



# 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

### NOVEMBER

- 7 Succulent 100yr Celebration Workshop Pg. 12
- 12 Virtual Farm/Business Legacy Seminar Pg. 12
- 17 Land Lease & Trends Webinar Pg. 12
- 20 Virtual Dairy Farm Tour Pg. 5

### NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

CCFB Young Leaders Winter Coat Drive Pg. 12

### SAVE THE DATE

- Planning for Organic Certification (new dates) Pg. 12
- Finger Crochet a Chunky Infinity Scarf

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 an historic photo from the CCFB's first 100 years and respond to the question related to the photo.

September Winner is Marta Garcia



Prior to being elected President, then Illinois State Senator Barak Obama received what award from Farm Bureau?

**Answer:** The ACTIVATOR Friend of the Farm Bureau.

## But Wait, There's More!

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

- Farm and Family Food Bytes
- IAA Foundation capping 2020 fundraising with online auction
- Rules of the Country Road



Puckerville Farms (Lemont), owned by Rick & Joy Homerding, hosted the 20th Annual Giant Pumpkin Contest sponsored by the Commodities/Marketing Team. The winning pumpkin, grown by Alyssa Kochanny, weighed in at 724 lbs. and required a loader tractor to bring to the scale. More photos from the event are on page 11.



A nice, steady stream of cars flowed through the Cook County Farm Bureau parking lot on October 10 as members helped celebrate the 100 - year anniversary of the organization by participating in the drive through event. See more photos on page 4

## Farm Bureau to Re-Launch Grant Program to Support 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, Cook County Farm Bureau has created a Food Pantry Grant Program. Food pantries can self-nominate, or a community member can nominate a food pantry.

Local food pantries are encouraged to apply for grant funds at <https://bit.ly/2GJ46vi>. Grant applications are due before midnight on Friday, November 27. Grant awards will range between \$150 to \$600.

Farm Bureau members are also encouraged to donate funds to this program. **See adjacent article.** Donations may be tax deductible based on the pantry. 501(c)3 status. Donations will solely benefit Cook County food pantries.

## Cook County Farm Bureau® to Match Member Donations to Area Food Pantries

To aid Cook County food pantries, Farm Bureau has \$1,000 in which we will match member donations to Cook County food pantries until these funds are depleted. Members can specify the food pantry for their donation and Farm Bureau's match. Member donations may be

tax deductible.

Donations can be made by credit card by calling the Farm Bureau office at (708) 354-3276 or by mailing in the form below. Donations will be accepted until January 29, 2021.

### Food Pantry Match Donations

Food Pantry for Match: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make checks payable to: Cook County Farm Bureau. All proceeds will be donated to Cook County food pantries.

## 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!



# COUNTRY Financial Ranked No. 1 Home Insurer

J.D. Power recently named COUNTRY Financial as the national leader in the J.D. Power 2020 U.S. Home Insurance Study. The insurance and financial provider, with offices in 19 states, topped all other homeowner insurers in client satisfaction in the study.

"We are humbled by the results of the J.D. Power study because it's a testament to the work we have done to create a great experience for our clients," said COUNTRY Financial Chief Experience Officer Andrea Thorpe. "And it doesn't stop here. We continue to look for ways to improve our client experience, protecting what matters most to them and helping them plan for their future."

The U.S. Home Insurance Study surveyed

more than 8,700 clients on five factors of overall client satisfaction: interaction, policy offerings, price, billing processes and policy information, and claims. The study found the top drivers that influence a client's decision to renew their homeowner's insurance with an existing provider are good client experience, reputation, and convenience.

"Client satisfaction has never been more important than in 2020," said Jim Jacobs, COUNTRY CEO. "With major events this year like the Western wildfires, Midwest Derecho, and hurricanes across the South, we understand how important it is to provide the value and client experience that our clients have come to expect from COUNTRY."



**AUTO | HOME | LIFE | FARM | RETIREMENT**

## New Monument Sign Installed on Cook County Farm Bureau Grounds

The Cook County Farm Bureau Building Committee is proud to announce that the installation of a new monument sign on the grounds of the Cook County Farm Bureau has finally been completed. Dan Biernacki, Chairman of the Committee, said, "The new monument sign is modern and attractive and will provide great exposure to the organization for those traveling by the building and seeking services in the office."



The "remains" of the old monument sign

The "need" for a new monument sign came as a result of the old monument sign being destroyed. Back in August 2019, a semitruck, seeking to avoid crashing through stopped cars on Joliet Road, swerved through the Cook County Farm Bureau property, plowing through the old monument sign, a tree, and a fence before coming to rest against the building next

to the Farm Bureau property. Fortunately, no one was injured.



A new monument sign was installed next to Joliet Road in Countryside on the grounds of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Following a lengthy process with the trucking company insurance claim, the Building Committee of the Board of Directors and staff have been working with Van Bruggen Signs, Inc. and the village of Countryside to create a monument sign to increase curb appeal and visibility while improving traffic safety for those seeking to access the grounds from Joliet Road.

Landscaping will be blended around the base of the sign and we have been working with the village of Countryside to add several trees to the front portion of the grounds to enhance the appearance of the facility.

## Hello Ciao Guten Tag Hola Bonjour Tere Olá Shalom

### Translate to other Languages

We are very fortunate to have members that come from various backgrounds and countries. While we publish this publication in English, the Google Translate App can convert the publication text through your smart phone screen into Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and a host of other languages. Check it out. Enjoy and happy reading!

## Cześć Aloha Zdravo Salam Dobry den Hei God Dag Alo

Past issues of the Co-Operator are available online at [cookcfb.org/stay updated](http://cookcfb.org/stay updated)



## 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...

- High School student volunteer, Kyle Paffumi, for his hours of service to prepare Ag in the Classroom resource materials.
- Teacher & Member, Michele Goeva, for sharing our AITC resources with her fellow teachers and students.
- Volunteers Bob Resch and Amy Malone for helping to put together the throwback recipe brochure/cedar cooking board for the 100-year anniversary member gift bag.
- The 100-year anniversary planning committee made up of Janet McCabe (chair), Jerry Anderson, Karen Biernacki, Jim Bloomstrand, Gerry Kopping, Todd Price, Tim Stuenkel, and Cary Tate.
- The Cook County Farm Bureau Board, at their October board meeting, commended the University of Illinois volunteer Master Gardeners for providing outstanding for members and nonmembers alike during this year's growing season in the areas of soil test result interpretation and plant health.
- Rick & Joy Homerding, owners of Puckerville Farm, for hosting our 20th annual giant pumpkin contest event at their place.
- PAC members for interviewing a number of political candidates to evaluate and determine endorsements.
- Jack & Susan Olthoff who brought in 65 coats for the Young Leader Coat Drive and the other members who have generously donated during this time of need.
- Mathan Shanmugham and Gary & Sylvia Gates for sending such nice notes regarding the virtual Wills and Trusts seminar.
- Debbie Guzak (recently retired teacher) for her donation of a signed copy of the book, "My Farm Friends", by Wendell Minor. Of special note by the author, "in memory of my Illinois family, who lived and loved farm life." Debbie said she knew immediately who would appreciate this book and we know it will be a wonderful addition to our Ag Literacy library.

