

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
STAFF EXCHANGE
 JULY 19 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

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

ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Join the Conversation!

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

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

The second winner will be chosen on **June 21.**

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Corner of Clark and Randolph

In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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**THE
 POWER
 OF (A)
 AWARDS**

Program Offered for Legislative Staff

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

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

Agenda:

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

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

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

County, State and Federal staff members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org for additional information.



The Farmer is in: Farm Bureau members talk food, farming and nutrition at Arlington Park Racecourse during State Fair Family Day. The racecourse holds four themed family days throughout the racing season.

Farm Bureau Establishes 2016 Priorities

We will actively work to repeal the one percent sales tax approved by the Cook County Board in July of 2015 and will actively oppose future additional tax increases.

We will work to ensure that hay and row crop farming opportunities remain available to local farmers interested in pursuing rental agreements with the Cook County Forest Preserve District. If requested, Farm Bureau will provide assistance with advertising available parcels, the rental process, paperwork, and deadlines.

We will work to ensure that agriculture is protected during incorporation discussions. Unincorporated Cook County is home to most of the county's production agriculture industry.

We will work to ensure that urban agriculture, including but not limited to urban farms, community gardens and school gardens, remain permissible under municipal and county ordinances. Farm Bureau will work with those groups and organizations engaged in urban farming, community gardens and school gardens when feasible.

We will work to ensure that farmland in Cook County is assessed in a fair and reasonable manner. Additionally, we will work with the Cook County Assessor's Office to further streamline the farmland affidavit process.

We will work the Cook County Department of Building and Zoning regarding local farms, farm buildings, and the farm exemption process in unincorporated Cook County.



Cook County Farm Bureau board member Janet McCabe discusses Ostara's 10K System with Phillip Abrary, President and CEO of Ostara. Ostara's patented technology will allow the MWRD to recover nutrients from wastewater and transform it into over 9,000 tons per year of high-value fertilizer.

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for additional information.

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

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

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

Staff Exchange, Day 3
August 2016

MWRD Candidate Coffee
August 24, 2016

Comptroller Candidate Coffee
September 8, 2016

Center for Tax & Budget Accountability
Policy Presentation
September 13, 2016

Farm Bureau Members Offer Their Opinions

Earlier this year, Cook County Farm Bureau® surveyed its voting members regarding key issues that they are facing. Provided below is a summary of the results.

Farm Bureau members are split between immediately rolling back the sales tax increase and cutting county services while gradually rolling back the sales tax increase approved in July 2015. Farm Bureau remains opposed to the sales tax increase implemented in 2015 and is committed to efforts to repeal the tax.

In a decisive show of support, sixty-seven percent of members support streamlining Illinois government by reducing overlapping departments and redundant services. Cook County Farm Bureau® is pursuing a resolution regarding this matter.

For the second year in a row, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits remains a controversial topic. Forty-one percent of Farm Bureau members responding to the survey support skipping automatic renewal after two years for individuals receiving SNAP benefits. Members argue that renewals should be processed after supporting documentation is provided by the recipient.

Last but not least, seventy percent of members believe that burdensome government regulations are the largest threat to the agricultural industry. Farm Bureau is pursuing a resolution supporting the reduction of government regulations.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food

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CookCFB

Legislative Year in Review

A summary of one of Farm Bureau's key legislative issue is provided below:

Telecommunications Right-of-Way-Senate Bill 2237 (Sen. Harmon/Rep. Nekritz)

Senate Bill 2237, which allows telecommunications companies to install their cable in road rights-of-way without negotiating an easement with the landowner in most cases, was not called for a vote in the House Public Utilities Committee. The bill has not yet moved forward and did not receive a vote by the full House of Representatives. Farm Bureau will continue to monitor the issue.

Cook County Farm Bureau members have responded to two action requests on this issue and will continue to engage with legislators regarding Farm Bureau's opposition to Senate Bill 2237.