricultural science courses in high school, and plant science as it related to food global food security was always of interest to me.



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**FOOD IS GROWING MORE PLENTIFUL, SO WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP WARNING OF SHORTAGES?** (NPR) - There's a common warning about our planet's future: the risk of food shortages. But, in fact, the long-term trend, for more than a century, has been toward ever more abundant food, and declining prices.

**FSA AND FARM BUREAU ON CFAP EXTENSION** (RFD TV) - USDA extends its Coronavirus Food Assistance Program deadline to September 11th. The agency also added more commodities to the eligibility list.

**FACT CHECK: PIGS AREN'T POISONOUS** (Reuters) - Posts on Facebook claim that pigs are "poisonous", that they are difficult to kill

with strychnine or other poisons, that they harbor over a dozen parasites, and that "there is no safe temperature at which pork can be cooked" to ensure that such parasites will be killed. This claim is largely false.

**About Family Farm and Food Bytes:** This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau® organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally, and globally.



## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

I want a belt buckle. A big ole dinner plate of a belt buckle. With engraving. Bling. The whole kit and caboodle. My farmer laughs his butt off at that statement. He knows me. He knows it will collect dust in a drawer. He

knows that I would bark at the kids if they get their grimy little fingerprints on it.

Somewhere deep down he knows roughly how much we would be spending on entry fees, hauling, stalls, and bedding to chase that buckle. He tends to ignore how much we already spend on routine veterinarian, farrier, chiropractic, and magnawave care. Tack. Feed. And supplements.

It's really not about the buckle. It's about the chase. The drive. It's about the goals. I ride like I

work. I will give 110 percent when I need to, and I will celebrate those times when I don't have to push. Chasing a buckle makes me push.

Chasing a buckle makes me plan and prepare. And most importantly it makes me set goals. My blue-eyed girl and I ride daily. We walk. Trot. Lope. And pattern. All in an effort to build balance, muscle tone, horse confidence, rider skill, horse skill, and knowledge.

Weekly we throw in at least three different drill patterns at three different speeds: moderate, fast, and Faster. These drills include moves like rollbacks. Suicide pass by. Pinwheels. One arm pinwheels. Texas boxes. Zippers. Sweeps. Circles. Inner and outer circles. And my least favorite, the figure eight merge. Each time is videoed, reviewed, and critiqued. How else do we improve?

At some point you have to ask why. The answer is to take another step. To move one step closer to the finish line.

Goals are always in the driver's seat. An overriding goal that guides my work is to serve Farm Bureau members. I continually work to represent member interests in discussions with lawmakers and their staffs while also ensuring that members are aware of Farm Bureau's efforts on their behalf.

Through our grassroots policy development process, members are in the driver's seat. They guide our policy development, and as a staff member, my job is to work for its implementation. Even now Farm Bureau has listened to members and is in the process of reviewing the policy sections on finance and education.

An aspect of serving Farm Bureau members is education. Part of my role is to educate members about the extreme importance of being involved in the governmental process. Individuals must learn about the candidates, the issues, the impacts of the office on your life and

your family's lives.

Something I believe fully in is that the most important offices are those that impact individuals' lives on a daily basis. These offices are not the President, US Senate, or US House. These positions are important, of course, but mayors, aldermen, township officials, Illinois Senators, and Illinois Representatives impact individual's lives multiple times on a daily basis. They control garbage pickup, road repairs, property taxes, school funding, how and where individuals can build their homes, how many animals an individual can have on their property, and where your neighbors can place an outbuilding.

Goals guide our efforts. They provide benchmarks for achievement. They ask us to achieve more. To give more.

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

### Important Dates for the Upcoming General Election

V	September 24	Early Voting begins, absentee ballots mailed
O	October 6	Regular voter registration ends
T	October 7	Grace period voter registration and voting begins
E	October 18	Online voter registration ends
E	October 29	Last day for absentee ballot application by mail
E	November 2	Last day for absentee ballot applications, Early Voting ends
E	November 3	Election Day <span style="float: right;">★ ★ ★</span>

## Constitutional Amendment No Progressive Income Tax Be Prepared for the Ballot

In November, Illinois voters will consider changes to the Illinois Constitution in Article IX, Section 3. As is currently written, the Illinois Constitution is explicit that a tax on income shall be non-graduated. The amendment would remove this limitation and instead opens the door for lawmakers to pass a new income tax rate structure. If the amendment is approved by voters in November, a new progressive income tax rate structure- already agreed to by lawmakers- would take effect.

