



# 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

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8	Earth Day Teacher Workshop	6
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27	Wacky World of Wonderful Plants	12
MAY		
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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).

## Question of the Month

**As we celebrate member appreciation week in April, what is the Cook County Farm Bureau's most valuable asset?**

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, fax your answer to 708-579-6056 or email to [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com) to enter the drawing for a \$25 gas card. (Please include name, FB# and phone number)

March's Winner is Joan Yelnicker

Each year, around the first day of Spring, National Agriculture Day is observed as the foundation and backbone of our healthy and prosperous nation through the efforts of farmers, workers and those connected to the Ag industry. What is the date for this year's National Agriculture Day?

**Answer: "March 23"**

## One Year Ago

It was just one year ago...

The Co-Operator carried an update regarding Covid 19, the 100 - year anniversary event and service to members as circumstances were changing on a daily basis. The office transitioned to a work at home model as a result of the shelter-in-place order from the Governor.

Due to concern and interest in member safety and well-being, the Board of Directors chose to postpone the Breakfast at the Farm Bureau 100 year Anniversary Celebratory Event (eventually shifting the event to a drive through, outdoor event).

The organization shifted delivery of membership benefits and services, information and communication, issue management and Ag in the Classroom programming to technology-based systems. Meetings, seminars and workshops transitioned to Zoom and Teams videoconferencing.

Cook County Farm Bureau leadership and staff worked with Illinois Farm Bureau regarding farming, food and plant production as essential services.

**The past year has been full of ups and downs. We hope this next year has fewer "valleys".**

## Food Checkout Day Helps Replenish Area Food Pantries



Farm Bureau leaders and volunteers shopped and donated food and cash in celebration of this year's Food Checkout Day. Food Checkout Day celebrates and recognizes the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers. Over \$11,000 was donated to local Cook County pantries in celebration of Food Checkout Day and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers. Thanks to all the members and Country Financial agencies that donated to the cause! More photos and info on page 4.

## Don't Know Beans About Soybeans? Learn More About One of Illinois' Most Common Crops and What it's Used For

by Carrie Steinweg, Freelance Writer



These soybeans have been harvested from the pods of the plant. Each pod typically contains 3-4 soybeans.

Illinois is the second highest producer of corn among the U.S. states. And it's the leader in the country in pumpkin growing. And that's not all. We're also at the top when it comes to soybeans. Illinois is the largest producer of soybeans and when combined with what the runner-up, Iowa, grows, it accounts for more than a quarter of the total U.S. soybean crop.

With the favorable climate and soil conditions in the Prairie State, Illinois farmers have an advantage on yield over other regions with poorer soil, said Illinois Soybean Association's (ISA) Director of Public Policy and Market Development, Andrew Larson. "Here in Illinois, we are gifted with some of the richest soil in the world. Illinois farms know this advantage and are motivated to take care of the soil and ground they farm to maintain their advantages for generations to come."

In Cook County, soybeans typically are planted anywhere from early April to early May depending on how dry the fields are and when soil temperature is trending toward favorable for strong emergence, according to ISA Director of Conservation Agriculture, Michael Gill, which means aiming for a mid-40-degree range soil

**Continued on Page 2**

## 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!

# Don't Know Beans About Soybeans? Continued



Soybean plant in mid-season growth.

temperature with an extended forecast of 55-plus degree days for seven days out.

Under ideal conditions, farmers would like to get a minimum of 130,000 evenly spaced plants per acre after planting 160,000 seeds per acre. The number of successfully emerged plants will be up to the favorability of the weather. Yield will be dependent on the overall temperature during the season, distribution of rainfall and pest (weeds, insects and diseases) control throughout the growing season.

By late September crops are typically ready for harvest and timing depends on the maturity rating of soybean and grain moisture level. There are a greater number of desirable harvest days in the southern part of the state because of the temperature difference from the northern part of the state and the grain moisture fluctuation overnight.

