

Are GMOs really safe? Really?

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

March 13, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Homewood Public Library

17917 Dixie Highway in Homewood

March 20, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Poplar Creek Library

4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park

Speakers

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



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



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

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

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

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

About Cook County Farm Bureau®

As the county's largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.

ISSUE

19

FEB. 2017

VOL. V

Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



**PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY**

**Cook County
Farm Bureau®**
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL
60525

Phone:
(708) 354-3276
Fax:
(708) 579-6056

www.cookcfb.org

bona@cookcfb.org

**THE
POWER
OF(A)[★]
AWARDS**

IN THIS ISSUE

Staff Exchange Program Details to be Released	2
Upcoming Events	2
Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate	3
Members Respond to Annual Survey	3
Are GMOs Really Safe? Really?	4

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

State and Local Legislative Briefing Scheduled for March 27

Join renowned speakers and the Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about pertinent state and local issues and legislation.

Topics include current legislative issues and Farm Bureau's 2017 legislative priorities. Ample discussion time is scheduled.

March 27, 2017

Ronald McDonald House near Lurie
(Community Room, 5th Floor)
211 E. Grand Street, Chicago
11:30 a.m. (Lunch)
Discussion begins at 12:00 p.m.

This discussion is open to legislators and their legislative staff only.

For additional information or to register for the event please contact Bona Heinsohn or Kelli McSherry at (708) 354-3276.



Chicago Police officer White, Trujillo and PPO Ruppert raced against representatives from the Chicago Fire Department to fill Ronald McDonald House Charities' pantries as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Together with representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Department along with financial representatives from Country Financial and local schools over 11,800 pounds of food was donated.

Join us for our first annual

Foundation Gala
Saturday, March 4
Ruffled Feathers Country Club
6 p.m.

The gala will benefit the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation and assist us to teach students about food and farming.

Additional information is available at
cookcfb.org

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.”



Cook County Farm Bureau members loaded food collected from this year’s Food Checkout Day scavenger hunt. Together with sponsors and Country Financial representatives, Farm Bureau donated over \$10,000 to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Staff Exchange Program Details to be Released Shortly

Explore Cook County’s premier agri-businesses during this year’s Staff Exchange Program.

Since the program launched in 2012, 102 Cook County staff and legislators have participated.

Past program locations include:

- Large established ag-businesses: Ed Miniati, Testa Produce, Tyson Foods, Mullins, and OSI Chicago.
- Trendy or start-up businesses: Windy City Winery, Westside Bee Boyz, and Koval.

The 2017 program will feature a two-track approach. One program day will feature urban farming opportunities in Cook County. A separate program day will feature traditional farming and Cook County farmers.

Dates for this year’s Staff Exchange Program will be released shortly. Legislators are encouraged to send staff members or attend the program themselves. Cook County Farm Bureau® covers all expenses associated with the program. All expenses will be reported in accordance with state law and county statute.

The Staff Exchange Program is designed to connect legislators and staff to Cook County farmers and agri-businesses while expanding each group’s knowledge and understanding of one another.

County, State and Federal staff members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org for additional information.

Upcoming Events

March

- 4 Foundation Gala
- 13 Library Panel, Homewood
- 18-26 Ag Garden, Flower and Garden Show
- 20 Library Panel, Hanover Park
- 27 State & Local Legislative Briefing

April

- 6 Ag Day, Chicago H.S. Ag Sciences
- 11 Ag Day, Schaumburg

For additional information on any event, please contact the Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276.

Let’s Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

Why are animals kept indoors?

Some farmers keep their animals outdoors and other farmers keep their animals indoors. Barns, like the one in the photo enable farmers to protect their animals from the extreme Midwest weather.

Many Midwest livestock barns have heavy “curtains” that can be lowered in the winter to protect the animals from harsh winds. The same “curtains” can be raised in the summer to allow in warm weather breezes. Even with the “curtains” there’s clean, fresh air circulating throughout the barn to keep the animals healthy. Many barns also have sprinklers that automatically turn on when the temperature is above 78 degrees. Sprinklers run for a short interval then turn off, which allows for the water to evaporate and cool the animals. Fans will also turn on at 78 degrees and run continuously. Barns are designed to allow for maximum air circulation, which along with fresh food and clean water helps to keep the animals healthy.

Barns also allow farmers to closely monitor animals’ health and diet and if needed, to quickly provide care and medical attention. They also provide a more controlled environment so the animals stay cleaner and healthier. Farmers are committed to keep their animals healthy.



Farmers routinely check their animals’ health and comfort. They also ensure that animals have access to high quality feed and fresh water.

Members Respond to Annual Policy Survey

Cook County Farm Bureau® members voiced their thoughts and concerns in this year’s Viewpoint Survey.

Farm Bureau members overwhelmingly supported issues related to local government consolidation, including: who should initiate a referendum to dissolve a local unit of government and whether or not units of local government that go dormant should be dissolved. In a contrast to last year’s results, members support consolidation through front-door referendum rather than no referendum or a backdoor referendum.

Members also indicated a continuing concern about taxpayer funded pensions and the growing pension debt.

Farm Bureau members expressed a desire for Farm Bureau to continue its efforts in the area of “reform” including: tax code, health insurance, and government regulations.

The Public Policy Team is reviewing the results of this year’s survey and is considering policy changes in light of the results.

For additional information on the survey, contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food

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



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



[CookCFB](https://twitter.com/CookCFB)