## Historical Question of the Month



*Corey Flournoy, a graduate of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, is elected president of which national organization?*

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.

## Co-Operator

published monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056

(e-mail) [ccfb@cookcfb.org](mailto:ccfb@cookcfb.org) (website) [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

USPS No 132180 Periodical Postage Paid at LaGrange, IL 60525 & additional mailing office

### Editor

Bob Rohrer

### Copy Analyst

Ashley Christensen

### Copy Development

CCFB Office Staff

### Officers & Directors

Janet McCabe, President

Michael Rauch, Vice President

Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer

Dan Biernacki

James Bloomstrand

Roger Freeman

James Gutzmer

Patrick Horcher

Gerald Kopping

Todd Price

Tim Stuenkel

Mark Yunker

### Farm Bureau Manager

Bob Rohrer

### Office Staff

Jill Drover

Bob Heine

Bona Heinsohn

Diane Merrion

Juanita Ramos

Melanie Senne

Katie Smith

Kelli Villarreal

Debbie Voltz

### Affiliated Companies

Jeff Orman..... Insurance Agency Manager, South Holland

Victoria Nygren.....Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago North

Jeff Maxson..... Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago South

Jack Smith..... Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northwest

Sharon Stemke.....Insurance Agency Manager, Chicago Northeast

Cary Tate..... Insurance Agency Manager, Orland Park

Open..... General Manager, Conserve FS

Postmaster - Mail Form 3579 to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

"Co-Operator" (USPS No 132180) is published monthly as a membership publication for \$2.50 per year to members as a part of their annual membership dues by Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Periodical postage paid at LaGrange, IL and additional mailing office. Postmaster: send address changes to the Co-Operator, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.

The Co-Operator, the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, is available to members through mail delivery, email, or by viewing online at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org). Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to [juanita@cookcfb.org](mailto:juanita@cookcfb.org) with the subject: E-Cooperator.





# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

## “Today is our intersection with our past and our future”

On Saturday, October 10, the Cook County Farm Bureau “present” intersected with Farm Bureau past and Farm Bureau future during a “Drive Through” Celebration in recognition of our 100-year anniversary. We were pleased that many members stopped by to chat, take a look at past archival materials, talk about the future, and pick up a gift bag. We had a great time.

There have been so many impactful contributions, conversations, and re-connections with members that took place over the past year related to the 100-year event.

A quick example: It was wonderful to see Jim and Esther Goebbert during the drive through celebration event and to catch up on the latest with them, their family, and farm. Jim was Cook County Farm Bureau President from 1980 through 1983 and served on the Board of Directors from 1975 through 2004, many of those years as Treasurer. He was also on the founding board of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation. Jim, who turned 91 this past year, does not seem to have slowed down. I had an enjoyable conversation with Jim regarding the finances of the Cook County Farm Bureau and the Foundation that he worked so hard to build during his time of service. I felt great pride hearing the words from Jim, “It looks like the organization’s finances are in great shape!”

Another example: Brooke Bestwing, co-owner of the Feed Store in Summit, stopped by in despite of being on crutches and recovering from a devastating major accident this summer. She wanted to see the paver she purchased in memory of her father as a part of the Centennial legacy Patio.

As the year draws to a close, so do our extra activities and projects designed to commemorate the past 100 years and maintain momentum for the future. And “extras”, there were many...

- We wrote a 100-year Anniversary Coffee Table book
- We held a 100-year member photo contest and used the photos to create a centennial calendar
- We recognize some of our most senior members with the gate sign

- We developed a Breakfast at the Farm Bureau event and then canceled the event due to COVID-19
- We created the Centennial Legacy Patio with the help of so many of our members that donated a paver and Freeman Fence company to support Ag Literacy in Cook County
- We planted a white oak tree as a character symbol of strength, longevity, service, stability, safety, achievement, peace, calmness, rebirth, and serenity
- We buried and marked a time capsule packed full of year 2020 materials and information to help capture the spirit of this year when it is opened and revealed in the year 2070
- We have held (and continue to hold) a number of special workshops including the upcoming planter workshops and the legacy seminar for farmers and small business owners
- We pulled together a great gift bag for members with the help of our friends at Country Financial, T-Jet, Inc. and many members
- We created a Virtual Tour of the CCFB Organization; check it out on our website [cookcfb.org/ourhistory](http://cookcfb.org/ourhistory)
- And so much more!

I would be lying if I said that I didn’t find some relief in wrapping up the celebratory projects and efforts, but it is all been worth it. So rewarding! We have been able to engage with so many members, leaders, donors, and supporters over the past year. We had many members and partners make “well wishes” videos, share photo albums with us, loan us antique tools and Farm Bureau items, and donate their precious time.

And I must proclaim a few shout outs!

- The 100-Year Anniversary Committee for a fantastic job over the past two years of creating and imagining
- The Cook County Farm Bureau staff for providing wonderful support of all of the concepts and ideas imagined
- The Marketing Support Team at the Illinois Farm Bureau that offered great creativity and graphics
- The outstanding members of the organization

The common denominator of this celebration has been **people**. Cook County Farm Bureau, for 100 years, has been made up of **people**. Today’s Cook County Farm Bureau is made up of **people**. Tomorrow’s Cook County Farm Bureau will be made up of **people**.

It’s great to have **people**!

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

### Recipe of the Month: *Glazed Rutabaga* 1984

**Ingredients:**

- 4 c cubed rutabaga
- 1 t salt, boiling water
- 1/3 c chicken stock
- 1/8 t pepper
- 1/2 t salt
- 1 t sugar
- 1/4 c butter, melted

**Directions:** Peel and cube rutabagas to make 4 cups. Place in pan with 1-inch boiling water and 1 t salt. Bring to a boil and cook until almost tender. Place rutabaga in 9-inch buttered pie plate. Pour melted butter over rutabaga. Combine pepper, 1/2 t salt, and sugar and sprinkle over top. Pour in chicken stock. Bake in 350° oven for 45 minutes until browned and glazed. Baste 2-3 times with liquid in pan, serve hot.

### Recipe of the Month: *Pumpkin Nut Chocolate Chip Cookies* 2018

**Ingredients:**

- 2 c flour
- 1 egg
- 1 c butter (2 sticks)
- 1 c 100 % pure pumpkin
- 2 t cinnamon
- 1/2 c sugar
- 2 t vanilla extract
- 2 c white, chocolate, or dark choc morsels
- 2/3 c coarsely chopped nuts (we like macadamia)
- 1 t cardamom
- 1/2 c brown sugar
- 1/2 t baking soda

**Directions:** Pre-heat oven to 350°. Mix flour, cinnamon, cardamom, and baking soda. Beat in butter, sugar. Add brown sugar. Continue to add pumpkin, egg, and vanilla until well mixed. Stir in nuts and morsels. Use spoon to drop onto baking sheets, flatten slightly. Bake in oven for 11-14 minutes or until centers are fully done. Let cool for 2 minutes on wire rack. Enjoy!