All registered voters will be mailed an informational pamphlet ahead of the November election. The pamphlet will provide an explanation of the proposed amendment, arguments in favor and arguments against the amendment, and the form of the ballot. The language in this pamphlet was agreed to by the General Assembly.

Farm Bureau is asking voters to vote against the Amendment. The Amendment gives the Legislature the power to increase taxes on any group of taxpayers with no limits and no accountability and without any requirement to use the additional revenue to fund essential needs such as healthcare, education, or public safety.

Taxes and spending are out of control. The Legislature should not be allowed to keep raising taxes until they get their spending under control.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the worst possible time for a massive tax increase.

Vote No in November.

Paid for by the NO Progressive Tax- Illinois Farm Bureau.

## Get to Know Your Local Official: Sheriff

### Primary Duties

The sheriff is the primary law enforcement officer in the county. As the conservator of the peace, the sheriff strives to prevent crime and maintain the safety and order of the citizens in the region. Although the sheriff may enforce laws within the entire county, by professional courtesy, he/she does not do so within individual municipalities, villages, or towns which have their own respective law enforcement agency.

As an "arm" of the judiciary, the sheriff is responsible for the service of civil documents by order of the court such as subpoenas, summonses, and judgments just to name a few. The sheriff, in person or by representation of deputy, attends all courts in his/her county when in session.

The sheriff has the authority to appoint deputies who may perform any and all duties of the sheriff. In addition to regular deputies, the sheriff may appoint special deputies and auxiliary deputies. Special deputies perform specified duties such as serving a summons, while auxiliary deputies perform limited duties, such as traffic control and emergency aid. In counties with less than 3 million inhabitants, the sheriff may also hire court security officers to provide for security of the courthouse. These officers have arrest power solely connected to their function in the courthouse and may carry weapons if appropriately trained, with the consent of the sheriff.

The sheriff's office strives to improve services to the community through innovative programs and additional services. Some of the more familiar programs include D.A.R.E. which provides education in schools to teach kids the dangers of drug abuse and how to prevent it; Crime Stoppers which provides an anonymous way to report crime and fugitives; K-9 Program which provides canine drug detection and tracking abilities for both law enforcement and search and rescue operations; and I Live

Alone which provides home visits and crime prevention for the elderly.

### Custodian of Courthouse and Jail

The custody and care of the courthouse and jail are under the jurisdiction of the sheriff. The sheriff is authorized to impose reasonable rules to control access to the county building(s) on holidays, weekends, and during hours when it is closed to the public. The sheriff, having custody and care of the courthouse, has the power to employ courthouse janitors and all other custodial personnel, and the county board has no authority to deprive the sheriff of such power by ordinance. While the sheriff exercises possession of the courthouse in a custodial capacity, the county board controls occupancy and judges assign courtrooms. The sheriff shall, in person or by deputy, county corrections officers, or court security officer, attend all courts in his/her county when in session.

### Other Responsibilities

The office of supervisor of safety is held by the sheriff. The supervisor of safety has the duty of enforcing all the laws of Illinois relating to the regulation of motor vehicle traffic and the promotion of safety on public highways. Foreclosures, property sales, and auctions are also the responsibility of the sheriff's office.

### Training

The Office of the Sheriff is open to lay persons. Sheriffs must obtain at least 20 hours of training each year approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board.

### Term

Sheriff is an elected office serving a four-year term. Under the Constitution, the Office of the Sheriff may not be eliminated.

