



# 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

### DECEMBER

10 Author Interview (Pick a Pine Tree) Pg. 6

### JANUARY

12, 19, 16 Planning for Organic Certification Pg. 12

### FEBRUARY

2, 9, 16, 23 Beekeeping Pg. 12

25 Finger Crochet a Chunky Infinity Scarf Pg. 12

### MARCH

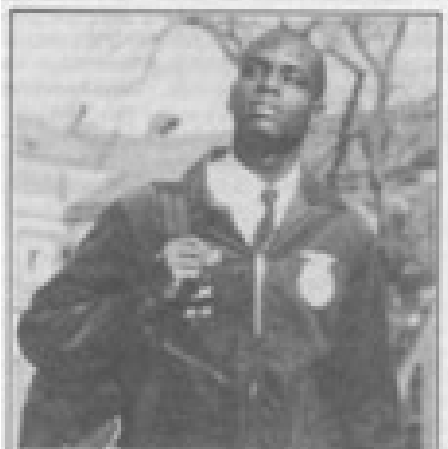
2 & 9 Beekeeping Pg. 12

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

## Historical Question of the Month

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

November Winner is Jerry Robinson



Last month's question: Corey Flournoy, a graduate of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences is elected President of what national organization?

Answer: The National FFA Organization.

## But Wait, There's More!

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

- Farm and Family Food Bytes
- Poll Shows Americans Trust Farmers
- IFB Launches New Policy Podcast



Our Lunch and Learn Farm Tours continued with a live visit to Walnut Grove Dairy Farms where farmers Jeff and Bona Heinsohn taught consumers, students and legislators about the process of getting milk from their cows to our tables. Look for more Lunch and Learn Farm Tours coming up in 2021.

## 2021 Foundation Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation has opened the 23rd Annual "Farm and Food" Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue their higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided twelve scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500 each.

The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award a scholarship(s) to college students pursuing agricultural related fields of study. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to individuals in Cook County involved past or present in an approved FFA Program.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 15, 2021. Late applications will not be considered. Much of the application can be submitted electronically.
- All applicants must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year (with the exception of the Conserv FS FFA Award).
- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.

- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agricultural related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food, fuel, or fiber).
- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or print an application out from our website [www.cookcfb.org/foundation](http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation).

What is an Agricultural Career? Farming, of course, but so much more! Here are a few other examples and there are so many more careers!



Forestry Management



Nutritionist



Large Animal Veterinarian

## Organization Seeking Internship Applicants

### Funding Provided Through CCFB Foundation

The Ag in the Classroom program is offering a summer internship to a college student majoring in Agriculture Education or Ag Communications. The individual selected for this paid internship will assist with all live and virtual educational programming including content development and delivery to teachers, youth, and community members. Familiarity with video editing tools,

virtual presenting using Zoom or Google Meets, and experience using social media is important. Position requires excellent organizational abilities, flexibility with changing priorities, and strong oral and written communication skills. Experience with agriculture outreach is a plus. Must provide own transportation as travel throughout Cook County is required for in-person programming. Position

runs from Late May through August 1. The position is selected through an interview process, short lesson/presentation of ag topic, as well as resume, application, academic transcripts, and references. Open-ended application process until filled. Email [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org) for more information or visit <https://cookcfb.org/foundation/internships>.

## 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 bio-fuels. 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!

# 5 things members should know about the CCFB Foundation Scholarship Program

1. The Foundation's College Scholarship program, created in 1999, is open and available for members and member dependents seeking college education related to the agricultural fields and careers. Since the creation of the program, the Foundation has provided over \$250,000 in scholarship assistance for members.
2. The Foundation's Adult Scholarship Program was designed to assist members in gaining leadership training or skills. Many members have been supported through the Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program, Illinois Agricultural Leadership program, and more.
3. The Foundation has created a scholarship program to help support members seeking certification through the Master Gardeners Training program through the Cook County University of Illinois Extension Service.
4. The Foundation has created a scholarship program to support members seeking certification through the Urban Master Farmer training program through the Cook County University of Illinois Extension Service.
5. The funds to support these scholarship programs are available due to the generous support of Cook County Farm Bureau Members as well as member businesses and affiliated companies.



## Looking for a Place for Your "End of Year" Deductible Charitable Donations?

An increasing number of members are making end of year charitable contributions to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation. These charitable donations are a way to support the agricultural literacy efforts of the organization and seek to pay Uncle Sam fewer income taxes!

**For members interested in supporting the organization in this way, simply send a check to:**

**Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation**  
**6438 Joliet Rd.**  
**Countryside, IL 60525**  
**or call 708-354-3276**

Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation will provide a charitable donation letter for your income tax related records as well as a thank you for supporting the ongoing efforts to improve agricultural literacy throughout the Chicagoland area.

## Farm Parts Made This Turkey



**Q. What part from a farm implement were used for the tail of this turkey created by Farm Bureau member Randy Nelson?**

**A. The tail feathers of the turkey are made from the tines of a rotary hoe. (The face is a tile spade)**

*Thank you to Joyce Holste for sending us this photo*



## Gratitude Journal

*Each month, there are people that go out of their way to lend a hand to help with our cause in many ways, both big and small. We appreciate it greatly!*

**The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...**

- The Members that have generously donated to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation as you have considered deserving charitable organizations and deductible gifts as the year draws to a close. We truly appreciate you thinking of us!
- Horton Chiropractic and George and Geri Boyle for their generous donations to Farm Bureau's Food Pantry Match Grant. The Self Help Closet and Pantry of Des Plaines and the Open Food Pantry at Bethany Lutheran Church will both be receiving amazing donations.
- Carol Harms-Garman from Illinois Ag in the Classroom for her unwavering support and assistance over the years. We wish Carol a happy retirement and cannot thank her enough for all she has done to help us at the Farm Bureau.
- Thank you to Ted's Greenhouse' Greg Stack, Dan and Karen Biernacki for hosting our 100th anniversary Succulent Planter Workshop in person and via zoom!

## We are Accepting Food Pantry Grant Nominations

Help us support local Cook County Food Pantries. Food Pantries can self-nominate or a community member can nominate a Food Pantry.

### Food Pantry Call to Action

Apply at <https://bit.ly/2GJ46vi>. Food pantries can self-nominate. Grant awards will range between \$150 to \$600.

### Community Call to Action

Nominate a local food pantry for grant funds. Apply at <https://bit.ly/2GJ46vi>  
 This program is designed to assist local food pantries in need of supplies, foods, and funds during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Food Pantry must be a registered 501(C)3 to be eligible for a donation.*

## Historical Question of the Month



President of the Cook County Farm Bureau, Jim Gutzmer (R), accepts the President's Award from Philip Nelson (R), President of the Illinois Farm Bureau. The President's Award for the largest size County Farm Bureau was presented for the best overall programming and activities in the areas of Ag Literacy, Commodities/Marketing, Health/Safety, Legislative/Political Process, Local Affairs, Communications/Promotion, Member Relations, Policy Development and Membership Quota. Our organization also received the Liberty Bell Award for its efforts in Legislative, Local Issues, Political Action and Policy Implementation.

*In 2013, Cook County Farm Bureau® received what two awards from the Illinois Farm Bureau® in recognition of outstanding programming in the areas of Agricultural Literacy, Communications/Promotions, Commodities Marketing, Health/Safety, Legislative/ Political Process, Local Affairs, Member Relations, Policy Development, and Membership Quota?*

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

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



# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

## “The 2020 Obstacle Course”

The year 2020 has been described as Groundhog Day, Disaster 911, the Year of the Pivot, the “Swear” year and At Least It’s Over.