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>.

**THE AVERAGE COST TO PREPARE A TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR 10 IS LESS THAN \$5.00 PER PERSON.**

SOURCE: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, 2018.



# Highlights of the 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

A tremendous thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate CCFB's 100th anniversary!

Although our celebration was not what the Planning Committee had originally envisioned, we truly appreciate everyone who came out to our Anniversary Drive Through Celebration. Special thanks to the CCFB Board of Directors, COUNTRY Financial, Tee Jet Technologies, and the many volunteers for their time and contributions to make this 100 year celebration a success!

**THANK YOU!**




**Cook County Farm Bureau®**  
**100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

*Want More CCFB?*  
Step into the Farm Bureau virtually to find out more about our leaders, programs, events, highlights of 100 years and much more!

**Virtual Timeline Tour**

**VISIT OUR ANTIQUE FARM TOOLS SHED**

**HISTORICAL AG DATA**

**PLANTING OF THE TIME CAPSULE**

**[www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)**  
(ccfb/our history and 100 year celebration)



Past president Jim Goebbert views a scrapbook containing past board photos while enjoying a moment of serenity of the Centennial Legacy Patio



Cook County agricultural trivia guard signs lined the driveway as members exited the drive through event.



Together with members, Cook County Farm Bureau created a Centennial Legacy Patio as a tribute to the members, families, and partners for their role in the historic success of the organization throughout the past century. Numerous members donated funds to purchase an engraved paver block for the patio to imprint their legacy and demonstrate support of agricultural literacy through the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and Ag in the Classroom program. Pictured left to right are board members: Tim Stuenkel, Gerry Kopping, Dan Biernacki, President Janet McCabe, James Bloomstrand, and Todd Price and Manager Bob Rohrer.



CCFB Board member Tim Stuenkel and President Janet McCabe present longtime member Richard Stuenkel with Farm Bureau Gate Sign.



Manager Bob Rohrer points out to longtime member Alan Krueger an historic article from the Co-Operator publication that adorned a viewing wall during the Drive through event.



Bob Resch, CCFB member, stopped into the 100-year anniversary drive through



Member Joe Miller and daughter Jessica check out the antique tool display.

## 5 things a member should know about the centennial of the Cook County Farm Bureau...

1. During the 100 years of the organization, the Cook County Farm Bureau has had 20 farmers that have served as president and seven executives that have served as manager.
2. While delivery of programs and services have evolved and changed over the 100 years, the essence of the organization, with a focus on strong agriculture and successful farming in the Cook County area, remains the same.
3. While the organization has been housed in the current headquarter facility in Countryside for 29 years, the organization has also had buildings and offices in the towns of Rolling Meadows, Tinley Park, Arlington Heights, Blue Island, and Lemont.
4. Since 1921, the organization has published a member newsletter/newspaper to keep members up to date on issues, organization programming, government actions impacting agriculture, membership benefits and services, and updates regarding food trends. The current publication, the Co-Operator, has been sent to members' homes since 1938.
5. When the organization first began in 1920, there were 1,205 members. Now, over 43,000 members are part of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

\*The Cook County Farm Bureau board and staff put together a 100-year coffee table book to tell the history story of the organization in words and pictures from 1920 – 2020. While supplies last, members can obtain a gift bag that contains the 100-year coffee table book, anniversary calendar, CCFB/COUNTRY coffee cup tumbler, CCFB anniversary logo cap, throwback recipe brochure with cooking board, ink pen, and more in a reusable shopping bag. (Simply call the office if you are in the neighborhood of the building and we will provide curbside delivery as you drive through!)

We have also created a Virtual 100-year anniversary tour for members interested in seeing the history online by going to the organization's website: [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).





**Visit our NEW Shop Local online directory!**  
It is a great way to #shoplocal and support businesses in your community.  
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local>

*You will find:*

- Diverse local food and agriculture businesses in Cook and surrounding counties
- Local farmers' markets, local businesses, local food!

- **Welcome to Shop Local**  
Whether you are a farmer looking to reach new customers or a consumer looking for fresh produce, local dairy, or a brewery in your area – our Shop Local directory is a MUST-HAVE resource! Click on the map to shop the food and agriculture businesses in Cook County. Search by business type or change to card view for a view of all available listings.
- **Register Your Local Food or Farm Business Today!**  
Our Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Join and register your business today. Once you join, you can login and access your account profile as often as you need. The more information you place on your profile, the more searchable you become to the consumer and across a joint network of affiliations. You can also add an e-commerce store or link to an existing store. And more!

Because of our partnerships, updating your MarketMaker profile enables automatic updates across multiple platforms, including Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Illinois Farmers Market Association, Farmer Veteran Coalition of Illinois, and the newly added Buy Fresh Buy Local Illinois. All of these affiliations are important ways to increase sales and access.

Questions? Contact the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org).

Shop Local is brought to you through a partnership with Illinois Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, and Illinois MarketMaker.



**Where does your milk come from..... and more!!**

**JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE VIRTUAL TOUR OF A WORKING DAIRY FARM!**

**NOV 20, 2020 AT 11:00 AM**

To receive ZOOM link for this program, contact the ccfb office or email [membershipkelli@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipkelli@cookcfb.org).




### South Suburban Cook County Master Gardeners Receive State Award

University of Illinois Extension has honored the South Suburban Cook County Master Gardeners with a State Teamwork Award for their development and implementation of their Soil Test Interpretation and Answer Team. The Master Gardeners (MG) comprising this Soil Test Interpretation and Answer Team are instrumental in assisting the public with a wide range of topics and specializing in soil test interpretation inquiries. As one of Extension's most common best practices of testing your soil first, these MGs have followed through and provided invaluable information for residents needing assistance with understanding complex soil test results. As a result, clients have saved time and money, as well as protected the environment by not applying unnecessary fertilizers and chemicals. Partners at Cook County Farm Bureau based in Countryside, IL also credit Master Gardeners for bringing value to the home gardening community with unbiased research driven information and one-to-one assistance, citing there are very few places people can go and get

unbiased research driven information about gardening, soils, and best practices. "We have so many members and non-members seeking guidance on their soil test results and looking to improve techniques for growing better vegetables, trees, landscape plants, and so much more in the world of horticulture throughout Cook County," says Bob Rohrer, Cook County Farm Bureau Manager. "These Master Gardeners have provided such an outstanding resource and service for these home gardeners to use at their convenience." "It is because of Master Gardeners relaying this message that more home gardeners are recognizing the importance of soil management and are becoming aware of the negative environmental effects of overuse of fertilizers and pesticides," says Nancy Kreith, Cook County Extension Educator, Horticulture. To learn more about the Master Gardener training and volunteer certification program please contact Margaret Burns-Westmeyer, at [mburnswe@illinois.edu](mailto:mburnswe@illinois.edu).