Once harvested, minimal handling is best to prevent splitting and breaking. Farmers then deliver the harvest to a grain elevator so that a grain dealer can transport the crop. Most of Illinois' soybeans are exported to other states or countries. Those crops that don't go to storage or a grain elevator may go on to a crushing facility where it is turned to meal and oil is separated before going on to factories or production facilities where it may become anything from protein powder or meat substitutes to non-food products, like insulation, artificial turf or adhesives.

"Most major food companies, including Mars, Mondelez, Kraft-Nabisco and many more use soy in some form in their food production around Chicagoland," said Larson. He added

that Indonesian investors are looking to bring tempeh chip production to Chicago to sell to Asian cuisine markets in the area.

### Fun Facts About Soy (Source Illinois Soybean Association):

- Soybeans are legumes that actually capture nitrogen from air through a symbiotic microorganism that forms small nodules on the root.
- If Illinois were a country, we would be the fourth largest soybean producer in the world behind: Brazil, U.S. (the rest minus Illinois) and Argentina.
- Use of soybean biodiesel can lead to as much as 80% less carbon emissions than regular petroleum diesel fuel.
- Soybean meal and oil do not compete for the use of the crop. Both end users have distinct production lines and are not interchangeable.

### 10 Things Made from Soybeans (Source United Soybean Board)

1. Animal feed
2. Soy beverage
3. Tofu
4. Soy Lecithin (food additive that protects texture and flavor)
5. Vegetable oil
6. Tempeh
7. Biodiesel
8. Protein powder
9. Edamame
10. Tires

## 5 things members should know about... The Governmental Affairs Team

**1.** The mission of the Governmental Affairs Committee is to surface and develop policy and to provide reliable, accurate, and common-sense information to elected officials and their staffs in order to build a dialogue between the organization and policymakers. The Governmental Affairs Committee serves as a voice for all Cook County Farm Bureau® members.

**2.** A cornerstone of the Governmental Affairs Team is grassroots policy generation. Through the 'Micro' Viewpoint Survey, team members solicit member insights and use the responses to generate local, state, and national Farm Bureau policy.

**3.** Cook County Farm Bureau's nationally recognized Staff Exchange program has reached over 125 individuals since 2012. Designed to bridge the gap between modern agriculture and urban legislators, the program connects legislators and their staff members with agribusinesses, food processors, and farmers throughout Cook County.

**4.** Legislatively, Farm Bureau, along with strategic partners, successfully advocated for the repeal of the Cook County Beverage Tax. Over the course of several months, Farm Bureau worked with partners to meet with legislators to discuss the ramifications of increasing local taxes. After nearly six months of conversations, the coalition successfully advocated for the repeal of the tax.

**5.** Team members participate in the FB ACT program. Through FB ACT members are able to take back their influence in Washington, Springfield, and locally. FB ACT is a tool to contact elected officials and ask them to vote in support of Illinois farmers. Interested? Text 'FARM' to 52886.



## 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...

Gerry Kopping for taking time to record his reflections as part of Cook County Farm Bureau's 100-Year Celebration. Interviews are available at <https://cookcfb.org/ccfb/100-year-celebration-and-our-history/anniversary-interviews>.

Everyone who donated food, funds, or their time in celebration of this year's Food Checkout Day. The Children's Farm at The Center in Palos Park for partnering with us for our first ever virtual Ag Day.

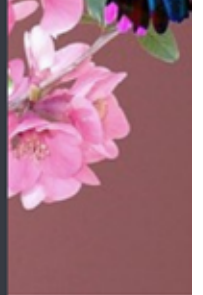
Communities in Schools of Chicago and Rishona Taylor for their partnership in providing educational resource support to CPS providers.

The Members and Partners that purchased tickets or sponsored the CCFB Foundation's Drawdown for Ag Education to help provide farm experiences for youth and ag career scholarships for members seeking a higher education in Cook County.

The Foundation Fundraising Committee members: Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Tim Stuenkel, Kim Morton, Karen Biernacki, and Jeff Orman for putting together and executing the Foundations Drawdown for Ag Education virtual event on March 23.