I viewed the year 2020 as competing in a marathon “team” obstacle course. There have been so many obstacles; COVID - 19, social unrest and riots, political elections, shelter-at-home, a dragging farm economy, a wave of community needs, desperation and depression, inability to vacation, and new concepts for work and to connecting with family and friends.

We all have faced snares, blind alleys, temptations, pain, progress, setbacks, and hurdles on the course. We are resilient, mostly. Somehow, we have been able to survive and sometimes thrive in this obstacle course competition.

The Rohrer family team has handled this 2020 obstacle course well. I know that our circumstances were greatly simplified by being empty nesters. Sheltering at home, we had no kids to assist with home schooling. We have ample space to work remotely and sufficient bandwidth to handle multiple electronic meetings.

We did pour a great deal of focus during our stay at home time on DIY home projects including refinishing our front concrete/stone steps (87 bags of concrete needed), completely rehabbing our 3-season porch, repairing/re-staining 2 buildings, rebuilding a deck, re-laying a brick patio, and adding insulation to our attic. The best story is probably this one...

My wife and I have grown weary of shivering all winter while wrapped in blankets. Our solution, raise our home’s R-value of insulation in the attic from R- minus 8 to R-35. We bought 45 bags of “shake and rake” insulation which “saved” us the cost and mess of renting an insulation blower. To access the various areas of the attic, I created from scrap boards and plywood, temporary flooring paths across the top of the rafters (which reminded me of an obstacle course) so we would not need to step from rafter board to rafter board to spread the “shake and rake”. I carefully communicated to my wife the importance of carefully placing each foot in the center of the makeshift flooring to prevent stepping through the drywall ceiling into a room below. I provide wise counsel.

After a long afternoon, we were 75% complete shaking and raking. As I retreated from the far corners of the attic, I pulled up the makeshift flooring boards pathway. As I worked, I mentally celebrated the conclusion of another Rohrer Team DIY project. There is a saying...Pride comes before the Fall.

I lost focus; I became complacent; I failed to watch the placement of my oversized boot. My size 12.5 boot stepped on the edge of a temporary floor board, flipped it up like a teeter totter. My boot, followed by my entire leg, plunged down through the drywall into our home/office ceiling (Jayne’s virtual classroom) below, showering drywall, insulation and dust into the room. I dangled there, left leg caught on the ceiling joists. I was internally screaming at my stupidity, while my wife scrambled towards me, concerned I was injured. Just my pride, Dear!

While my wife went down to the office to clean up my disaster mess, I decided that I had had enough for the day. I began cleaning up the tools in the attic, preparing to shut down. Still angry at my clumsy self, I lost focus; I became complacent; I failed to watch the placement of my oversized boot. My size 12.5 boot stepped on the edge of the temporary floor board, flipping it up like a teeter totter. My boot, followed by my entire leg, plunged down through the drywall next to my previous boot hole into our home/office (Jayne’s virtual classroom) below. Of course, it showered drywall, insulation and dust into the office my lovely wife had just finished cleaning. I dangled there, left leg caught on the ceiling joists, externally screaming at my stupidity. No pride left, Dear!

My wife has not reminded me about my careful lecture regarding where she should put her feet in the attic. I believe she is plotting the perfectly timed opportunity.

Fortunately, I don’t have these type clumsy, destructive stories to tell about the Board of Directors/leadership or your Cook County Farm Bureau staff in 2020.

The Farm Bureau Board Leadership team worked through the 2020 obstacle course by quickly learning how to function in an electronic and videoconference world. On the evening of Saturday, March 13th, the Board of Directors held an emergency meeting through a conference call to discuss whether to postpone the 100 year anniversary celebratory event scheduled for March 28th and to consider an emergency contingency outline for office remote work. 100% of the directors participated and comprehensive discussion and debate ensued. That meeting initiated the story of the board taking new approaches to making sound, strategic decisions during these unusual circumstances.

The Farm Bureau Staff team has managed this 2020 obstacle course in a levelheaded, consistent focus, making the best of each situation. The ongoing goal has been to be a faithful partner with all members as we moved through 2020 together. It remains a great story that your staff has handled the continual transitions, conversions to new approaches to delivery of services, meeting and reacting to conditions nearly seamlessly with flexibility, ingenuity and stick-to-it-ness.

2020 has been a difficult year for many. However, I’m hopeful that we can find ways to be thankful, smile and see the positives that can result through conquering adversity, even this year called “2020-The Obstacle Course”.

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

### Recipe of the Month:

#### Spiced Winter Root Soup

2018

#### Ingredients:

- 1 onion roughly chopped
- 2 garlic, cloves, roughly chopped
- 1 T olive oil
- 1 butternut squash, peeled + roughly chopped (about 3 cups)
- 1 sweet potato, peeled + roughly chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled + chopped roughly
- 5 c vegetable stock
- 1 t cumin and coriander
- ½ t cinnamon, nutmeg, cayenne
- 1 c almond milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:** Heat the oil over a low heat; add the onion and garlic. Gently fry until translucent. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to a low boil. Simmer for 30 minutes. Blend the soup until smooth and adjust seasoning to taste.



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>.

## Partners Magazine Has Arrived

The Winter issue of Illinois Farm Bureau Partners magazine should have arrived in your mailbox. Be sure to check out the various farm feel-good articles, great places to see in Illinois, local food facts, recipes, nutritional information, gardening tips, financial information, and the special Cook County Farm Bureau page. More information, articles, and past issues are available at [www.ilfbpartners.com](http://www.ilfbpartners.com).



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## 2020 Winter Agribusiness Virtual Webinars

Co-Sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) and COUNTRY Financial®

**Agenda:**

- Crop Update/2021 Farm Bill/2021 Crop insurance review
- Panel with Farm Bureau: National farm production issues
- Farm Legacy Planning
- Q&A

**Speakers:**

- Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial, Manager Crops
- Adam Nielsen, IFB Director, National Legislation
- Joe Buhmann, COUNTRY Financial, Financial Planner

**Moderator:**

- Rita Frazier, RFB radio

**Dates:**

- **Tuesday, January 19**, 8:30am
- **Wednesday, January 27**, 11am
- **Tuesday, February 9**, 4pm
- **Thursday, February 25**, 12pm

Preregistration required

Registered participants will be sent a link to access the webinar. One of the webinars will be recorded and made available on the COUNTRY Financial website.

In addition, a library of pre-recorded videos will be available live in mid-December that provides in-depth farm bill updates, updated information on COUNTRY Financial private product, crop claims, provision planting/drone technology, and market outlook.

## CCFB holds 100th Annual Meeting of Organization



Roger Freeman

Roger Freeman, Chairman of the Cook County Farm Bureau Credentials Committee, reported on the attendance numbers in person and by proxy during the 100th Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau held Wednesday, November 11 at 7:30 PM.

Cook County Farm Bureau Pres., Janet McCabe (in background), led the meeting to address the business of the organization including receiving an audited financial report, election of directors (Daniel Biernacki, Roger Freeman, Patrick Horcher, Gerald Kopping, Todd Price, and Timothy Stuenkel were reelected), approval of acts and deeds of the board for the past year, and approval of delegates to the IAA annual meeting.

President McCabe recognized the landmark Centennial anniversary of the organization and commended the board, staff and members for working and adjusting through a very difficult circumstances during the year.

## Illinois Farm Bureau Launches “Home for the Holidays” Campaign

Current circumstances and caution about traditional holiday gatherings may dampen spirits this upcoming season. But this doesn't mean all celebrations have to be skipped in 2020. Through Home for the Holidays, the Illinois Farm Bureau hopes to encourage upholding holiday traditions – both new and old – while members spend a bit more time at home.

