

## Partner with us to Support Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

With Food Checkout Day scheduled for February 14, Farm Bureau families and partners have joined together to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when a child is ill.

Through YOUR support we've been able to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is not a concern of theirs during these times.

Help us to collect non-perishable food, money, and pop tabs.

Food, cash and pop tab donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

**Cook County Farm Bureau®**  
6438 Joliet Road  
Countryside, Illinois 60525  
(708) 354-3276

Last year we were able to donate over \$20,000 to the five area Ronald McDonald Houses. Due to your efforts, Ronald McDonald Houses remain open to all families regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow. Through our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana supporters are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill.

Please partner with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.



Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

### Veggies Sponsor

*Includes inclusion on all advance promotions and significant event signage.*  
\$500

### Sweet Corn Sponsor

*Includes inclusion on all advanced promotions and cart signs at Chicago and Oak Lawn grocery store events.*  
\$250

### Grains Sponsor

*Includes event signage.*  
\$150

Those interested in sponsoring the 2017 Food Checkout Day should complete the following information:

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

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sponsorship level:

\_\_\_\_\_ Veggies Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ Sweet Corn Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ Grains Sponsor

ISSUE

11

DEC. 2016

VOL. IV

# Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



## IN THIS ISSUE

Coming to Mailboxes Soon: Viewpoint Surveys	2
Member Business Spotlight: Puckerville Farm	2
Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate	3
Food Checkout Day 2017	4

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

**PUBLISHED  
BI-MONTHLY**

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

**Phone:**

(708) 354-3276

**Fax:**

(708) 579-6056

[www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

[bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org)

**THE  
POWER  
OF(A)<sup>★</sup>  
AWARDS**

## Policy Successes at Annual Meeting

Farm Bureau delegates from throughout Illinois approved numerous policies submitted by Cook County Farm Bureau®, including policy to reduce and eliminate duplicative services, programs and burdensome regulations. A study for the Small Business Administration, a government body, found that regulations, in general, add \$10,585 in costs per employee.

Delegates also approved policy supporting the use of existing road repair funds for roadway improvements rather than new expressways and interstates. According to studies, 25 percent of the region's highways are in unacceptable ride condition.

Cook CFB's resolution creating minimal guidelines for farms operating a community supported agriculture (CSA) program was also approved by Farm Bureau delegates. The resolution supports farms operating a CSA to disclose to its shareholders whether or not products will

**- Continued on page 2 -**



Senator Michael Hastings (pictured center) received the 2016 Friend of Agriculture award. Pictured with Senator Hastings from left to right is: Jerry and Lorraine Davidson from the Will County Farm Bureau® and Janet McCabe and Bona Heinsohn from Cook County Farm Bureau®.

Join us for our first annual

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

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

Additional information is available at [cookcfb.org](http://cookcfb.org)

Cook County Farm Bureau® exists “To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our agricultural heritage.”

**- Policy Successes from Page 1 -**

originate from a single farm or multiple farms. The resolution also supports farms offering a CSA to notify shareholders in the event of a product substitution. It's estimated that between 30,000 and 50,000 U.S. consumers belong to a CSA.

Farm Bureau delegates also took several steps to update and modernize the Farm Bureau's policy book.

**Coming to Mailboxes Soon: Viewpoint Surveys**

Cook County Farm Bureau® works hard to be a leader on legislative and regulatory issues that impact Farm Bureau members. As we prepare to represent farmers' interests, we're reaching out to Farm Bureau members to determine what our highest priority advocacy activities should be in 2017.

Farmer members are encouraged to share their expertise and concerns by responding to this short survey. We will use members' feedback to make critical decisions regarding our legislative activities for the year.

Survey topics include: local government consolidation, government pensions, and county taxation.

Voting members are encouraged to return their surveys as soon as possible.



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner addresses the media after speaking with Farm Bureau delegates at this year's Illinois Agricultural Association® Annual Meeting. Rauner reiterated his "Turnaround Agenda" platform.

**Member Business Spotlight: Puckerville Farms**

Puckerville Farm is a family-oriented farm that produces a variety of fine crops and products including pumpkins, Christmas trees, and glass artwork.

**Puckerville Farms**  
13332 Bell Rd., Lemont  
(708) 508-0906



*Our animals' health and well-being is our most important priority. We give them good care and treat them humanely.*

Gerry Kopping, horse boarding farm owner in Lemont

**Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate**

How do animals stay warm in the winter?

If you have pets, you know that animals add extra (temporary) fur for the winter and then shed it (all over your house) when the weather warms up. Farm animals are no different, they'll add fur to help insulate themselves against the winter chill. It's because of this long coat that you'll often see horses feeding or bedded down despite the chilly weather and even falling snow. Like snow on top of a well-insulated house,

**- Continued in Column 2 -**



Congresswoman Robin Kelly addresses Farm Bureau leaders at this year's Illinois Agricultural Association® Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau members discussed tax policy reform and the premium costs associated with the Affordable Care Act.



Many dairy calves in the Midwest are housed in individual or small-group houses when they are young to help keep them from spreading illnesses, if one of them becomes ill. In the winter, the individual or small-group houses are bedded with straw. The straw is replaced throughout the winter to ensure that it remains fresh, clean, and dry.

**- Continued from Ag on Your Plate, Column 1 -**

unmelted snow on the back of a horse or cow indicates that the animal is warm on the inside.

Farmers provide animals with shelter. In the simplest form, shelter may consist of a three-sided building. Animals like horses and beef cows will primarily use this shelter during rainfall. The building will allow fresh, clean air to circulate, which helps keep the animals healthy.

In the Midwest, most dairy animals are kept indoors to protect them from the cold winters and from hot, unrelenting summers. Even these well insulated barns have large panels to allow in fresh air. In the summer, the panels will again be opened to allow air to circulate. Many farmers will use sprinklers and fans to further cool their animals in the summer heat.

Farmers are committed to ensuring the health of their animals. That commitment doesn't change when the weather gets cold.

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

**Cook County Farm Bureau®**  
Farm. Family. Food

6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525  
(708) 354-3276, [cookcfb.org](http://cookcfb.org)



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



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