## Your Chicago South Agency

6438 Joliet Road | Countryside, IL 60525 | 708-352-5555

 <b>Jeff Maxson</b> 708-352-5555 Agency Manager	 <b>Robert Sweiss</b> 773-498-7339 6415 W. 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60638	 <b>Theo Leonard</b> 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 <b>Gwen Shaw</b> 773-487-0919 820 E. 87th Street, Ste 212 Chicago, IL 60619	
 <b>Silver Castillo</b> 773-284-5953 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 <b>Leo Maldonado</b> 773-254-5810 5716 S. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60629	 <b>Martha Dominguez</b> 773-254-5810 3458 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60608	 <b>Kirk Gregory</b> 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 <b>David DeSantiago</b> 773-254-5810 5716 S. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60629
 <b>David Jara</b> 773-284-5945 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 <b>Mike Sheahan</b> 773-239-7800 10414 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643	 <b>Steve Phillips</b> 312-583-1416 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605	 <b>Alonzo Nevarez</b> 773-284-5539 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 <b>Ed Beavers</b> 312-588-1404 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605
 <b>Tony Munno</b> 708-352-5555 6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525	 <b>Nick Zegar</b> 708-352-5560 16614 W 159th St, #303 Lockport, IL 60441	 <b>Edgar DeLeon</b> 773-498-1184 6239 S. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638	 <b>Kirk Gregory, Jr.</b> 773-619-0649 1401 S. State St. #150 Chicago, IL 60605	



0920-514HO



Photo by Nancy Kreith. Photo caption: Extension Program Coordinator, Margaret Burns Westmeyer, presents award sign to Deb Voltz, Cook County Farm Bureau staff.



## Ag Lit Bit "Flipped Education"



Diane Merrion,  
CCFB Director of  
Ag Literacy

First there was the flipped classroom that focused on interactive student learning that included discussions, projects, and collaboration while teachers guided student learning. Teamwork was a regular part of the school day. Our agriculture lessons could not have been more perfect for providing hands-on, interactive experiences. Having students work together as we visited was a key part of the lessons. Then came COVID and everything flipped, and we are now flip-flopping between educational models daily. Virtual, hybrid, and in-person classroom teaching platforms dominate our lives and the news. While we continue to "visit" with students, the delivery method of the program has certainly changed.

I had a conversation recently with a teacher who told me his students had been at school since the beginning of the school year and he has never seen students so thankful for being given the opportunity to attend school. Excellent behavior, student participation, and enthusiasm for learning has been the norm, he

explained.

The privilege of getting an education in some way, shape, or form is on the minds of all of us. Last fall the role of many parents was getting their children to school, but things flipped this fall and while some parents are seeing their kids off to school, many more are responsible for creating a home learning environment and often helping with the teaching. This new reality will continue for some time and few will ever take education for granted any longer.

Kudos to the teachers, students and parents who are giving 100% to make this work for all. Take time this month of Thanksgiving to thank someone who has helped you or your child learn. Whether it's a library getting your books clean and ready for checking out, your childcare provider who is going the extra mile, or a family member who is helping you balance work and school, don't forget to say a simple thank you. Our Thanksgiving may be flipped to a different look this year, but our thankfulness should be at its highest level ever for all the people who have given so much from educators to healthcare providers. Happy Thanksgiving.

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

## Classroom Virtually Visits with Kristen Yunker

The Cook County Farm Bureau continued their Adopt A Classroom partnership with Walker Elementary School in Bedford Park, IL in a virtual format. Students in Ms. Eva Manske's third grade classroom were excited to meet Cook County Young Leader, Kristen Yunker, who taught them about her horses and her passion for barrel racing. Their virtual visit allowed Kristen to show them her horses, the tools she uses to groom them, and the food and bedding her farm provides to care for them. She also included video clips from her own barrel racing participation. The virtual visit was supplemented with AITC materials including ag mags and follow-up activities.



Kristen Yunker photo during Barrel Racing

### November Lessons and Activities Schedule



#### Release Date

#### Theme: Pork

October 17th	PD in your PJs: Pork for November, Evergreen Trees for December
October 21st	Classroom Challenge for November: Design a Pig Barn
October 29th	Lesson for the Week of November 2nd: Paper Bag Pig Puppet
November 5th	Field Trip: Bruce Brinkman Farms, Pork Tour
November 5th	Lesson for the Week of November 9th: Bacon Blackout Poetry
November 6th	Family Engagement Challenge: Make Your Own Feedsack
November 11th	Family Cooking Challenge: Pigs in a Blanket
November 12th	Author: Lisl Detlefsen, <u>Time for Cranberries</u>
November 12th	Lesson for the Week of November 16th: Pig Placemat
November 18th	Classroom Challenge for December: Comparing Conifers
November 19th	Lesson for the Week of November 23rd: Pudding Cup Turkeys and Applesauce Pigs
November 25th	Lesson for the Week of November 30th: 3D Evergreen Tree

All activities and lessons will be released on the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Facebook page.

## Taking Care of Yourself at the Holidays

The holiday season is finally here! It's something that feels familiar in a world that feels different in many ways. Thanksgiving is consistently a great time to pause, give thanks, and stay connected (virtually this year!) with family and friends. It's also a wonderful time to remember that enjoying favorite treats fits in just fine, even when health is top of mind.

- T** **Try** something new! From appetizers to dessert, it can be fun to add in one new dish to bring balance and interest to the table. Consider your holiday meal and what food group may be missing, a color that would make the table more beautiful, or perhaps a recipe that a friend shared. Use that as your inspiration.
- H** **Have** a plan. It's helpful to think about schedules, meals, and snacks ahead of time to plan out your routine. Do you need snacks because meals are going to be later? Is your normal exercise routine going to be changing? Take a moment to think of options before you need them.
- A** **Add** a new tradition. While honoring the familiar, it's also fun to find a new option to add into the mix. Take a walk after or before dinner. Have the kids help set the table or do more with the actual cooking. Call someone you haven't talked to in a while. Find a new game you can play online or in person.
- N** **Nudge** your way into new habits. From smaller portion sizes to new recipes to adding in activity, small changes to your current routine can add up to big benefits.
- K** **Know** what you have and what you need. Take a look in your pantry, freezer, and fridge. What do you have in the house already that makes meal and snack time easier? What's missing? Write it down before you go to the store so you can fill in the gaps. Another easy way to get organized is to take pictures of your favorite recipes so you have them on your phone at the store to use as your list.
- F** **Find** a new snack. Holidays can get hectic. Make your snacks work harder for you in terms of providing nutrition you need to help support your health. Think of what your meals will include, and choose a food group that is missing for a tasty snack. Keep things easy, seasonal, and fun! Try an apple with string cheese or peanut butter, a pumpkin muffin, or a bowl of veggie soup on a cold day. Make turkey, beef, or ham sandwich if your next meal is going to be late. Try popcorn for a tasty whole grain option.
- U** **Uncover** a new favorite activity. If you currently work out, make it a goal to be active on the holiday. Keep things festive. Go for a walk outside to enjoy the weather, march in place at commercial breaks while you watch the game, or challenge yourself to try something new. If you don't currently work out, check in with your doctor and talk through what is right for you.
- L** **Let** others know you are thinking of them. Reach out on the phone, video chat, or through social media to say hi to people you care about.

