

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
 COUNTY STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM
 MONDAY, JULY 10 | TUESDAY, JULY 25

ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD

Please indicate which day you are planning to attend:

- Monday, July 10
- Tuesday, July 25
- Both days

Name: _____ Office: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____

Work phone: _____ Email: _____

Cell phone: _____ DOB: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Phone number: _____ Relationship: _____

Please indicate any allergies:

Please indicate if you are not riding the bus with the group

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

I, _____ hereby grant to the Cook County Farm Bureau® the right to use and publish photographs taken of me or in which I may be included, for any Cook County Farm Bureau® publications, Illinois Farm Bureau® publications, electronic reproduction (website, social media), and/or promotional materials or any other purpose in any manner or medium.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ISSUE

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Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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2017 Staff Exchange Dates Released

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.

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.

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.

Tentative Agenda

July 10

NuFarm, Alsip
 NuFarm, Chicago Heights

July 25

North Lawndale Youth Farm & Incubator Program
 Legends South Farm

Registration Form on Page 4

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.



Despite a wet, late spring corn is growing throughout Cook County.

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.”

Farm Bureau Members Push for Regulatory Reform

Cook County Farm Bureau® members joined Farm Bureau members from across Illinois to fight for federal regulatory reform. One of Farm Bureau’s top federal legislative priorities is regulatory reform. All Americans have an interest in a regulatory process that is transparent, is facts-based, respects the will of Congress and observes the separation of powers in the Constitution.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the public’s input on which regulations should be repealed, replaced and modified. Cook County Farm Bureau members overwhelmingly mobilized and asked the EPA to tone down the endless list of regulations that farmers face.

Copies of the comments submitted can be found at [regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-0042](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190-0042). Additional information on this federal legislative priority issue and others is available by contacting Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.



Farm Bureau’s third 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 August 1! Official contest rules are available at cookcfb.org.



Senate Agriculture Committee member Senator Bill Cunningham visited local farms this spring to discuss spring planting and the issues impacting Illinois farmers. Pictured left to right is Board member Janet McCabe and Senator Bill Cunningham.

Farm Bureau Recommends Policy Changes

Cook County Farm Bureau® has submitted the following policy issues for consideration by Farm Bureau delegates from throughout Illinois:

Policy enabling elected local and state officials having access to a 457 plan rather than a taxpayer-funded pension.

Seven percent of members support elected state and local officials receiving taxpayer-funded pensions. However, 74 percent of farmers responding, support giving elected state and local officials access to a 457 plan.

The second policy supports the absorption, dissolution, disconnection, and consolidation of units of local government by front door referendum.

Over 80 percent of farmer members responding to the 2017 Viewpoint Survey believe that a referendum to

- Continued on Page 3, Policy -

Let’s Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

Should I worry about antibiotics in my meat and milk?

All meat and milk products are antibiotic free. On farms like mine, if we need to treat an animal, we observe specific procedures and guidelines to ensure that our animals’ health improves and that our meat and milk does not contain antibiotics.

Our milk is tested at our farm before it is shipped for processing. Milk is tested for antibiotics at every stage of the delivery process- at the farm and before it is transported. Each of these tests determine that milk does not contain antibiotics. Milk is tested again for antibiotics before it is packaged or processed into cheese, ice cream, and fluid milk. It’s because of these rigorous testing standards that milk is one of the safest food products you can buy.

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



COUNTRY Financial Agency Manager Joe Youngman discusses food trivia with consumers during the 2017 Wagner Farm Dairy Breakfast. Cook County Farm Bureau® sponsored the 4-H Livestock Stock Show.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food.

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Policy - Continued from Page 3 -

consolidate or dissolve a unit of local governments should be initiated by the registered voters residing within the unit of government.

Next, over 86 percent of farmer members responding to the 2017 Viewpoint Survey support units of government that go dormant for over two years automatically going before voters to determine if the unit of government should be continued.

The policy supports allowing units of local government that go dormant (no projects or expenditures) for more than two years automatically going before the voters to determine if the unit of local government should continue to be in existence.

The final policy issue addresses scientific studies and supports researchers at publicly-funded institutions being required to release data from all scientific studies in a timely fashion.

Ninety-six percent of farmer members responding to this year’s Viewpoint Survey support requiring researchers at publicly-funded institutions being required to release data from all scientific studies in a timely fashion even if they go against popular beliefs.

Farm Bureau members continue to work on policy regarding food labels and misleading information.

These issues will likely be considered by Farm Bureau delegates during the annual meeting in December. Anyone with comments, concerns, or questions is encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.