Many holiday traditions are food-centric: Mom's roast turkey and gravy; Grandma's sugar cookies;

that Pinterest rib roast recipe you tried on a whim three years ago and has become a new holiday tradition. The IFB is calling members to action through a social media “holiday recipe share”. Members can share their favorite holiday recipes and the stories and people behind them. Photos and stories will be compiled on IFB's Facebook page through the holiday season.

Submissions will be collected through this link: <https://bit.ly/IFBHomeForTheHolidays> Photos and

stories collected through an album on the Illinois Farm Bureau Facebook page.

IFB will also be sharing content on social media channels to connect agriculture and the holiday season, such as featuring Illinois farmers who grow components of our traditional holiday meals and decorations, the stories of agricultural communities upholding traditions or establishing new ones this holiday season, and other highlights as the year 2020 closes out.



## Meet a “face” of the Cook County Farm Bureau

Gerry and Linda Kopping, Owners of Kopping Farms



**Kopping Farms**  
 12300 115th St., Lemont, IL  
 Phone: 630-257-7271  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KoppingFarms/?f=289963987746723>

- Kopping Farms is a family farm that turned 150 years this year!

- The farm has been in the Kopping family since Gerry's Great-Great Grandparents purchased the 80 acres back in 1870. They sold part of the land in 1980, leaving the remaining 40-acre farm in the family with Gerry and Linda Kopping as owner/operators of the farm.

- When Gerry is not in the farming, he's planning his next farm project! He enjoys hunting, snowmobiling and Wisconsin, but hard to find the time with farming.

- Gerry's favorite farm related memory is planting corn with his dad when he was 7 or 8 years old, helping him move the truck and farming with him.

**WHAT TYPE OF FARMING ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?**

It has changed over the years; ancestors started with dairy cattle and we always had livestock here. We started boarding horses and that grew into our main operation today. We have beef cattle, raise bees, chickens, alpacas and turkeys. We also grow corn, soybean, grass and alfalfa hay.

**IF YOU/FAMILY WERE NOT DOING THIS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I probably would be teaching, using my degree in Ag Education.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?**

Horses, I enjoy showing them with my daughter! Cows are great too; they are peaceful to watch as they graze in the field.

**WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL QUESTION OR REQUEST YOU HAVE RECEIVED?**

I had a random stranger come up to me in the field and asked if he could ride in the combine, so I let him ride with me and farm for a while.

**HOW DO YOU WANT CLIENTS/BOARDERS TO VIEW YOU?**

As a fair person who treats people well.

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

New Holland Skid Steer, it has made moving material and stuff around the farm so much easier. Our ATV is fun too and used every day!

**WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO OR CONSIDER A MENTOR?**

When I first started farming, Howard Ludwig of Ludwig's Feed Store was a mentor who helped me out a lot.



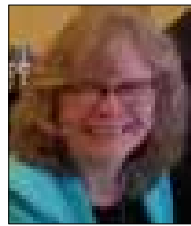
## Board Selects Leadership Team for Next Year, Sets Goals

At the November meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau, the Board of Directors elected its leadership team for the next year. Ms. Janet McCabe, Orland Park, was re-elected by the Board to serve as the organization's President, a position she has held for the past year. McCabe and her husband Joe, farm in the southern Cook County area and northern Will County raising corn, soybeans, wheat and marketing hay/straw. She has served on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's Team structure since it was created in 2005. She has served in a variety of leadership roles including Secretary/Treasurer, Governmental Affairs Team, Political Action Committee, Public Relations Team, Audit Committee, and Building Committee. She has served as a director on the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Board. In addition to her on-farm role, Janet is a Registered Nurse and has been practicing for over 30 years.

McCabe said, "I am humbled to be re-elected to another term as President and look forward to continuing our work with the goal of having the importance of agriculture in everyone's daily life recognized. I look forward to working with the board to optimize our volunteer base and their contributions to the organization."

Mr. Mike Rauch, Tinley Park, was re-elected to the Executive Committee as the Vice-President of the Board. Mike Rauch has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2003 and has served as Vice-President since 2011. Mike raises corn and soybeans in south Cook County and has been active in agriculture for the past 35-plus years. He is married to Laura. Mike has led a

number of the Teams over the years. Currently, Mike serves as Chairman of the Public Relations Team, is on the Ag Literacy Team and Building Committee and is on the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from University of Illinois.



Ruth Zeldenrust

Ms. Ruth Zeldenrust, Chicago Heights, was elected Secretary-Treasurer by the Board. She is also Chair of the Audit Committee. She has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's team structure since it was created in 2005. She currently serves as Chair of the Governmental Affairs Team and is on the Foundation Board of Directors. She owns and operates Zeldenrust Farm Market and Greenhouses, raising local



Gerry Kopping



Dan Biernacki

fresh vegetables and flowers/bedding plants in south Cook County.

Joining these three leaders on the Executive Finance Committee for the next year will be board members Gerry Kopping, Lemont, and Dan Biernacki, Tinley Park. The Executive Finance Committee holds the responsibility of the budgeting, finance, personnel, and day-to-day oversight of the organization. They also joined the officers on the Foundation Board of Directors.

From the Board of Directors, the following leaders will head up programming committees of the organization: Mike Rauch, Public Relations Team; Gerry Kopping, Commodities/Marketing Team; Jim Bloomstrand, Member Relations Team; Tim Stuenkel, Ag Literacy Team; and Ruth Zeldenrust, Governmental Affairs Team.

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Chicago, IL 60605



0920-514HO

## Consumers Seek Local Foods, Gifts For Holidays



When the Illinoisans sit down to a Thanksgiving or holiday meal, more foods from local farms will grace their tables. Holiday gifts? More of them will be grown, raised and processed in Illinois, too.

Consumers turned to local sources earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic and again seek local foods and gifts for the holidays as the state sets records for COVID cases and testing.

"We're seeing consumers want to shop

online more this year. As mitigation (restrictions) increases, there will be more online shopping," Raghela Scavuzzo, Illinois Farm Bureau associate director of food systems development, told FarmWeek.

Across the state, more farms and food entrepreneurs posted information on websites and Facebook, and opened online stores with order and prepay options. Some offered curbside delivery at on-farm locations, while

others added shipping when feasible.

And consumers shopped.

"We doubled (online consumer) traffic at times. With Thanksgiving and Christmas, one would assume there will be even more interest," said Darlene "Dar" Knipe, co-founder of MarketMaker, an interactive database of farm food sources and buyers.

In January, MarketMaker launched an e-commerce platform that allowed Illinois

farmers listed on MarketMaker to sell directly to customers. Any Illinois farmer with a MarketMaker account, which shares product information, may log in and click on an online option to create an electronic store at no cost. A farmer not currently participating may select an e-commerce option while registering. Visit Illinois Food MarketMaker.

"For those farms or businesses with no online store or website, MarketMaker provides the tools to set up online stores. Now it's a big opportunity," Knipe added. "If you're not currently on (MarketMaker), this (holiday season) is a great reason to sign up and register."

The Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) also offers consumers and growers a searchable option to post and locate online stores, according to Scavuzzo, ISGA executive director. Visit specialtygrowers.org and click on "shop local" in the middle of the page for search for food and farm businesses or to register with them online.

Scavuzzo and Knipe encouraged farms listed on MarketMaker to be sure their information indicates online ordering and shopping is available. The database is searchable with such key phrases as "online ordering," "shopping online," or "mail delivery."

Cook County Farm Bureau has been working with Market Maker in recent months. Go to the cookcfb.org website for buy local connections in the area.

## Ag Lit Bit

“Stay Strong”



Diane Merrion,  
CCFB Director of  
Ag Literacy

Looking through the headlines that summarized 2019 you realize how fast life is passing by. The events that were chronicled surely must have happened a long time ago, not just 12 months ago. Right?