Something else that feels good to share is gratitude for farmers and ranchers. You make every meal possible. Thank you for all you do!

\*Kim Kirchherr, MS, RD, LDN (IL), FAND is an award-winning registered dietitian and President of K2 Outcomes LLC. Kim has experience in agriculture, supermarket, media (traditional and social), hospital-based health and fitness centers, and outpatient MNT programs. Kim is a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Advisory Committee [www.kimkirchherr.com](http://www.kimkirchherr.com).

# Congratulations

## JOYCE HOLSTE

WHO FOUND ALL THE ITEMS FROM THE JULY AG ADVENTURES BINGO GAME WHILE TRAVELING I-57 THROUGH KANKAKEE, CHAMPAIGN, EFFINGHAM AND SHELBY COUNTY.

Thank you to all those that participate in our Ag Adventures page.



# Agriculture Adventures for Families

As we turn the clocks back this week we gain an hour which will give us more time to pick up a great book. Take a moment to glance through these Ag in the Classroom recommendations for some warm winter reading. If you have a special book related to agriculture, send us the title so we can take a look.



## How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

by Marjorie Priceman

An apple pie is easy to make...if the market is open. But if the market is closed, the world becomes your grocery store. This picture book takes readers around the globe to gather ingredients for a delicious apple pie. First hop a steamboat to Italy for the finest semolina wheat. Then hitch a ride to England and hijack a cow for the freshest possible milk. And, oh yes! Don't forget to go apple picking in Vermont!



## Time For Cranberries

by Lisl H. Detlefsen

From the cranberry bog to the Thanksgiving table, join Sam and his family as they harvest a classic American fruit.

Live author interview 11/12/2020  
Register at <https://iaitc.co/authorvisits>



## A Long Way From Chicago A Year Down Yonder A Season of Gifts

In the series by Richard Peck, join siblings Joey and Mary Alice, as they spend summers away from Chicago, with their grandma out in the countryside of Illinois. The three books span the decades from the early 1930's up to 1958 and shows that Grandma Dowdel and country living are anything but boring.



## Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving

By: Laurie Halse Anderson

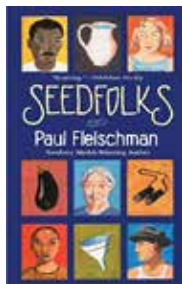
Editor and author Sarah Hale used her writing talents to convince President Abraham Lincoln that Thanksgiving should be a national holiday for America to celebrate together annually.



## Christmas Farm

By: Mary Lyn Ray

When Wilma decides her garden needs a new beginning, she gathers string, scissors, shovels, sixty-two dozen balsam seedlings, and Parker, her five-year-old neighbor. Year after year, Wilma and Parker nurture their trees, keeping careful count of how many they plant, how many perish, and how many grow to become fine, full Christmas trees.



## Seedfolks

By: Paul Flieshman

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden.

## Pick a Pine Tree

By: Patricia Toht

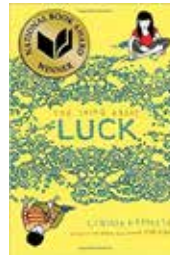
A festive read-aloud brimming with all the joy and excitement of Christmastime — beginning, of course, with picking out a tree!

Live author interview 12/10/2020  
Register at <https://iaitc.co/authorvisits>



## The Thing About Luck

By: Cynthia Kadohata



Summer knows that kouun means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan-- right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother are left in the care of their grandparents -- Obaachan and Jiichan -- who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills.

## November Word Search

Apple	Fruit
Background	Harvest
Books	Joy
Celebrate	Reading
Country	Thanksgiving
Cranberries	Trees
Family	Wheat
Festive	Winter

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

Choose your prize:

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

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

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau  
 Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

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

Good luck!

## Last Month's Word Search Winner Is...



Brenda Faris

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

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

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

\_\_\_ Beggar's Pizza GC \_\_\_ HRI GC \_\_\_ 3 Movie Tickets  
 (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.



## A Time to Celebrate Family, Food and Its Affordability



To my surprise, our son recently announced how much he loves Thanksgiving. Keep in mind, this comes from a kid who started his Christmas wish list in August. For a couple weeks this fall, he and his sister discussed whether our 10-month-old farm dog should dress as a delivery driver or a hot dog for Halloween.

So, Thanksgiving? He says this holiday of thankfulness starts with a cool parade on TV. We spend the day with cousins, and the food is "really, really good." I agree, and it rates one of the most affordable for many reasons: No gifts, simple decorations, and comfort food at a comfortable price. In fact, the ingredients to make the classic Thanksgiving meal cost about \$50 for a gathering of 10 people, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). For 35 years, the nation's largest farm organization has calculated the cost of the classic fixings of turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie, coffee and milk to be under \$5 per person. AFBF even predicts leftovers at that bargain price.

Most fast-food meals cost more than that. Our family's Thanksgiving likely does, too, as

we traditionally exceed the meal's basic menu requirements. Then again, every household participates to share in the expense. My sister-in-law's cheese ball shaped as a turkey makes a festive appetizer. My aunt pan-fries sweet potatoes to a delectable glaze laden with margarine and sugar. While green in color, my grandma's pistachio pudding layer salad certainly doesn't meet the universal definition of salad. Yet in good-old Midwestern fashion, we treat it like a salad in the food line despite the whipped topping. Then, we have dessert, too.

My British brother-in-law loves Thanksgiving for layered pumpkin-pecan pie. His parents like it, too, and sometimes visit from England during this traditionally American holiday. They like how the celebration brings family together for a combination of great food and company without the obligations and pressure to purchase presents. Still, they bring us boxes of British chocolates.

Our son's favorite part of the meal is turkey with Grandma's dressing. Our daughter loves Granny's butterhorn rolls. My tastebuds like everything, including a dollop of homemade cranberry sauce that took me nearly 40 years to appreciate. Kudos to my son for appreciating the simplicity of this holiday so young. If I can only get him to crave the cranberries earlier in life than me.