(Source: Inside the Courthouse, Illinois Association of County Board Members)

**The elected Sheriff that serves the Cook County area is Tom Dart. He has been in office 6 years.**

## Farm Bureau Members Recognized for Outstanding Efforts in the Area of Legislative Relations

Despite the abbreviated legislative session, the following Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders engaged in over 80 percent of association action requests:

### Board Members

- Dan Biernacki
- James Bloomstrand
- Roger Freeman
- James Gutzmer
- Patrick Horcher
- Janet McCabe, President

- Todd Price
- Timothy Stuenkel
- Mark Yunker
- Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer

### Governmental Affairs

#### Committee members

- Cindy Gustafson
- Kim Morton

### Team members

- Karen Biernacki
- Richard Johnson

### Young Leaders

- Douglas Yunker

### Farm Bureau leaders

- Jayne Quetsch-Rohrer
- Michael Morris

### Staff

- Bona Heinsohn
- Robert Rohrer
- Deb Voltz

A tremendous thank you to everyone who has made contacts on behalf of Farm Bureau policies and priority issues.

**YES!**

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**RENEWAL IS EASY, AND FAST, WITH NO ADDITIONAL FEES.**  
Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 open Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm.

Here are a few of the benefits members utilize every day:

<p><b>IAA credit union</b></p>	<p><b>\$500 BONUS CASH</b> toward the purchase or lease of any eligible Ford vehicles 2020/2021 <small>some exclusions apply</small></p>
<p><b>CHOICE HOTELS</b> <b>WYNDHAM HOTELS &amp; RESORTS</b></p> <p><b>SAVE UP TO 20%</b></p>	<p><b>\$750 BONUS CASH</b> toward the purchase or lease of any eligible Lincoln vehicles 2020/2021 <small>some exclusions apply</small></p>
<p><b>Budget</b> <b>AVIS</b> <b>Enterprise</b> <b>National</b> <b>Alamo</b></p> <p><b>MEMBER SAVINGS</b></p>	<p><b>DISCOUNT TICKETS</b> Discount code only applies to the amusement park.</p>
<p><b>SOIL TEST KIT</b> Members receive discount pricing on soil test kits.</p>	<p><b>MEMBER SAVINGS</b></p>

**READY TO SAVE?**

Access more than 302,000 benefits through our website or the IL Farm Bureau Member Benefits App

Download the app or sign up today at [ilfb.abenity.com](http://ilfb.abenity.com). If you need assistance, give us a call at (309) 557-2689.

The CCFB is a non-profit, member organization, representing members in the Cook County area. We are not a part of any governmental organization! We are a grass roots, membership organization that represents farmers and non-farmers interested in agriculture, local food and saving money.

# 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.



**\*Mirsad Kljucanin**  
*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
\*Mirsad Kljucanin has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave., Ste. 280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-728-3041. Mirsad has been a Financial Representative since February 2010.



**Samantha Ingles**  
*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
Samantha Ingles has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. Her office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Fullerton Ave., in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-427-2851. Samantha has been a Financial Representative since May 2020.



**\*Ray Massie**  
*Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager*  
Ray Massie has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste. C, in Rolling Meadows IL. His phone number is 847-991-0765. Ray has been a Career Financial Representative since February 1999.



**\*Ibrahim Essa**  
*Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager*  
\*Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 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.



**Kathy Spiewak**  
*Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager*  
Kathy Spiewak has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. Her office is located at 11 W. Wise Rd., Schaumburg IL. Her phone number is 847-716-1010. Kathy has been a Financial Representative since February 2007.



**\*Faustino Ramirez**  
*Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager*  
\*Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd. Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



**\*Nick Zegar**  
*Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager*  
Nick Zegar has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 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.



**Kirk Gregory Jr.**  
*Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager*  
Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2020. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Suite 150, Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-619-0649. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since February 2018.



**Rocky Dellamano**  
*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*  
Rocky Dellamano has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 2020. His office is located at 814 Laraway Rd., in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is 815-485-4832. Rocky has been a Financial Representative since April 2014.



**Kurt Hussein**  
*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*  
Kurt Hussein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 2020. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. His phone is 708-480-5099. Kurt has been a Financial Representative since December 2017.



**\*Tim Perchinski**  
*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
\*Tim Perchinski has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 2020. His office is located at 29 E. 34th St., in Stegar, IL. His phone number is 708-754-7300. Tim has been a Financial Representative since December 2002.



**Chad Christie**  
*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
Chad Christie has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 2020. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-381-4013. Chad has been a Financial Representative since December 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.

