

Farm Bureau Considering Policy Regarding CSAs

It's estimated that between 30,000 and 50,000 U.S. consumers are Community Supported Agriculture or CSA shareholders.

CSAs help build a connection between consumers and the farm where their food is produced.

Generally, CSAs involve consumers who support a farmer financially by paying for a share of the farm's production prior to each growing season. By paying for food prior to planting, CSA members essentially assume the risk of crop failure or pest or disease problems and understand that a refund will not be issued in the event that no crops are harvested.

Cook CFB's policy would call for reasonable standards for farms operating CSAs to protect both the farmers and shareholders.

Generally, the policy submittal states:

Community supported agriculture or CSAs are a program where a farmer grows food for a group of shareholders who contract to buy a portion of the future crop in a direct marketing relationship.

We support:

1. Farms disclosing to shareholders whether products will originate from a single farm or multiple farms.
2. Farms utilizing Good Agriculture Practices and abiding by any state or federal statutes regarding food safety to prevent any food safety risk, including contamination.
3. Farms, in the event of any product substitution, notifying shareholders by providing a list of products and the physical address of the originating farm of where the product was grown.
4. Farms maintaining records of the contents and origins of all products included in the CSA shares.
5. Farms maintaining records that document products and physical address and contact information of where the product was grown to assure traceability.

The policy will be considered by Farm Bureau delegates in December.



Farming is our livelihood and our passion. We invite you to see how we raise your food on today's modern farming. Tim Stuenkel and Julie Michaels, Matteson grain farmers.

Member Business Spotlight: Karmaworks Organics

Karmaworks Organics based in Chicago provides organic fertilizers. Organic matter is the only amendment that aids both the fertility and the texture of the soil.

Karmaworks Organics' primary goal encourage and create harmony within the soil while striving to improve the soil. Karmaworks Organics, Inc. has decades of experience in our staff that bring together a vast variety of farming, organic gardening and hydroponics at the retail and wholesale levels.

Karmaworks Organics

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In and Around Cook County Agriculture



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THE
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AWARDS

Farm Bureau Remains Opposed to Beverage Tax Proposal

For nearly 100 years the Cook County Farm Bureau® has strived to bridge the gap between farmers and our urban neighbors.

As a partner in the food and beverage industry we are concerned about a beverage tax in Cook County. Cook County residents already face heightened taxes that negatively impact the county's business climate, like the increase in sales tax. Commissioners should not be considering another tax that will hurt businesses and job growth in Cook County.

A beverage tax will hurt families in Cook County by increasing costs and cutting jobs. The beverage industry's presence is felt across the state from can manufacturers to delivery drivers to grocers, restaurants, and our member's movie theatres.

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Farm Bureau names 'Friends of Farm Bureau'

The following Cook County Commissioners were named 'Friend of the Farm Bureau' by the Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee in August.

Commissioner Sean Morrison
Commissioner Gregg Goslin
Commissioner Peter Silvestri
Commissioner Bridget Gainer
Commissioner Timothy Schneider
Commissioner John Fritchey
Commissioner Richard Boykin
Commissioner Larry Suffredin

To be designated a 'Friend of the Farm Bureau,' Commissioners had to have supported Farm Bureau's key legislative issues and priorities more than 70% of the time.

Commissioners will receive their awards later this fall. All awards are provided by the Political Action Committee and will be reported to both the Illinois State Board of Elections and Cook County Clerk's Office in accordance with state law and county ordinance.

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.”

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Nearly 100,000 Illinois residents are either directly or indirectly employed by the non-alcoholic beverage industry. These jobs create \$6.2 billion in wages.

The proposed tax will add 68 cents to the price of a two-liter bottle. This is a 68 percent tax on a common household item. This tax will add \$1.44 or 32 percent to a 12-pack of soda.

American Farm Bureau Federation policy #159 states that Farm Bureau opposes anyone dictating which foods should and should not be eaten including imposing “health taxes” on food and beverages. The policy also opposes using taxpayers’ money for the purpose of legislating or controlling the diets of American people.

The Cook County Farm Bureau® opposes the proposed tax.

Farm Bureau Remains Opposed to Forced Annexations

Cook County Farm Bureau®’s 2016 priorities states: “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.”

In September, the Civic Federation issued a second report calling for the annexation of all remaining unincorporated areas in Cook County. The report builds on a 2014 report. Both reports emphasize the potential cost-savings that could be realized if unincorporated areas ceased to exist.

According to the report issued by the Civic Federation, unincorporated areas generate \$24 million in revenue for the county per year. Cook County spends \$43 million per year for policing and building and zoning regulations.

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Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri (pictured right) received a 2016 “Friend of the Farm Bureau” award. The award recognizes commissioners with a legislative voting record supportive of Farm Bureau issues. The award was purchased and presented by the Cook County Farm Bureau Political Action Committee.

Young Leaders and Toy Box Connection’s

Holiday Toy Drive

Donate unwrapped new/gently used toys for children between the ages of 13 and 19.

Needed Items

- DVD’s
- Puzzles and games
- Books
- Musical instruments
- Bikes
- Video games and systems
- Sports equipment
- Gift cards

Donations can be dropped off at:

Cook County Farm Bureau®
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, Illinois 60525

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This report concludes that there is a deficit of \$19 million annually. The Civic Federation says that’s not fair to residents who live in incorporated areas.

The report does note that residents in unincorporated areas may not want to be annexed.

However, the Civic Federation’s report skims over the fact that Cook County is engaged in a lawsuit regarding the legality of several annexations made by Lemont.

Over 120,000 or 2.4 percent of Cook County’s residents call unincorporated areas home.

Farm Bureau will monitor this issue and communicate the organization’s position to Commissioners.



Representative Bob Rita receives a 2016 Friend of Agriculture award from Cook CFB Board member Ruth Zeldenrust. The award recognizes Rep. Rita’s outstanding voting record.

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Farm. Family. Food

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Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL.



CookCFB

Farm Bureau Remains Opposed to Mandatory Paid Sick Leave

Farm Bureau sent the following communication to Cook County Commissioners:

The purpose of this communication is to discuss Ordinance 16-4229 Employer Paid Sick Leave. On Wednesday, August 10 members of the Public Policy Team discussed the ordinance and identified potential concerns. On Thursday, September 1 members of the Public Policy Team discussed the ordinance and unanimously supported a motion to oppose Ordinance 16-4229.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is **OPPOSED** to Ordinance 16-4229, Employer Paid Sick Leave.

American Farm Bureau Federation® policy 136 General Labor Issues, page 22, point 4.9 opposes requiring employers to provide sick leave.

The term *employer* is defined as any person employing one or more employees indicating that the changes provided by proposed ordinance is applicable to all sizes of employers regardless of the number of employees that they employ. While the changes proposed by the ordinance will have a minimal impact on large employers, the impact will be significantly larger on small employers.

Additionally, the most daunting task for small employers is the requirement to report their sick leave policy each year. Larger businesses will likely have an employee designated to handle human relations tasks.

In addition to activating an organization-wide action request, Farm Bureau staff also provided oral testimony regarding Farm Bureau’s opposition and policy.

Farm Bureau appreciates those Cook County Commissioners voting against Ordinance 16-4229, Mandatory Paid Sick Leave.