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

## Pumpkin Fun Facts:

- Pumpkin pie filling is the #1 pumpkin product on the market. Pumpkin spice lattes come in at a close second.
- More than 85% of the world's canned pumpkin is processed at the Libby's plant in Morton, Illinois.
- In 2019, Illinois farmers grew nearly 420 million pounds of pumpkins with a value of more than \$17 million.
- Pumpkin pie has been a staple in fall Thanksgiving feasts in New England as far back as the 18th century.
- Americans prepare approximately 46 million turkeys to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday every year.
- According to a 2019 Instacart survey, 68% of Americans secretly dislike a classic Thanksgiving dish but eat it anyway because of tradition. The top offenders are canned cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes and sweet potato casserole, pumpkin pie, and turkey.
- 94% of Americans enjoy pie on Thanksgiving. At the top of the list? You guessed it – pumpkin pie.



**We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.**

**We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana  
Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at [www.luckysenergy.com](http://www.luckysenergy.com)  
Growing To Serve You Better**

## Emily Stelter: Past Volunteer Sits Down, Discusses Experiences

Throughout Cook County Farm Bureau's history, women have played an important leadership and volunteer role in the successful programming and member service efforts made by the organization. One such example is the Women's Committee, which was formed in 1932 and later disbanded in 2005 when volunteers were integrated into other committees.

A mainstay to Cook County Farm Bureau and the Women's Committee was Emily Stelter. Emily and her husband, Bill, farmed 120-acres in Country Club Hills. The land was in the Stelter family for four generations and raised everything from beef cattle to vegetables. The original homestead was purchased by Country Club Hills in 2007 with plans to transition it into a historical farm and museum.

During Stelter's tenure on the Women's Committee she and the committee developed the recipe collection, meat and dairy grant program, and initial plans and outreach for today's Agriculture in the Classroom program. Stelter was heavily involved in Farm Bureau's Leaders to Washington, action request team, and the policy development process.

In 2005, the Board of Directors reorganized Farm Bureau's committee structure and merged numerous committees into four (now five) teams to involve more volunteers and revitalize



the programming efforts of the organization. The areas of the Women's Committee focus were blended into these teams and committee members had the opportunity to select their favorites areas of interest to continue their volunteer service with the Farm Bureau organization.

In September, Stelter sat down with Farm Bureau staff to discuss her involvement with Cook County Farm Bureau. Her history and their conversation will be available in the near future as part of Cook County Farm Bureau's centennial celebration. We wish Emily a wonderful 100th birthday on November 15!



## Your South Holland Agency



**Jeff Orman**  
Agency Manager  
708-560-7777



**Andrew Carrell**  
South Holland  
708-596-3999



**Randall Cox**  
Flossmoor  
708-679-1870



**Elliot Day**  
Flossmoor  
708-679-1870



**Gary Molenhouse**  
Manhattan  
815-478-0190



**Josh Van Namen**  
Worth  
708-361-3925



**Jim Pathemore**  
Orland Park  
708-745-5151



**Tim Perchinski**  
Steger  
708-754-7300



**Bob Smith**  
Homewood  
708-798-4844



**Paul Turay**  
Mokena  
708-478-0425



**John VanGennep**  
Mokena  
708-478-5500



**Bob Deenik**  
Lansing  
708-474-5600



**Tim Van Zuidam**  
St. John, IN  
219-365-1781



**Mike Cerf**  
Oak Forest  
708-560-7777



**Charmaine Toney-Adkins**  
Oak Forest  
708-381-4010



**John Tymm**  
Worth  
708-480-5091



**Chad Christie**  
Oak Forest  
708-560-7777

Helping you protect what matters most



## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

Fresh out of college I donned my designer heels and J. Crew suits and walked the sacred halls of the Illinois capitol. My tenure at the capitol started shortly after the 2000 remap. Like many of my colleagues, I wanted nothing more than to

be in Springfield during a remap year. I wanted to review population data. Demographics. Population shifts. I wanted to help create districts that were not gerrymandered or designed for political gamesmanship. However, I left the Statehouse for the Farm Bureau before the 2010 census and subsequent remap. Ten years later, the 2020 remap is nearly upon us.

Constitutionally, Illinois legislative districts are required to be "contiguous and reasonably compact." Illinois law requires legislative

districts to allow for racial or language minority communities to elect or influence the election of candidates of their choice.

The state isn't the only group redrawing district boundaries. County boards will also redraw their districts.

Data collection for the 2020 census ended in September. As that window closes another one opens. Counties, like Cook that operate under the commission form of government, will have until May 31, 2021 to redistrict their county board boundaries. With the commission form of government, voters elect commissioners by district.

The redistricting process consists of redrawing district boundary lines based on the census' new population figures. Redistricting is designed to ensure that each district has an equal number of inhabitants, complying with the constitutional tenet that each voter has an equal say.

In addition to redistricting, counties can use this time as an opportunity to make additional changes to the government structure, including:

- Number of districts
- The number of individuals representing a district
- Whether members are elected by district or at large; seventy-six percent of Illinois counties elect their representatives by district, including Cook County
- Number of total board members

With the limited timeline due to the census response date being pushed back to the end of September, redrawing district boundaries is likely to be a top priority for many county boards. Counties, like Cook with a County Executive, is required to hold a public hearing on the redistricting plan.

The public hearing offers individuals an

excellent opportunity to share their opinions and ideas for the maps. Individuals can also send letters and draft op-eds for local papers. Individuals can even draw their own maps as an easy way to share their perspective or ideas for the district boundaries.

Farm Bureau policy #110 (Local Government) supports efforts by local governments, County Farm Bureaus, and other organizations to increase public participation in the overall functions of local government.

Cook County Farm Bureau is excited to be an active participant in Cook County's upcoming remap. We'll monitor the proposed district boundaries and submit comments and share alternative solutions.

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

## Illinois Municipality Facts

- Illinois has three types of municipalities- cities, villages, and towns.
- There are 300 cities, 980 villages, and 19 towns that comprise the 1,299 municipalities in Illinois.
- While there are no significant differences among the three in legal powers or status, the unique characteristics of each type affects incorporation requirements, governing board structure and more.

## Recognition for Outstanding Voting Record



House Republican Leader Jim Durkin received the 2020 Friend of Agriculture from Cook and Will County Farm Bureaus in recognition of his outstanding voting record on agricultural and small business issues. Pictured left to right is Mark Schneidewind, Will County Farm Bureau®; Leader Durkin; Janet McCabe, Cook County Farm Bureau®; and Kim Morton, Cook County Farm Bureau.

## Preckwinkle Delivers 2021 Budget Proposal

In October, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle unveiled her \$6.9 billion proposed budget. Her proposal does not propose new or increased taxes to fund the gap but instead relies on fee increases, not filling vacant positions, and reserves.

### Revenues

- Fees will be increased to the tune of two million
- Leave over 650 positions vacant
- Laying off over 100 people at the health system
- Over \$75 million in reserves
- Tax revenue from online sales
- Tax revenue from marijuana and sports betting

Preckwinkle's budget plan calls for the closure of the South Shore Clinic and Woodlawn Clinics. Preckwinkle claims that it's a move

designed to improve services and to funnel patients to Provident rather than to save funds. Despite the anticipated additional patients, Preckwinkle's proposal reduces the staff at Provident.