Wrong. In thirty short days a new list will be out summarizing 2020. Do we really need a list of what we have all been through in 2020? Of course we do. Perhaps for a future history lesson or perhaps to make us realize how the strong need to help the weak as those definitions can change at the drop of a hat.

I started out the year with positive thoughts for what 2020 would hold both personally and professionally. Hopes for new travel, gatherings as the weather improved, and a plan for the summer garden. Farm Bureau events were on the calendar for some of my favorite activities including Ag Days and Summer Ag Institutes. In a few short weeks, everything changed.

Of course, we all adapted the best we could. At home and at work as we watched new heroes emerge by showing their strength. We know some of their names and some of their jobs, but many are behind the scenes doing their work without notice. We have, however, had the pleasure of working with some of our heroes, the teachers who have endured a great deal of change this year. While we have only seen a glimpse of what their daily life looks like, we felt their pain and their challenges as we tried to move to the virtual world as well. Teachers may not get acknowledged often, but we are here to say thank you. We were so moved by a note we received and echo these exact words to all of the teachers out there, “Thank you for all you do in teaching and setting examples for our youth. It is important work!”

There will be new headlines in 2021 which will further shape us all, for better or worse. Our wishes for some simple blessings this unique holiday season. We hope you will *Look and Learn* with us next year..

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



If you missed the tree farm tour see it at <https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/category/field-trips/>.

## Celebrating 10 Years... A Message from Toni



Toni DeLaurentis

I first started presenting the Cook County Farm Bureau’s “Agriculture in the Classroom” program to 4th graders in 2009. At that time, the program consisted of student discussion on the importance of Illinois Agriculture with hands on activities, followed by a movie on a VHS tape.

Several years later the movie was shown on a DVD, new activities driven by state goals were added, and the “Ag in the Classroom” program was extended to include a hands-on Part 2 presentation called “There’s Ag On My Plate”.

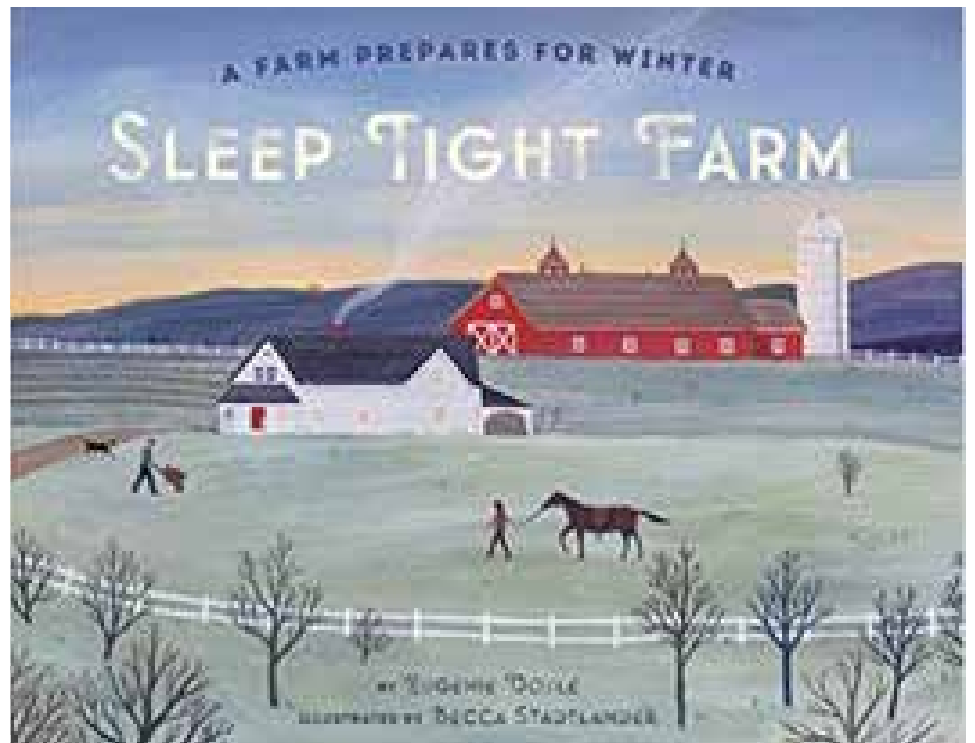
As technology became a part of everyday classroom learning, the Ag programs incorporated PowerPoint in both Part 1 and Part 2 presentations with both programs and associated activities being aligned to STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math).

The Ag programs are alive and well today despite all the current challenges. World health conditions have dictated a whole new set of adaptations in bringing the Ag programs to students. The staff at the CCFB for Ag education brought innovative ways through taped videos and live presentations using virtual meeting rooms so both students who are utilizing e-learning and in-person learning can participate safely with the programs.

In the 10 years I have been presenting the “Ag in the Classroom” program, I have seen many changes. These changes have made the program even more engaging and more relevant for students and teachers.

*NOTE: Ms. DeLaurentis celebrated 10 years of being a CCFB AITC presenter as the 2019-2020 school year concluded. Her celebration was delayed due to COVID. We want to acknowledge and celebrate her immense contributions to our educational outreach over the years and moving forward.*

## Local Farmers Share Winter Preparations



Sleep Tight Farm, by Eugenie Doyle tells the story of how a family gets the farm ready for the snow of winter and connects each growing season to the preparations at the very end of the farm year. See what winter means to the farm year and to the family that shares its seasons, from spring’s new growth, summer’s heat, and fall’s bounty to winter’s well-earned rest.

We asked two of our local farmers what they are doing with winter upon us. Here are some thoughts as shared by Ag Literacy Team Members, Mike Rauch and Tim Stuenkel.

### Tim Stuenkel

Once the harvest field work wraps up, there is still plenty of work to do on cleaning up machinery, doing maintenance/repairs, and getting things put away for the winter. Late fall and winter are also a time when much of the planning and purchasing is done for the next season’s inputs, which include seed, fertilizer, crop protection products, and possibly new/updated machinery purchases. The winter months can also be a good time for marketing grain, whether stored on the farm or already delivered to the elevator at harvest. And of course, there is plenty of paperwork to be done to close the books on the growing season and prepare for income tax filing. The January-February-March time frame is also a prime season for agricultural tradeshow, conventions, and dealer schools, which give farmers a good opportunity to investigate new technologies,

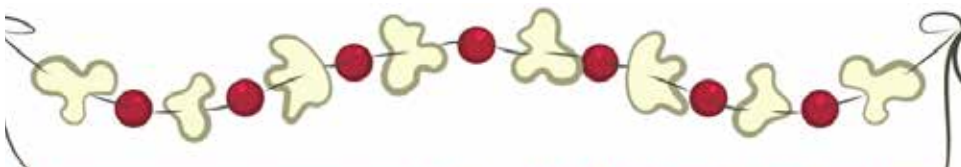
equipment, and management practices. Although, 2021 might look noticeably different from past years due to the COVID situation.

*Tim has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2014. Stuenkel is the Global Marketing Communications Manager at TeeJet Technologies and also farms raising corn and soybeans in Cook County. Stuenkel has a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Illinois and an M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University.*

### Mike Rauch

The winter provides a time to rest and recharge. Bookkeeping and taxes are year-end and January projects. Working with landowners and continuing education are winter priorities. Equipment repair and updates are investigated during this out-of-the-field season. Planning for next year including budgeting and enterprise analysis take some time. Reviewing what did and or didn’t work and then making adjustments to improve ones’ operation. Hopefully, some vacation time is taken, and I enjoy reading, doing puzzles, and I still send out a few Christmas cards. There are always some projects around the house to fill in some free time also.