## Nursery Crops and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Are you a nursery crop or cut flower producer whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP, provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs. **USDA is accepting applications now through September 11, 2020.** Learn more at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

### Nursery Crop and Cut Flower Eligibility

USDA announced on August 11 that nursery crops and cut flowers are eligible for CFAP. Specifically,

- **Nursery crops** means decorative or non-decorative plants grown in a container or controlled environment for commercial sale.
- **Cut flowers** includes cut flowers and cut greenery from annual and perennial flowering plants grown in a container or controlled environment for commercial sale.

### CFAP Payments for Nursery Crops and Cut Flowers

CFAP payments for nursery crops and cut flowers will be based on a percentage of the producer's wholesale value of inventory. Payments will be the sum of CARES Act payments and CCC payments as follows:

1. **CARES Act Payments:** For nursery crop and cut flower inventory that was shipped but subsequently spoiled or is unpaid due to loss of marketing channels between January 15, 2020 and April 15, 2020, the wholesale value of the inventory that was shipped that spoiled or is unpaid, multiplied by 15.55 percent; and

2. **CCC Payments:** For nursery crop and cut flower inventory that did not leave the farm between January 15, 2020 and April 15, 2020, due to a complete loss of marketing channel, the wholesale value of the inventory ready for sale that did not leave the farm by April 15, 2020, and that will not be sold due to lack of markets, multiplied by 13.45 percent.

Nursery crop and cut flower inventory that may be sold after April 15, 2020, is not eligible for CFAP.

## This Month in Cook County Ag

The Chicago Farmers organization is offering their annual Farmland Leasing Trends program on Monday, September 14 from 12-1:30pm. The program will be in webinar form. Dr. Gary Schnitkey from the University of Illinois will be presenting information on farmland rental and price markets. He will be reviewing how COVID-19 has impacted agriculture and will provide up-to-date forecasts on farmland returns to Illinois farmland. He will also provide thoughts on future farmland price movements. Details are available at [chicagofarmers.org](https://chicagofarmers.org).

**Note:** The Cook County Farm Bureau is also working with Dr. Gary Schnitkey to provide a similar program for Cook County Farm Bureau members on November 17th.

## Agritourism Farms Striving to Safely Offer Fall Family Traditions

As Cook County area families consider their annual farm fall traditions such as pumpkin patches, apple picking, u-pick vegetables, and other agri-tourism activities, local farmers are taking steps to protect their staff and guests. Area farmers are doing their best to help guests maintain safe conditions. Families may have to plan ahead, especially during peak fall days.

Agri-tourism farms in Illinois are following new health and safety policies and procedures based on state guidelines. These guidelines offer recommendations developed by Illinois Farm Bureau®, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, University of Illinois Extension, and several agritourism operations. **Visit the [cookcfb.org](https://cookcfb.org) website for details and more information.**

Customers need to expect agritourism businesses will not operate exactly as they did before COVID as they seek compliance with Illinois government guidelines and standards. Businesses' and consumers' expectations will need to be communicated, and possibly, adjusted this fall.

Here are some examples of what to expect:

- Cleaning and sanitizing have always been important, but more handwashing and sanitizing stations will be available around the farms.
- Controlling foot traffic and reducing congested areas will be new to prevent bottlenecks and to spread out crowds.
- Some businesses may turn to reservations with everything from selling admission tickets online to taking reservations over the phone as a way to maximize the number of visitors at a time.
- Businesses will use plenty of signs to help communicate new procedures and practices to patrons.
- Staff health will be receiving extra attention with seasonal and permanent employees. Each employee will receive in-depth training as well as daily health screenings and temperature checks before each shift.
- Both staff and patrons will likely be required to wear masks at all times "to protect each other and guests when social distancing is difficult".
- Businesses will need to consider high-touch practices and activities, such as using baskets and wagons for customers to pick apples and pumpkins. Hand sanitizer at the entrance and exit as well as other key locations will be adapted.
- Giving customers different options of where and how to make purchases

### ATTENTION

# COOK COUNTY AREA AGRI-TOURISM FARMERS

A NEW GUIDE HAS BEEN CREATED TO ASSIST YOU IN PREPARING FOR THE FALL SEASON OF GUESTS AND VISITORS TO YOUR FARM.