The largest stress on Cook County's finances is the health system. County staff estimates that the system will have to provide nearly \$600 million in medical care through its CountyCare Program. CountyCare accounts for nearly a third of the health system's budget.

But, long-term, the outlook for Cook County's finances is bleak. The county projects the deficit to hit about \$377 million by 2025, mostly fueled by losses at the health system.

The county will hold a series of meetings on the budget prior to its implementation on December 1. Cook County Farm Bureau® will monitor the discussions and provide comments and feedback when necessary.

## Forest Preserve District Budget Announced

The Cook County Forest Preserve District's budget will be 7.6% higher in 2021 compared to this year. The budget proposal relies heavily on reserve funds. The \$134.2 million budget is targeted at catching up on maintenance and improving infrastructure.

### Items of interest

- \$23.3 million to Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Botanic Garden.
- Forty percent of Corporate Reserve Fund.
- Reducing departments' and non-personnel budgets by 10 percent or more.
- New trail connections to the Popular Creek Trail and the Busse Trail system.
- Pollinator garden at the River Trail Nature Center.

- \$25 million intergovernmental agreement with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways to resurface forest preserve trails and access roads over the next five years.
- Rebuild of permits department's online reservation system.
- In 2020, the forest preserve moved to 100 percent renewable electricity due to renewable energy certificates.
- Prioritizing the on-going pension shortfall.

The budget will be implemented on December 1. Farm Bureau will monitor budget development and provide input as necessary.



## Did You Know...?

Data from the early 1900s to the most recent 2010 Census shows a dramatic shift in Illinois' rural to urban population.





## Young Leaders Coat Drive to Benefit Those in Need



Don't let your unused coats collect dust this season! CCFB's Young Leaders are hosting a Winter Coat Drive through Mid-December! All donations will be directed to Together We Cope. A special thanks to CCFB member, Jack Olthoff, who donated over 60 coats a few weeks ago! Visit page 12 for details and drop off locations.

## Member Relations Team Hosts Document Shred Day



CCFB members lined up in their cars for the fully booked shred day on Saturday, October 17th at the Oak Forest Country Financial Building. Keep your eyes open for the Northside shred day event in the spring!

## Want a Free Movie Ticket?

Want a free movie ticket? (Theaters are opening up!) Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer or professional member. If they join, you will receive a free movie ticket! Call our office at 708-354-3276 to let us know that you referred a member.

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

Affiliated Country Financial reps or CCFB

staff members do not qualify. Valid now through 12/31/20.



Illinois Farm Bureau members receive

# \$1,000 BONUS CASH\*

Our valued partnership highlights the great movement that we have together, and how farming and trucks have gone together for over 100 years.

FOR A LIMITED TIME ON MOST ELIGIBLE NEW FORD VEHICLES

BUILT **Ford** PROUD

Don't miss out on this offer.

\*Visit [FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com) or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

\* Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$1,000 Bonus Cash on most eligible new 2020/2021 Ford vehicles, and \$500 Bonus Cash on eligible new F-150 and Super Duty. This incentive is not available on Ford Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby® GT350R, Mustang Shelby® GT500®, Mustang Mach 1, Mustang Mach-E, Bronco, Bronco Sport, Ford GT and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 4, 2021. Visit [FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com) or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #37408.

## 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.



### \*Matt Whitsett

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

Matt Whitsett has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2020. His office is located at 4306 N. Lincoln Ave., #2F in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-267-1584. Matt has been a Financial Representative since November 2009.



### \*Sylwia Grochowska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 2020. Her office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2502. Sylwia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.



### Matthew Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager

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



### \*Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager

Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 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.



### Tony Scalzitti

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Tony Scalzitti has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2020. His office is located at 10A W Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-9944. Tony has been a Financial Representative since August 2001.



### \*Faustino Ramirez

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 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.



### \*Martha Dominguez

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Martha Dominguez has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for September 2020. Her office is located at 3458 S. Halsted St. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-254-5810. Martha has been a Financial Representative since June 2012.



### Kirk Gregory Jr.

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for September 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.



### Candace Jablonski

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Candace Jablonski has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for September 2020. Her office is located at 814 Laraway Rd. in New Lenox, IL. Her phone number is 816-462-0338. Candace has been a Financial Representative since January 2000.



### Kurt Hussein

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Kurt Hussein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for September 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 September 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.



### John Tymmm

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

John Tymmm has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for September 2020. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone number is 708-480-5091. John has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

\*Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by Financial Representatives from Country Financial with the Cook County Farm Bureau organization.



## Bringing in the Giants

20th annual GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST at Puckerville Farms, Lemont, on Saturday, October 3rd brought in some giants! The adult division

winning pumpkin weighed in at 724 lbs and was grown by our youngest ever winner, member Alyssa Kochanny, followed by pumpkin growing

friends, John Sailor (243 lbs) and Randy Oyster (219 lbs). The youth division winners grew giants as well; Jessica Miller took 1st place with a

187 lb pumpkin, followed by Eric Fuchs (156 lbs) and Valerie Doorneweerd (22 lbs).



Alyssa Kochanny 1st place winner!



John Sailor 2nd place!



Jessica Miller transports her winner in a jeep!



Roger Freeman and Alex Wojciechowski act as weigh in judges.

## 2021 Farmland Leases: What You Should Know



BY ASHLEY RICE, FarmWeek, Ag policy editor

Since 2017, Illinois has experienced stable cash rents. For 2020, Illinois' average cash rent is \$222 per acre, down \$2 from 2019, according to USDA data. Generally, the highest cash rents in the state are in central Illinois.

In 2019, northern Illinois farms cash-rented 60% of their acres, followed by central Illinois at 44%, and southern at 44%. In comparison, central Illinois farms shared-rented 42% of their acres, followed by southern Illinois at 36%, and northern at 21%.

Lease options besides cash rent and share rent include variable cash rent and custom farming. While written leases are best, if there is not a written lease in place, the landowner must provide notice by Oct. 31 if they wish to terminate the lease.

"The best you can have is a written lease signed by both parties that is clear on the terms and agreement between the two parties," said Jonathan Coppess, University of Illinois Gardner Agriculture Program director and Bock Ag Law/Policy Program director, during a farmdoc webinar. "But obviously there are a lot of verbal leases which are enforceable, they're just more difficult. If you think of it in terms of risk, the less you have written down, the more risk you have of potential disagreements somewhere down the road."

On central Illinois' highly productive land, 2020 farmdoc projections include 230 bushels per acre for corn at \$3.55 per bushel and 72

bushels per acre for soybeans at \$9.30 per bushel, combined with ad hoc federal disaster assistance. In this scenario, with a 50% corn and 50% soybean rotation that's cash rented, the projected farmer return is \$44 per acre.