*Mike Rauch has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2003 and has served as Vice-President since 2011. Rauch raises corn and soybeans in south Cook County and has been active in agriculture for the past 40-plus years. Rauch holds a B.S. and M.S. degree from University of Illinois.*



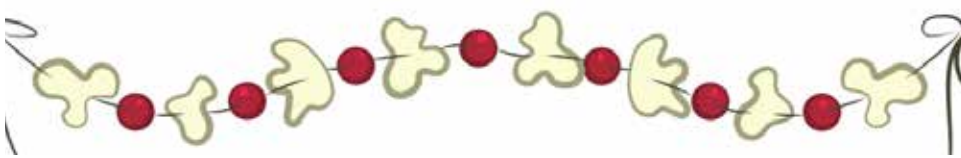
### VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FARM TOUR DECEMBER 3

VIEW ARCHIVED TOUR  
[HTTPS://BEYONDTHEBARNDOOR.WORDPRESS.COM/](https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/)  
- FIELD TRIPS -


### AUTHOR INTERVIEW DECEMBER 10

REGISTER AT  
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/AUTHORDEC10](https://bit.ly/authordec10)

For more family fun, activities, and lessons visit  
Illinois Ag in the Classroom at  
<https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/>



# Agriculture Adventure for Families

 Our Agriculture in the Classroom Program has featured many books, lessons and author visits related to popcorn and cranberries this holiday season, so we wanted to share more fun ideas for your family to enjoy this month. Gather around and make some caramel corn while stringing garland for your outdoor or indoor decorating. Get creative by making additional treats to hang outside including birdseed ornaments, suet balls or pinecone feeders. If you get a picture of a visitor enjoying your treat, send us a picture to share.



Popcorn and cranberries are more than just eye candy for the Holidays. Mixed together they pack a nutritional punch as a trail mix, offering whole-grain fiber and energy producing carbohydrates (popcorn) and antioxidants (cranberries).

## Cranberry Caramel Orange Popcorn

### Ingredients

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10 cups popped popcorn   | 1/4 cup corn syrup                                       |
| 1 cup dried cranberries  | 2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate, undiluted |
| 1/2 cup whole almonds    | 1 teaspoon orange or vanilla extract                     |
| 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter | 1/2 teaspoon baking soda                                 |
| 1/2 packed brown sugar   |  |

### Directions

Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Place popcorn, cranberries and almonds in a large bowl; set aside.

In a medium saucepan heat butter, brown sugar, corn syrup and orange juice concentrate over medium heat until butter is melted. Bring to a boil and boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in extract and baking soda (mixture will foam).

Pour syrup mixture over popcorn mixture in bowl; stir to coat well. Spread evenly in a large, rimmed baking sheet or roasting pan, lined with foil and sprayed with nonstick spray. Bake 30 minutes, stirring twice during baking time. Stir caramel corn as it cools on baking sheet. Store in an airtight container.

Additional resources for family fun and classroom learning, visit [popcorn.com](http://popcorn.com).

Source: <https://www.popcorn.org/Recipes/Details/cranberry-orange-caramel-corn>

## Zero Waste Decorating!!

### Popcorn-Cranberry Garland

Step 1— Oil Pan

Step 2—Bulk Popcorn

Step 3—Heat Popcorn

Step 4—Sort out bad Cranberries

Step 5— Thread Needle (*you will need sewing needle, compostable floss or other thread*)

Step 6—Alternate cranberry and popcorn on thread

Step 7—Cut Access String

Step 8—Tie the Knot



Enjoy now.....Compost later!

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPYViBtJMzI>

## Pop 'Corny' Facts!!

Popcorn is the official snack of Illinois

The first popcorn machine was invented in 1893!

As the kernel is heated, the moisture in the kernel turns into steam and builds pressure when the hull can no longer contain the pressure the kernel explodes making popcorn

Field, sweet and popcorn are 3 different types of corn

Popcorn comes in many shapes like "snowflake" or "mushroom"



## Cranberries: Did You Know?

U.S. Cranberries are approximately 90% water.

The reason U.S. Cranberries float on water is: they have small pockets where air seeps into that allows them to float.

Only about 5% of cranberries are sold fresh while the rest are turned into cranberry juice, sauce, etc.

Source: [www.uscranberries.in/about-us-cranberries/fun-trivia-and-facts/](http://www.uscranberries.in/about-us-cranberries/fun-trivia-and-facts/)

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](mailto: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...

## Paul Matthews

## December Word Search

Cranberry  
Compost  
Decorate  
Enjoy  
Family  
Fun  
Garland  
Heat

Holiday  
Kernel  
Orange  
Popcorn  
Snack  
String  
Sweet  
Water

```

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

```

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 Tix  
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

## Farm Influences Gifts Under the Tree



When almost 4 years old, our son's Christmas wish list included a "tree cutter" (chain saw), a "bin site" (grain storage facility), and a "wiggle tractor," (his description of a high-horsepower tractor that articulates, or bends, in the middle).

To his delight, he received toy versions of all of them.

Life on the farm influences the gifts found under the family tree, often itself decorated with ornaments shaped as cows, pigs, barns, and corn-consuming wildlife. I remember the Christmas when the men received sets of reversible ratcheting wrenches. They excitedly opened two same-shaped packages: one standard, one metric.

Our farm family often finds the best gifts the most useful ones. Lithium battery-powered tools, air compressors, and rubber boots. Deep-well socket sets, air tools, and a new set of pilot-point drill bits in a rugged case. In sarcastic wonder, my husband once unwrapped an extension ladder, rung by rung.

The women often appreciate practical items that make tasks easier in the garden and kitchen. The kids receive toy tractors, wooden toy barns, farm animal figures, and plastic fencing to keep

those little livestock contained. A few years ago, our son unwrapped a rolling tool chest for storing Nerf darts and LEGO items in his room. For her room redesign, our daughter listed wishes for decorations with windmills, chickens, and sunflowers.

A new plat book from the county Farm Bureau office makes a great coffee table gift for every landowner in the family. Single sockets and hand-warmer packets give weight to stockings. And a set of well-fitting work gloves wrapped with a can of whole cashews provides a fail-safe gift idea for most any adult in the family.

By late November every year, I pull out the kids' Christmas picture books, an annual gift from us that they collected through middle school. Several of the books share farm influences with stories set on tree farms and in barns or stables, including the original Christmas story that pairs with the kids' nativity set.

The holidays bring another avenue to express the joy we find in farming. I confess to streaming Christmas music in the grain cart tractor in October to prematurely mix harvest and the holidays, a couple of my favorite things. No doubt, farm life will penetrate the holiday scene again this year. Wrapping paper alone gives away my farm fetish. The patterned paper with chickens, pigs, and cows in Santa hats reveals the gift giver before the tag does.

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

## 5 Questions Farmers Should Answer Annually

Your farm operation changes frequently. And when you make updates on your farm, you also need to update your insurance coverage.

But, as a farmer, do you really have time to do one more thing ... like think about insurance? At COUNTRY Financial®, we get it. That's why our reps meet with our farm and crop clients regularly and ask these five questions, to make sure their protection is up to date.

### 1. Did you buy any new farm equipment?

You may change farm equipment frequently. Maybe you purchased a new planter, and you need to add it to your policy. Or you sold off a combine, and you no longer need coverage for it.

Make sure your farm equipment inventory matches what's on your policy, so you're covered come claim-time, or to save you from paying unnecessary premium dollars.

### 2. Have you built or knocked down any farm buildings?

You may make updates to outbuildings on your farm, like grain bins, barns, machine sheds, and stables. If you build, remodel, or tear down any of these structures, make sure those changes are reflected on your policy.

### 3. Are you growing a new crop?

Diversifying crops is common among today's farmers. If you add a new crop to your operation, make sure you update your crop coverage. And new crops might also mean new equipment (see #1).