The information and resources are available at [Cookcfb.org/stayupdated/COVID-19resources/StateofIllinoisguidelines](https://Cookcfb.org/stayupdated/COVID-19resources/StateofIllinoisguidelines)

*We hope that you have a terrific season!*

can reduce congestion and keep vulnerable customers safe. Pre-order curbside service for items ordered in advance may be an option.

- Businesses will keep social media sites updated with new policies and procedures, and customers will need to learn about those changes just as they have with other businesses.

Cook County agri-tourism farms are looking forward to the fall season and re-uniting with their customers from the Chicagoland area.

### Classifieds

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

Sharp countertop microwave 1.8 cubic ft. \$40, Hoover carpet upholstery cleaner \$25, IBI matic comb binding system and 2 boxes plastic binding combs \$40, Fax machine with digital answering service \$20, Noritake Piccadilly china dinnerware set (48pc.) \$40. Call Francis at 708-614-8541.

Highland cargo carrier 60x20 w 500# capacity new \$90 obo. Call Susan at 708-278-4168.

Commercial building 2300 sq. ft. with full basement. Fantastic opportunity, excellent location a mile from the expressway. 1 1/2 block away from Arlington park train station. For more information call Rita at 847-259-9339.

Used, grey Chevy Malibu Maxx, Passed IL emissions 6/20. No lights on, drives fine. New brakes/rotors 11/19, mi 126xxx. For inquiries or test drive contact Zoe at [zoeclair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zoeclair@sbcglobal.net).

Pool table light \$80. 17' aluminum extended ladder \$40. 6' wooden ladder \$15. 5' wooden ladder \$12. White rocking chair \$50. 4' florescent light \$10. Scotts drop spreader \$5. Ladder jacks \$12 call Norman at 708-371-0163.

Old Chicago street bricks 3 1/2" tall, 150 bricks at a \$1 each. Call Robert at 708-426-9065.

Vintage sears 12-foot aluminum fishing boat. Includes oars, 2 anchors and stearns life vest. Good, solid condition \$300. Call Ron at 773-229-9123.

Cast iron Kobalt 30-gal 155 PSI portable electric air compressor great condition. \$300. Call Dave at 708-932-2112 leave a message if no answer.

Guardian industrial drill press, BDM-58-55 \$60, plus heavy-duty steel stand w/ switch and outlet sold separately \$25. Craftsman vintage cast iron jointer planer 36 in. includes motor and stand \$120. (2) Bench top router tables \$15 each. Makita drywall screw gun, corded \$35. (2) under cabinet 24 in. Fluorescent lights, each includes brand new spare bulb \$20 ea. Rooftop cargo bag, waterproof 15 cu.ft., 8-inch straps w/ buckles \$30. Call Allison at 630-945-4140.

### For Rent

Office/ Retail space in Steger, IL. 625 sq. ft. new siding, roofing, paint inside and out. Plenty of private parking, available now. Tenant responsible for gas, electric and water. Call Tory at 708-259-7133.

Vacant waterfront lot 8712 sq. ft. in Marco Island Florida, facing Gulf of Mexico. Call Rita at 847-259-9339.

### Wanted

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.

2"-20" Farm field rocks call Duane at 847-678-8585.

### 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  For Rent  Wanted

To place an ad call the CCFB office at (708) 354-3276 or mail details 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.

# Programs, Workshops, and Webinars

For Members, Farmers, Teachers, Landowners, Foodies, Business owners, and those that want new experiences and to have a great time!

Register today for the following great programs by calling the office at 708-354-3276 or at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### Fall Planter Workshop at M&D Farms and Garden Center or via Zoom

Create a beautiful fall planter either in person or on your own using curbside pickup and participate via zoom from your home...you choose how to participate during registration!  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** M & D Farms & Garden Center, 14946 Bell Rd Homer Glen, or via Zoom with prior curbside material pickup  
**Price:** \$30 members and guests | fee will cover all workshop materials; limited class size  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### 20th Annual Giant Pumpkin Contest

Giant pumpkin growers this is the contest for you! Adult and Youth (under 16 yrs) divisions. Contest is free to members and registration is required. Cash prizes awarded to 3 top member pumpkin weigh ins for adult and youth divisions.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 3  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Puckerville Farms, 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



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

The program will inform you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need to make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust.  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 13  
**Time:** 6:30-9:00pm  
**Location:** Zoom (the zoom link will be emailed to all participants the evening before the class)  
**Price:** Free for members | \$10 non-members  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.



