

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
AGRICULTURAL ROUNDTABLE
MONDAY, MARCH 21 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On **Monday, March 21** beginning at 11:30 am Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting an agricultural roundtable focused on food safety and sanitation.

This roundtable will feature:

Tamara Nelson, Illinois Farm Bureau®
 Jeff Heinsohn, Walnut Grove Farms

Robert Reinhard, Hillshire Brands
 Mark Denzler, Illinois Manufacturers Association

The speakers collectively posse a wealth of knowledge on food safety, processed food safety, on-farm sanitation, and GMO testing.

We realize how valuable your time is and have designed this panel to provide you with pertinent information about an issue that impacts residents, consumers, elected leaders, policy makers, and Cook County farmers.

The discussion will begin promptly at 12:00 pm with lunch beginning served at 11:30 am at the **Ronald McDonald House near Lurie's Children's Hospital** located at 211 E. Grand Street in Chicago. The discussion will be held in the Community Room. **Seating is extremely limited.**

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

ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD

Name: _____ **Office:** _____

Work Address: _____ **City:** _____

Work phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Join the Conversation

Win FREE Groceries

Cook County Farm Bureau® was recognized for excellence in programing at the 2016 American Farm Bureau Federation® Annual Meeting.

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Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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Farm Bureau and Partners Donate over \$20,000 to local charity in celebration of Food Checkout Day

Since 2001, Cook County Farm Bureau® has been celebrating Food Checkout Day.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food grown by local farmers. Through Farm Bureau's partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Farm Bureau members are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill.

Farm Bureau members celebrate Food Checkout Day by collecting food items, hosting a scavenger hunt and shopping spree to benefit local Ronald McDonald Houses and by encouraging farmers, sponsors, Country Financial Agencies, 4-H members, and students to participate in a food drive.

"Cook County and Illinois farmers are committed to growing safe and nutritious food for our families and for others," said James Gutzmer, President of Cook County Farm Bureau®. "Food Checkout Day allows us to recognize the importance of healthy, nutritious food while supporting a local charity."

As part of Food Checkout Day, Farm Bureau sponsored a scavenger hunt between Chicago sportscasters Dionne Miller, ABC; Lou Canellis, FOX; and Holly Buckendahl, RMHC® of CNI Chief Executive Officer at the Jewel-Osco® in the Old Towne Triangle.

Farm Bureau also sponsored a shopping spree at Jewel-Osco® in Oak Lawn. Representatives from the local fire and police departments raced against each other to collect the most non-perishable food items.

Additionally, members of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, Cook County 4-H programs, County Financial Agencies, sponsors, and schools donated food, pop tabs, and money to RMHC® CNI.

School Food Drive participants include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| John Dore | St. Germaine |
| Southwest | Haugan |
| Komarek | Concordia University |
| St. Rita | St. John Fisher School |
| Nathan Hale | Most Holy Redeemer |
| Nathan Davis | Proviso West High |
| Humbolt Community Christian | |
| Reavis High School FACS Department | |

The food drive raised 8,960 pounds of food.

Food donations were also collected by Chicago North, Chicago Northeast, Chicago Northwest, Chicago South, Orland Park, and South Holland Country Financial.

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COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® EXISTS “TO SERVE ALL MEMBERS OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® WITH MEANINGFUL AND BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS THAT REFLECT OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE.”

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for additional information.

Agricultural Roundtable
March, 2016

Location: RMH near Lurie, Chicago
Topic: Food Sanitation & Safety

Staff Exchange, Day 1
June 2016

Staff Exchange, Day 2
July 2016

Staff Exchange, Day 3
August 2016

Farm Bureau Establishes 2016 Legislative Priorities

- Seek passage of a state budget that provides funding for core agriculture programs and includes strategies for efficiently and effectively providing services.
- Maintain tax incentives for agriculture that protect the economic well-being of farmers.
- Seek legislation that will maintain reduced property tax assessments on agriculture filter strips so these important tools for nutrient management and the reduction of soil erosion remain economically viable.
- Seek legislation amending expedited review procedures for new large, complex utility projects that will better protect landowners' property rights.
- Seek legislation allowing the Governor to increase overweight tolerances for divisible loads of agricultural commodities during a declared harvest emergency.
- Oppose an increase to Illinois' minimum wage that is believed to be inflationary and would negatively impact Illinois' business climate.

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Benny the Bull lends a hand to Farm Bureau volunteers loading the vehicles after the Old Towne Triangle scavenger hunt. Both the morning and afternoon scavenger hunts were hosted by Jewel-Osco®.

Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee Endorses Candidates for Local Election

Anita Alvarez, State's Attorney

Jacob Meister, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Maryianna Spyropoulos, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Josina Mortia, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Joseph Daniel Cook, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Tom Greenow, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

All candidates were interviewed and endorsed by members of the Cook CFB PAC Governance Board.

A copy of our report is (or will be) available at the Illinois State Board of Elections website.

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Agents contributed 1,098 pounds of food, \$2,640 in cash donations, and \$1,066 in in-kind donations.

Food Checkout Day Partners:

Jewel-Osco®	Culver's
Il Corn Marketing Bd.	Potash Corp
Il Corn Growers Assoc.	Bob Smith
Joe & Janet McCabe	Kopping Farms
Orland Park Country	Rauch Farms
Chicago No. Country	Testa Produce, Inc.
Chicago NE. Country	IAA Credit Union
Bob & Jayne Rohrer	AAIC
Jim & Esther Goebbert	Jim & Karen Gutzmer
Zeldenrust Farm Market	Kristy Mottl & Friends

In 2012, Cook County Farm Bureau®'s annual Food Checkout Day program was named a Summit Award winner by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Summit Award recognizes the positive impact that associations have on their community.

As the county's largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.

Ronald McDonald House® provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment in the Chicagoland area. The food will be used to help feed families staying at the house.

For over a decade, the Cook County Farm Bureau® has held a benefit for the Ronald McDonald Houses® Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana to celebrate Food Checkout Day.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
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(708) 354-3276, cookcfb.org



Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL



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



Team Dionne Miller and Benny the Bull celebrate their victory. Miller is joined by volunteers from Country Financial and the American Agricultural Insurance Company. Both companies also sponsored the event and donated much needed food to the charity in celebration of Food Checkout Day.

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- Seek legislation to reduce the current traffic and criminal conviction surcharged paid on truck overweight fines.

2016 National Priority Issues

- Enact the Trans Pacific Partnership to boost Illinois ag exports.
- Prevent the WOTUS rule from being implemented and communicate voluntary efforts to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality on Illinois farms.
- Support voluntary GMO food labeling.
- Defend the Federal crop insurance program from budget cuts or harmful program changes.
- Expand the use of renewable fuels.

Additional information on the above priorities is available by contacting the Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276.