### 4. Have there been any changes to your livestock?

Your livestock may vary each month. Have you sold or purchased a large quantity, or gained or lost a few due to breeding or death?

Whether your policy covers your livestock individually or as a herd, make sure your coverage matches your current animal inventory.

### 5. Have you purchased any new farm vehicles?

A common coverage gap for farmers is on farm vehicles. These items are not covered on farm insurance policies, so they need separate auto and auto liability coverage. This type of coverage can be complicated and is often overlooked. To learn more, check out these six FAQs about farm vehicle coverage.

Learn more about COUNTRY Financial farm and crop insurance or find a local rep at COUNTRYCrop.com.

## Adopt-a-Legislator® Program Filming



Cook County Farm Bureau® President Janet McCabe answers questions about her farming operation in Cook and Will counties while filming a video for the Adopt-a-Legislator® program. President McCabe, along with her family, farm in urban Cook and Will counties, including a field near Orland Square Mall.

## Time to Enroll for Individual Health Insurance

Individual health insurance open enrollment ends Dec. 15. Insurance bought during this period will be effective Jan. 1, 2021.

"A COUNTRY Financial client can make an appointment with their local financial representative," explained Sara Sturgeon, COUNTRY lead life/health brokerage account representative. "From there, the representative can assist and review all of the options COUNTRY can offer through our contracted carriers. A wide range of representatives are very knowledgeable with health insurance. If they are not equipped, that is where Brokered Insurance Solutions can step in and assist the financial representative and client."

COUNTRY representatives can also assist clients with the open enrollment process. As far as what plans may work for IFB members and their families, that will depend on individual situations and preferences.

"There are several types of plans offered through our carriers," said Sturgeon. "COUNTRY clients will want to decide how much they wish to spend per month, how much out of pocket

they wish to spend and any other benefit of a plan, such as having a doctor office copay or prescription coverage. They will also want to make sure their doctor(s) are in network based on the plan they choose. Their COUNTRY financial representative can help them view the plan options best for their client individually or as a family."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also administers a website where individuals can review and compare Marketplace Plans. Visit HealthCare.gov for more information.

Most importantly, individuals should begin exploring all of their health insurance options now, as the deadline to enroll will approach quickly.

"We recommend not waiting until the deadline," noted Sturgeon. "Open Enrollment is a short, 45-day window, so a COUNTRY client should contact their local financial representative early on in the open enrollment period to find the plan best fit for their needs and to complete their enrollment."

## Young Leaders Deliver Member Donations Of Coats



Jessica Biernacki, Chair of the Young Leaders Group, delivered winter coats and accessories that were donated by members to Together We Cope on Saturday, November 21. The charity serves and supports 27 communities in the Cook County area with Food, clothing and other needs. The Y L Group appreciates the generosity of members who donated over 250 coats, jackets and other winter items for the cause.



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## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

Election day came and went in the Heinsohn household. Years ago, we gave up cable television, so my blue-eyed girl and I listened as results crawled in. Crawled. In.

It was the first election since college that I didn't sit glued to

the results. And election night is basically my Superbowl complete with snacks, cheering, and the occasional booing. All that's missing is the commercials!

As a former campaign manager, I still vividly remember telling a candidate that he couldn't leave for the post-election celebration because the results were still too close. We won his race, but I was late to the celebration because I

waited for the remaining results come in.

Four years ago, I saw midnight come and go as I waited for a conclusion to the Presidential election. Despite the speed of the results, this year our house was tucked in and lights out before 11 p.m.

This was also the first election that I woke up the day after knowing that many of the races that I had listened to so intently the night before wouldn't be called. Like everyone else, I assumed that the Presidential election wouldn't be final. But that morning I checked the results of the races I was watching, including the Lauren Underwood and Jim Oberweis matchup in the 14th Congressional district; the Tom Morrison and Maggie Trevor rematch in the 54th Illinois House district; the Dan Patlak and Tammy Wendt match up for the Cook County Board of Review; and the Jack Franks and Mike Buehler

matchup for McHenry County Board Chairman. Not final.

As I sit down to write this, I'm not even sure what races are or are not final at this point. But I do know that over 5.8 million of Illinois' more than 8 million registered voters turned out on Election Day or voted early in some manner. This is up from the previous record of 5.5 million set in 2008. Also of note, 3.6 million mail-in ballots were returned.

I also know that now that the election has come and gone, it's time to move on. Races were contentious. Heated. Nasty. Feelings were hurt. But the votes have been cast. Selections have been made. And now it's time to accept the outcome and work together.

I was raised to respect the office regardless of which party won and that's how my blue-eyed girl and big little boy are being raised.

After the election, my blue-eyed girl asked, "What happens next?" It's an innocent enough question. With the election done, current leaders and newly elected leaders have their hands full. The country and state are facing the most challenging stretch for the farm economy in decades. A pandemic. Prolonged food insecurity for families in urban, suburban, and rural areas. A precarious economy. A budget hole made larger by the failure of the Pritzker's progressive income tax.

But what the state and country doesn't need is bickering. Infighting. And an unwillingness to compromise. The election is over, now it's time to move forward. It's time to reach across party lines. For the state. The country. And most importantly for our future.

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

## Delegates to Consider Cook County Farm Bureau® Policy Submittals

Through a grassroots process, Farm Bureau members submitted the following resolutions to delegates at the 2020 Illinois Agricultural Association® annual meeting.

### Compensation of Public Officials

We support legislators only receiving compensation for the days they are in office.

Existing law allows for lawmakers to receive a full month salary even if they resign their seat effective the first of the month.

### Legislative Bodies

We support prohibiting lawmakers from concurrently serving as an elected official and as a paid lobbyist.

In Illinois, it's legal for an elected official to be a paid lobbyist, if they aren't lobbying the same branch of government they were elected to represent. A recent proposal would prohibit members of the General Assembly from working

as lobbyists or in a manner that would require them to register as a lobbyist while they are an elected official. The proposal further bars their immediate family members, spouses, or others living with them, from being paid as lobbyists. The ban would also keep those individuals from communicating with executive officials in both state and local government for the purpose of trying to influence administrative action in those offices.

Chicago City Council members took similar action at the end of 2019, fulfilling one of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's anti-corruption promises. The City Council resolution bans aldermen, city workers, state lawmakers, and other elected officials from lobbying City Hall or other city departments for private gain.

A recent analysis by WLS-TV found Illinois had more public corruption convictions than any

other state since 2000. The state has put away 891 individuals for their roles in various schemes during the past two decades.

### Law and Order

We support the regulation and taxation of recreational marijuana.

This language is essentially cleanup language for Farm Bureau policy. Since January 2020 anyone 21 and older can legally purchase recreational cannabis from a dispensary in Illinois.

Taxes and fees from cannabis are to be deposited into a Cannabis Regulation Fund, which then defrays the administrative costs of the state agencies responsible for administering the program. The state agencies and offices that receive funding from the Cannabis Regulation Fund for direct and indirect costs associated with the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax

Act include:

- Governor's Office for the Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer (sometimes known as the "Cannabis Czar") and its staff and activities
- Department of Revenue
- Department of State Police
- Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

The policy submittals will be considered by the full Illinois Farm Bureau® delegation in December.

## Treasurer: "Has it been worth it?" as Study Shows Bills Nearly Doubling to \$15.58 Billion Since 2001

(Reprint of Treasurer Maria Pappas's press release on 10/26/2020)



Maria Pappas serves as Cook County Treasurer. Additional information about Pappas and the Cook County Treasurer is available at <https://www.cookcountytreasurer.com/default.aspx>.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas today released an unprecedented study of property taxes that shows the county's tax bills virtually doubling over 20 years, an increase that is nearly triple the rise in the cost of living index.