### Shred Day

Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like have shredded.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 17  
**Time:** 10am-12pm  
**Location:** 4845 167th St. #101, Oak Forest, IL  
**Price:** No charge  
**Registration:** Please call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to make a reservation.



## SATURDAY, October 3, 2020 at 9AM

9:00 A.M. Registration/Check-In  
 Puckerville Farms, 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont



### Succulent 100-year Celebration Workshops at Ted's Greenhouse or via Zoom

Join us for our rescheduled 100-year celebration workshops and make a commemorative 100-year succulent planter while learning about succulent plant selection and care. Create your planter in person or at home using curbside pickup and participate via zoom from your home...you choose how to participate!  
**Date:** Saturday, November 7  
**Time:** 9 AM OR 10:30am  
**Location:** Ted's Greenhouse, 16930 S. 84th Ave. Tinley Park, or via Zoom with prior curbside pickup  
**Price:** \$10 member | \$20 non-member Fee covers 6-inch planter and succulents; limited class size  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### Video Conference - Farm and Small Business Legacy Seminar

Seminar will provide basic information and questions that are essential to legacy planning, in order to allow you to keep your farm or small business in the family and considerations for passing your legacy on to the next generation.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 12  
**Time:** 6:30pm  
**Location:** Zoom (the zoom link will be emailed to all participants the day before the seminar)  
**Price:** No Charge  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.



### Planning for Organic Certification Webinar

Farmers and growers, are you thinking of going organic? Learn what is involved to go organic and the resources available.  
**Date:** Saturday, November 14  
**Time:** 9 AM  
**Location:** Webinar via Zoom  
**Price:** \$10 member | \$20 non-member  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### Land lease & Trends Webinar

Gary Schnitkey will present Information on farmland rental, price markets, and forecasts of farmland returns to Illinois farmland will be presented. Opportunity for Q & A for land owners and growers.  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Location:** Webinar via Zoom  
**Price:** Free member | \$10 non-member  
**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

The Giant Pumpkin Contest, in its 20th year, is a Farm Bureau tradition! However, due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, Covid guidelines, and the safety and well being of our members, volunteers, Puckerville Farms and the public, the Cook County Farm Bureau will only be holding the giant pumpkin weigh in.

Returning to our contest roots, highlighting pumpkins growers in and around the county, and Illinois being the number one producers of pumpkins...the giant pumpkin weigh in contest will go on!

Unfortunately, we will NOT be sponsoring the Pumpkin Dessert, Carving, Local Honey, or Children's Decorating activities this year.

Have a big pumpkin growing in your garden?  
 Enter yours today!

### GIANT PUMPKIN WEIGH IN CONTEST:

Divisions: **Adult and Youth** (16 and younger)  
 Rules: Contest open to CCFB members and their dependents. One pumpkin grown per person may be entered into the contest.  
 Prizes: **Adult** 1st Place - \$250  
 2nd Place - \$150  
 3rd Place - \$75  
**Youth** 1st Place - \$100  
 2nd Place - \$75  
 3rd Place - \$50  
 Entry Fee: Free for Members, non-members may enter by joining CCFB.  
 Rules: Contest open to any CCFB member & dependents. Check in **by 9:15 am to be considered; must be present to win.**  
 Judging: Members of the Commodities/Marketing Team will serve as weigh in judges. The decision of the judges is final.

### CONTESTS REGISTRATION FORM

Giant Pumpkin  Adult  Youth-17 & under

Member or Dependent Contest Info:

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Bureau Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration form online:

<http://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>

Mail, fax, or email entry form to:

Cook County Farm Bureau

Attn: Debbie Voltz

6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525

Fax: 708-579-6056 Email: [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org)

Register by phone at: 708.354.3276