

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
STAFF EXCHANGE

JUNE 14 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
 JULY 19 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Both the June 14 and July 19 program will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Cook County Board building, Clark Street. An additional date in August will be scheduled at a later date.

To register for the agricultural roundtable or for additional information, please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org or complete the Attendance Response Card below and mail it to the Farm Bureau office at 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.

ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD

Name: _____ Office: _____
 Work Address: _____ City: _____
 Work phone: _____ Email: _____
 Attending: _____ Cell: _____
 Tues. June. 14, 2016
 Tues. July 19, 2016
 Both Days

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: _____



Join the Conversation!

Cook CFB's first giveaway of the summer is a \$250 grocery store gift card.

The only thing families have to do is LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE and COMMENT on or SHARE the post to win.

The first winner will be chosen on **May 24.**

ISSUE

04

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Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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Program Offered for Legislative Staff

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

On June 14, participants will visit OSI Group, a concept-to-table, full-service, global supply chain.

Agenda:

Tues. July 19, 2016
 8:30 a.m. Bus departs, Co. Building
 9:00 a.m. OSI Group
 1:00 p.m. Return, Co. Building

On July 19, Staff Exchange participants will have the opportunity to visit Koval Distillery and one additional site. Koval produces organic whiskey, liqueurs and specialty spirits in Chicago's first distillery since the mid-1800s.

Agenda:

Tues. July 19, 2016
 8:30 a.m. Bus departs, Co. Building
 9:00 a.m. To Be Determined
 11:00 a.m. Koval Distillery
 1:00 p.m. Return, Co. Building

An additional program date in August will be offered. Details to follow.

Cook CFB staff is in the process of securing additional sites.

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.



Legislators from throughout Cook County joined Cook CFB for an exclusive discussion on food safety and sanitation at this year's Agriculture Roundtable. Panel experts include: Sander Robinson, Illinois Department of Public Health; Jeff Heinsohn, Walnut Grove Farms; Tamara Nelsen, Illinois Farm Bureau; Mark Denzler, Illinois Manufacturers' Association; and Bob Reinhard, Tyson Foods, Inc.



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.”

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for additional information.

Question of the Week Kicks Off!
Participating Culver's Restaurants
May 2- Oct. 1, 2016

Join the Conversation Kicks Off!
Social Media
May 3, 2016

State Fair Day
Arlington Park Racetrack
May 29, 2016

Wagner Dairy Breakfast & Stock Show
Glenview
June 11, 2016

Staff Exchange, Day 1
OSI Group
Depart from County Building
June 14, 2016

Staff Exchange, Day 2
TBD, Koval Distillery
Depart from County Building
July 19, 2016

Staff Exchange, Day 3
August 2016



Senator Julie Morrison visited with Cindy Gustafson and Ruth Zeldenrust at this year's Statewide Legislative Reception in Springfield.

Farm Bureau Opposes Gas Tax Increase

Cook County Farm Bureau sent the following letter to Cook County Commissioners regarding the proposed gas tax, the funding mechanism for the Community Stabilization and Anti-Violence Package:

This purpose of this communications is to state Cook County Farm Bureau®'s opposition to Ordinances 16-2566, 16-2567, 16-2569, 16-2570, and 16-2571, the Community Stabilization and Anti-Violence Package.

While we applaud the goal of reducing violence, poverty, and unemployment, Cook County Farm Bureau policy #202 (Cook County Finance) states that government economic policies should be designed to encourage economic stability ... improve our competitive advantage. Additionally, Illinois Farm Bureau® policy #130 (Transportation-Highways) states that we support motor fuel taxes, licensing and registration fees as the basic means for funding highway transportation systems in Illinois at both state and local levels. Using gas tax funds for projects unrelated to roadway improvements is in direct opposition to Farm Bureau policy.

Further, the proposed Parenting to Prevent Violence Program states that the advisory committee shall administer a grant program for qualified 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 organizations. However, the ordinance amendment does not state the types of programs that the grants are intended to fund. Additionally, the funds from the proposed gas tax increase will also be used to fund the Cook County Community Policing Initiative; however, the ordinance is vague as to what the initiative is intended to do or its goals.

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Farm Bureau Opposes Expansion of County Agency's Authority

The Cook Co. Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is tasked with acquiring federal grant funds in addition to other roles.

Under Senate Bill 3076, department staff could be deputized with full police powers. Department staff would have the authority to investigate and mitigate threats of manmade disasters, protect the county's infrastructure, have access to law enforcement databases, protect the county's emergency assets and personnel. All powers that sworn police officers already have.

Cook County is home to 160 separate police forces, including the Sheriff's Department which is tasked with patrolling the entire county. Additionally, there are 134 municipal police forces plus the State Police, Forest Preserve Police, campus police, hospital police, Metra police, and Water District police.

Illinois is already home to 6,963 local governments, now is not the time to create an additional fiefdom.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is opposed to Senate Bill 3076 and is actively working against the expansion of the Department's authority.

For additional information please contact Cook County Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food

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CookCFB

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The package also includes a job training initiative. The ordinance states that the Cook County Job Council is tasked with identifying highway and infrastructure projects in the County and may develop job training programs. Job training is better accomplished through the use of partnerships rather than the county creating jobs.

The final piece of the Community Stabilization and Anti-Violence Package is the creation of the Office for People with Disabilities. Again while this is a laudable goal but a separate office doesn't need to be created to provide information to the Board of Commissioners or to recommend policies. An existing staff member can serve in this role and accomplishing the goals of the ordinance.

While we applaud the goal of reducing violence, poverty, and unemployment Cook County Farm Bureau is opposed to the package.