"The Pappas Study" is a painstaking examination of tax bills on Cook County's 1.7 million parcels of property that shows the increase of total taxes over the past 20 years, and allows taxpayers to see the increases in bills on their homes, businesses, and land.

The study is posted on [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) with a research tool allowing owners to see "how local governments taxed property and people have paid the tax bill" over two decades, Pappas said.

"This website tool gives taxpayers a

sobering reminder of what they have paid every year going back 20 years," she said. "In the midst of the pandemic and a recession, local governments should take their foot off the gas pedal and stop raising property taxes."

While the cost of living has risen just **36 percent** over 20 years, the findings of the Pappas Study include:

- In all of Cook County, total taxes billed increased **99 percent**, from \$7.85 billion to \$15.58 billion.
- In Chicago, total taxes on residential properties skyrocketed **164 percent**, from \$1.33 billion to \$3.51 billion.
- In Chicago, total taxes on commercial properties rose **81 percent**, from \$1.92 billion to \$3.48 billion.
- In suburban Cook County, total taxes on residential properties jumped **116 percent**, from \$2.45 billion to \$5.29 billion.
- In suburban Cook County, total taxes on commercial properties rose **53 percent**, from \$2.15 billion to \$3.3 billion.

"Because the study lets us see what government has done in the past, we might be able to chart a better, less costly future," Pappas said. "Government cannot just raise taxes and hope for the best."

Cook County has 2,200 local government agencies, such as school districts, townships, parks, libraries, public health, and safety agencies. The study analyzes total property taxes billed in the county's 135 cities and villages by those 2,200 agencies.

## Inside the Courthouse: Treasurer

The county treasurer serves as the county's banker, responsible for the safe keeping and prudent investing of public funds. As the lawful custodian of county funds, the treasurer has the responsibility to receive and distribute the revenue and public monies of the county.

The treasurer must keep an account of all monies received by the county and all monies paid out, stating the time, to whom payment is made, and on what account payment has been made. Payments must be specifically authorized by law or by the county board. The treasurer must invest and reinvest any funds that are not used within 30 days. Investments are made in savings accounts, treasury bills, certificate of deposits and other interest bearing bank accounts which allow for the liquidity, safety of principal and maximum return of investment. Each month the treasurer's books of account are subject to the provisions of the Local Records Act and are available for inspection by any person wishing to examine them.

The Public Funds Investment Act requires counties to have a written investment policy to address safety of principal, liquidity of funds, and return on investment. This policy is to be adopted by the county treasurer and presented to the county board.

The county treasurer also serves as county collector of taxes. The county collector is responsible for the preparation of tax bills and for the collection and distribution of property taxes. Real estate taxes are due in two yearly installments. Upon receipt of the tax monies the county collector proceeds to disburse these funds to the various taxing districts. Along with the collection of real estate taxes, the county treasurer also collects Mobile Home Local Service Taxes.

The county collector holds a tax sale at the

end of every tax year to sell the tax on parcels that remain unpaid. The county collector gives notice of the intended application for judgment of sale of delinquent lands and lots by publication of a notice in the local newspaper. Properties for which the taxes haven't been paid for two or more years are subject to a scavenger sale. The purpose of the scavenger sale is to return delinquent and deteriorating property to productive use as quickly as possible. For this reason the amount required to be paid by the tax purchaser is less than the accumulated tax delinquencies.

### Other Responsibilities

County treasurers assist senior citizens in filing for real estate tax deferral. The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program provides tax relief for qualified senior citizens by allowing them to defer all or part of their property tax and special assessment payments on their principal residence. The deferral is similar to a loan against the property's fair market value. Deferred amounts are borrowed from the state, who then pays the tax bill to the County Collector's Office.

### Training

The Office of County Treasurer is open to lay persons. Within 60 days of assuming office, a treasurer must apply to the state comptroller for admission to the comptroller's county treasurer training program. The program must be completed within one year after applying for admission and each treasurer must complete the program at least once during their term of office.

### Term

County treasurer is an elected office serving a four-year term.

Reprinted from *Illinois Association of County Board Members-Inside the Courthouse*

## Illinois Farm Bureau Members Eligible for 2020 Ford Bonus Cash Program

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and Ford Motor Company are enhancing their partnership with the addition of a new, limited time offer through the Farm Bureau Bonus Cash Program.

Illinois Farm Bureau members planning to purchase a new 2020 or 2021 Ford or Lincoln vehicle may receive a \$1,000 cash bonus on most eligible models, and a \$500 cash bonus on eligible new F-150 and Super Duty. This offer is available through January 4, 2021.

"We're so appreciative of the great relationship we've built with Ford and their willingness to work with our members to provide discounts simply because they're members of the Illinois Farm Bureau," said Melissa Rhode, marketing director, IFB. "Ford Motor Company has been an important part of our Member Benefit Program for over a decade and we're extremely proud to offer access to this exclusive program."

The offer 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.

To receive the offer, you must be an IFB member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 4, 2021.

Members wishing to take advantage of the program should visit [FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com) or see their local authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

To view additional IFB membership benefits, visit the Illinois Farm Bureau website at [www.iffb.org](http://www.iffb.org) under the 'Member Benefits' section. Cook County Farm Bureau members should also go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) for other local offers.

Illinois Farm Bureau members receive **\$1,000 BONUS CASH\*** FOR A LIMITED TIME ON MOST ELIGIBLE NEW FORD VEHICLES. Our valued partnership highlights the great movement that we have together, and how farming and trucks have gone together for over 100 years.

**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.

## Six Flags Great America Holiday in the Park Lights! Select Days November 27-December 30

Holiday in the Park returns as a walk-through light extravaganza along with shows, holiday-themed photo ops, and delicious treats. Discounted tickets for \$18.00 each and includes

parking! Go to [www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits](http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits) to access and take advantage of this discount.



## 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.



**\*Maggie Lyczko**  
*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
Maggie Lyczko has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2020. Her office is located at 3339 N. Harlem Ave., in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-427-2964. Maggie has been a Financial Representative since February 2011.



**\*Sylwia Grochowska**  
*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
Sylwia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 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 October 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.



**Michael Mikhaeil**  
*Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager*  
Michael Mikhaeil has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2020. His office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste.550 in Skokie, IL. His phone number is 847-733-0762. Michael has been a Financial Representative since September 2019.



**Zachary Youngblood**  
*Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager*  
Zachary Youngblood has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2020. His office is located at 10A W Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-3595. Tony has been a Financial Representative since February 2002.



**\*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.



**\*Mike Spadoni**  
*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*  
Mike Spadoni has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for October 2020. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is 708-425-1845. Mike has been a Financial Representative since June 2005.



**Kurt Hussein**  
*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*  
Kurt Hussein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for October 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.



**\*Jim Parthemore**  
*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
Jim Parthemore has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for October 2020. His office is located at 9432 W. 143rd St. in Orland Park, IL. His phone number is 708-745-5151. Jim has been a Financial Representative since April 2000.

**Jacob McGrath**  
*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
Jacob McGrath has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for October 2020. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-560-7777. Jacob has been a Financial Representative since May 2020.

\*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.

## 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.



### 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.

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.

Ivers & Pond upright piano, good condition, needs tune-up, free, you must arrange pick-up and move. Call Mike at 708-296-0247.

5-Star resort 3br/ 2ba condo 2 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$99/ night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to [www.vrbo.com/218673](http://www.vrbo.com/218673).

### 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.

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 for free in the *Co-Operator*. 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

## 100-Year Anniversary Succulent Planter Workshop

Thank you, Ted's Greenhouse, for hosting the 100-Year Succulent Planter Workshop! Thank you, Greg, Dan, and Karen, for a terrific workshop, including managing in-person and zoom participants. And thank you to all who attended!