"Those farmer returns are up, but still, if you're looking at those CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) and MFP (Market Facilitation Program) payments, they've been absolutely critical in the past several years," said Gary Schnitkey, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics.

For sample leasing forms, go to: <https://farmdoc.illinois.edu/agricultural-law>

**Members are invited to learn more about leasing farm property for the 2021 growing season by participating in the Commodity/Marketing Team video conference featuring Mr. Gary Schnitkey.**

### Land Lease & Trends Webinar

Gary Schnitkey will present information on farmland rental, price markets, and forecasts of farmland returns to Illinois farmland. Opportunity for Q & A for landowners and growers.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020

**Time:** 6om

**Location:** Webinar via Zoom

**Price:** Free for members | \$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)

## Classifieds

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at [cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds](http://cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds). If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad.

Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com). Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following 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

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

2 steel I beams at \$25 per beam. 1 at 9ft. long x 5in. wide x 5in.tall 3/8in.thick, 1at 9ft. 8in. long x 5in wide x 5in. tall by 3/8in thick. Call Roy at 847-699-0527.

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

2006 Yamaha V-Star 650cc Silverado, windshield, studded seats, backrest, leather saddlebags, two-tone silver paint, approx. 6800 mi, beautiful bike in great condition. \$3995. Call Gulio at 708-267-8548.

Women's 28" inch Rally, 21 speed bike. Paid \$750, selling for \$300. Used about 5 times. Call Jim at 630-247-7608 if no answer leave message.

Collection of over 100 pieces of Coke Memorabilia for sale to a reasonable offer. Trays-glass bottles and glasses-cans-signs-plates-kitchen wares-puzzle-cases-cooler-much more! Call 708-755-8526.

10 glass flower vases \$1each, 10 clock timers \$2each, brass 3pc set for fireplace \$2, 5 beer steins

\$2 each, 12 antique old whiskey bottles \$1 each. A set 6 Bradford bone china flower design plates \$5 each. Con-air pro hair dryer \$25, oak toilet seat \$2, 1 craftsman ½ inch electric drill \$10, Black & Decker skill saw \$15, Black & Decker skill electric drill \$15. Call Allen 708-614-8148.

## Wanted

Wanted 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 ext.1.

Vintage toy slot cars, dealer toy promo cars, early Hot Wheels cars, and Atari, Sega etc. game systems. Call 708-361-8230.

Original books to publish. Authors can choose as little or as much help as they need: editing, prepress, publishing, distribution, marketing, promotion. Please see [www.RealityIsBooks.com](http://www.RealityIsBooks.com) then call James at 847-776-8528 to discuss, or email [publish@realityisbooks.com](mailto:publish@realityisbooks.com). Discounts to CCFB members.

For commercial promo & discounts go to our member to member link: <https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-to-member>

## 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)



### 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! Class size is limited.

**Date:** Saturday, November 7

**Time:** 9 AM OR 10:30am sessions available

**Location:** Ted's Greenhouse, 16930 S. 84th Ave.

Tinley Park, or via Zoom with prior curbside pickup

**Price:** \$10 members & guests | \$20 non-member; Fee covers 6-inch planter and succulents

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Winter Coat Drive

During the 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.

Drop off locations

**Location:** Cook County Farm Bureau - 6438 Joliet Rd.,

**Countryside Time:** M-F 8am-4:30pm

**Location:** Ted's Greenhouse - 16930 S. 84th Avenue,

**Tinley Park Time:** Regular business hours

**Location:** Historic Wagner Farm - 1510 Wagner Rd.,

Glenview (Heritage Center front desk)

**Time:** Daily 9am-5pm



### 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 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### Video Conference - 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 landowners and growers.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17

**Time:** 6 PM

**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).



### Virtual Dairy Tour

Join us for an exclusive VIRTUAL tour of a working dairy farm!

**Date:** Friday, November 20

**Time:** 11 AM

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Price:** No Charge

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email [membershipkelli@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipkelli@cookcfb.org).



### 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 during three - 1-hour webinar segments with unlimited Q & A. Each segment presented by Ellen Phillips, Small Farms & Local Foods Consultant featuring a speaker/panelist during each webinar.

**Dates:** Tuesdays, - three consecutive 1-hour webinars in January 2021:

January 12th: Certification; January 19th: Production;

January 26th: Marketing & Economic Costs

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Webinar via Zoom

**Price:** \$10 member | \$20 non-member for all three sessions

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).

## CCFB Member Goodie Bag

Members interested in a 100 Year Goodie Bag can call the office and request a bag "curbside pickup". The CCFB staff will bring your bag outside to you. (while supplies last)

- 100 - year coffee table book
- Anniversary calendar

- CCFB/COUNTRY coffee cup tumbler
- CCFB anniversary logo cap
- Throwback recipe brochure with cooking board
- Ink pen
- And more in reusable shopping bag!!



## Why re-new your membership?

At Cook County Farm Bureau, we recognize that our role as a farm leader, supporter of food, fiber, fuel and promoter of innovation in the local agricultural industry is only possible because of the strength of valuable contributions of members.

Through these unsettling times, your involvement and leadership remain critical and we want to continue to help you navigate this future of uncertainty.

We adopted quickly to the changing environment, creating resources, and provided guidance for area farmers, landowners, greenhouses, direct marketers, livestock owners, vegetable producers, small business owners and consumers. Through your membership, you have been able to:

- Access the latest information and documents related to COVID - 19 from our resource page our website and the link to the Illinois Farm Bureau resource page.
- Get the latest information on Covid - 19 agricultural efficacy, legislation, and policy.
- Gain insight by contacting our office to ask questions and seek assistance concerning your personal business.
- Receive relevant news through the Co-Operator, E Co-Operator, FarmWeek, Partners and other organizational publications.
- Benefit from marketing campaigns including Adopt a Lily program, Farm Direct Shop Local insert, Member-to-Member local business promotion, and support of frontline and essential workers.

• Discover and connect with other members and local producers to help navigate through the COVID - 19 crises.

• Expand your local businesses electronic footprint through the Cook County Farm Bureau Shop Local directory available to the general public through the Cook County Farm Bureau website.

• Enjoy distractions from the news to boost spirits through online agricultural trivia activities, scavenger hunts, videos, and fun and interactive ag literacy lessons

We saw firsthand the important role farming and agriculture plays every day in everyone's lives during 2020 and the importance of access to food, fiber, and fuel from local producers for local consumers.

You, as a member, mean the world to us and our commitment is to continue to stand by you, our members, farmers, volunteers, partners, and consumers to continue providing the resources you need, when you need them.

We would love for you to remain a member. We renew members year-round that fall is our heaviest member renewal cycle. You can renew using your mailed invoice, you can go to MyIFB to manage your membership or simply call our office at 708-354-3276 to chat with our friendly staff.

And we always welcome questions about available resources, membership benefits, concerns or any other membership related items!

Thank you for your membership!