Greg Stack lead the webinar assisting members in person and via zoom while observing Covid guidelines.



Members Jackie (left) and Jayne (right) created beautiful succulents in our 100 year anniversary planter!



## 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!

# DECK *your* HALLS

this holiday season with fresh trees, garland, wreaths, poinsettias, greens and décor!

Purchase from a Farm Bureau Member Business. To locate one near you, visit our Farm Products Locator at [www.cookcfb.org/Discover-Local](http://www.cookcfb.org/Discover-Local)

MEMBER BUSINESS	OPENING DAY
Big John's Farm Market	Chicago Hts.   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, decor
Clarke's Garden Center	Chicago Hts.   Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>   Wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
Gorman Tree Farm	Monee   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, garland
Horcher's Farm	Wheeling   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, handmade wreaths, greens, flowers
Kolze's Corner Garden	Woodstock   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, decor
McCarthy's Farm Stand	Orland Park   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, garland, greens
Melka's Garden Center	Mokena   Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
Puckerville Farms	Lemont   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, garland, decor
Smits Farms	Sauk Village   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, greens
Ted's Greenhouse	Tinley Park   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Poinsettias, greens, handmade bows
Wagner Farm	Glenview   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, roping, garland, greens
West End Garden Ctr	Evanston   Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>   Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, plants, decor

## Gate Sign Presentation



A gate sign presentation was made by CCFB leaders Dan and Karen Biernacki (right) to Pearl Zuidema as a part of the centennial celebration of the CCFB. The 100 year anniversary committee recognized our oldest, long standing members attending the anniversary event. Pearl has been a member for 56 years. Her daughter, Heidi Yunker (left), joined her in the photo.

# 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)



### 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).



### Crochet a Chunky Infinity Scarf

Stay home and stay warm while learning how to crochet a chunky infinity scarf with your fingers.  
**Dates:** Thursday, February 25, 2021  
**Time:** 7-9 PM  
**Location:** Via Zoom  
**Registration and Price details in January Co-Operator**

# Cook County Farm Bureau® to Support Cook County Families and Food Pantries as Part of Food Checkout Day 2021



In celebration of the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers, Cook County Farm Bureau® members and partners are supporting local families and food pantries.

The year 2021 marks the 21st anniversary of Food Checkout Day and Cook County Farm Bureau's largest effort to date to support local families in need. Rather than support a single charity or even a handful, **Cook CFB will match member donations to any area food pantry.**

Farm Bureau members who wish to donate to a local food pantry in celebration of Food Checkout Day are asked to complete the form below and to designate the food pantry that their donation and Cook CFB's match is for. The food pantry selected must be a registered 501(c)3. A total of \$1,000 has been allocated for this program. All donations will be considered part of Food Checkout Day.

In addition, Cook County Farm Bureau is partnering with six food pantries for Food Checkout Day. The food pantries are selected by our partners at COUNTRY Financial.

#### Meet our Partner Food Pantries

**Alicia's House Food Pantry, South Chicago Heights:** Selected by representatives from the South Holland COUNTRY Financial Agency, Alicia's House Food Pantry, is dedicated to Alicia who loved people and loved helping people. She would spend hours working with her Grandma Stella at the church food pantry, making bags of food to hand out to people in need. Although her Grandma had a specific way to nutritionally pack the bags, Alicia would always add her special touch by making sure each bag would contain a special treat, usually candy. To honor the memory of Alicia who passed away at the age of four, Grandma Stella and Poppy Juan started Alicia's House. Alicia's House feeds hundreds of hungry families and each bag of food contains Alicia's special loving touch. Alicia's House serves the communities of Beecher, Crete, Steger, Peotone, University Park, Monee, and South Chicago Heights.

**Lakeview Pantry, Chicago:** Selected by representatives from the Chicago North COUNTRY Financial Agency, Lakeview Pantry is Chicago's largest and longest-operating food pantry. Lakeview Pantry's mission is to eliminate hunger and poverty in their communities by providing food to fill the basic

need of hungry people, empowering clients to achieve independence through social service programming, and raising awareness of hunger and poverty. Lakeview Pantry experienced a 400% increase in demand when COVID-19 hit Chicago and anticipates another surge in the coming winter months. The Pantry is on track to provide 5 million meals in Chicago this year.

**Orland Township Food Pantry, Orland Park:** Selected by representatives from the Orland Park COUNTRY Financial Agency, the Orland Township Food Pantry supplies food to low income residents residing in Orland Hills, Orland Park, and parts of Tinley Park who need immediate assistance. Since 2009, the food pantry has expanded to more than 2,200 square feet and houses a walk-in freezer, walk-in refrigerator, reach in-freezers, reach-in refrigerators, and aisles of non-perishable food items. The food pantry now assists more than 300 families per month.

**Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, Hoffman Estates:** Selected by representatives from the Chicago Northwest COUNTRY Financial Agency. For over 40 years the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry has been serving residents in Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Streamwood, Elk Grove, Rolling Meadows, Roselle, and Hanover Park. The Schaumburg Township Food Pantry is a client choice pantry meaning that clients can shop for and select their items from a variety of shelf stable, fresh, and freezer items as well as produce and personal items. The 100% donation-based program is currently serving over 800 households per month.

**Wheeling Township Food Pantry, Arlington Heights:** Selected by representatives from the Chicago Northeast COUNTRY Financial Agency, the Wheeling Township Food Pantry serves residents in all or portions of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Northbrook, Rolling Meadow, Prospect Heights, and Wheeling. Food pantry distributions are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays and include shelf stable items such as beans, cereal, meat products, pasta, soup and vegetables.

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

#### Food Checkout Day 2021 Food Pantry Match Donations

Food Pantry for Match: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your 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.

## 2021 IT'S TIME TO "BEE ALL ABOUT IT!"

A seasonal approach to the craft of keeping bees. A comprehensive look at the various types of hives and methods, with emphasis on what you will need to know to keep your bees strong and healthy here locally. The CCFB is excited to be partnering to present this course via zoom or limited in person classroom setting as this course is offered two ways:

Online via Zoom or attend in person at the Cook County Farm Bureau. Seating is currently limited to 8, subject to change due to ongoing Covid guidelines. Reserve your spot early!!!

Class is on 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings, 1 hour of instruction and 30 mins Q&A.

### DATES

FEB 2ND	SESSION 1:	HONEY BEE BIOLOGY & BEHAVIOR
FEB 9TH	SESSION 2:	GEARING-UP AND SOURCING BEES
FEB 16TH	SESSION 3:	ARRIVAL OF SPRING: IT'S SHOWTIME
FEB 23RD	SESSION 4:	TRANSITION TO SUMMER
MAR 2ND	SESSION 5:	ONSET OF FALL AND PREPARING FOR WINTER
MAR 9TH	SESSION 6:	HARVESTING HONEY AND COURSE REVIEW

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00 pm  
 Zoom or Location: Via Zoom or at the Cook County Farm Bureau Meeting Room (6438 Joliet Rd Countryside IL 60525)  
 Fee: \$50.00 for full course for CCFB Members. \$70.00 for non-members.  
 Registration: Register by calling the CCFB office at 708-354-3276; online at the Member Center or email Debbie at [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org).

*\*\*This program is brought to you by Kim Kulton, President of Bee All About It. Kim's background is in entomology. Kim operates a commercial beekeeping business which produces local honey, raises Queens, and rescues bees. She is joined by Pete Soltesz, President of CookDupage Beekeepers Association, one of the largest bee clubs in the Midwest. Kim and Pete are experts on what works locally in our Northern Illinois/Chicago area counties.*