LIMITED IN-PERSON AND TAKE & MAKE VIA ZOOM

## Pollinator Pot Workshop at Ray's Quality Greenhouse



Create your own pollinator friendly pot to display on your porch/patio this summer. This beautiful pot is designed to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. During class we will also share delicious recipes so you can enjoy butterflies, cookies and cocktails while admiring your new pot!

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 2 PM  
Greenhouse location: 117 231st St, Steger, IL 60475  
or via live zoom

\$30.00 for members and guest; includes pot with soil, plantings, and fertilizer.

Registration limited to 10 in-person participants; unlimited take & make via zoom (curbside pickup arrangements will be made prior).

To register, call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).



## 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 Value of Free?”

Through the years, I have been heard saying the following phrase: “Free’ is one of my favorite words.” Free lunch. Free beverage. Free tools. Free wood. Free equipment. Freedom. I frequently offer “free” advice, especially to my kids. There is something about the word “Free”.

For many years, I was much like a college student regarding free furniture. “Sure, I’ll take it!” Quality, appearance, and comfort were optional. Finally, my wife and I have started a much more selective process regarding furniture, at least. We feel like such grown-ups!

I have begun to realize, probably too late in life, that the value of free stuff is usually about what you pay for it.

A classic example of free was when my wife and I were offered a “free” hot tub several years ago. Why did I say “yes”? I do not remember ever wanting a hot tub. The small print was, “We only had to come get it.” That process took some major coordination with strong friends, a large trailer, and a creative moving strategy.

Hot tubs do not look that big or heavy in their natural environment. In order to get the hot tub to the preferred location, we rolled the hot tub on its side and up the back sidewalk to our back patio. In retrospect, rolling a hot tub is probably not good for either its external or internal physical integrity.

To prepare for the “free” hot tub, we paid some serious dollars to install a 220 electric circuit necessary to run the hot tub systems. We paid plenty of dollars for the water treatment products, testing, and balancing. The pool/hot tub company billed us faithfully to come out and repair the hot tub each time we called. Finally, during a subzero stretch of winter a few years ago, the hot tub ceased functioning, resulting in cracked pipes and parts.

That was enough... I spent a great deal of time and energy (and a bit of money) with a reciprocating saw, cutting that free hot tub into small pieces. I then rationed those pieces into the garbage for pickup over a 3-month period. What did I learn about the word “free”? Not much, apparently.

A few years ago, my Dad, the farmer, offered to me a small 5’ x 8’ flatbed utility trailer... for “free”. Yes, I was all in. I had visions of all the hauling I could do for many home projects we had planned. Plus, I could feel more like a farmer with my big rig.

The “free” trailer was great to use in the first couple years. We used it to haul fencing lumber, decking boards, loads of mulch, lawn tractors, grills, patio furniture, retaining wall pavers, attic insulation, wood flooring, and more. It felt like a pretty good use of the word “free” by saving delivery charges, time and time again.

However, today, the trailer’s plywood flooring is deteriorating, and the tires will only stay inflated for a day or so. The turn signal/brake lights work when the wires are wiggled properly. Don’t hit a bump. A giant hickory tree fell on the corner of the trailer, springing its squareness. It is now a bit twisted.

I’m beginning to consider the “Is it worth it?” price point for this free trailer? Two years ago, it did not matter much... The major cost of the trailer was the Secretary of State license fee for \$18... inexpensive.

The other day, I was sitting in my kitchen looking at a new license renewal for \$118 to the Secretary of State for the right to use my free trailer. Liability insurance coverage is mandatory endorsement on my auto insurance. The county has caught up with me charging another \$60 for the Cook County Wheel Tax for the trailer. Throw in the additional \$152 license for my SUV with trailer hitch to pull the trailer, the \$100 SUV Cook County Wheel tax and I’m beginning to wonder, “Is the free trailer worth it?” I’m going to have to think about it.

Something I do not have to think about is Membership in the Cook County Farm Bureau. The Membership is not “free”. However, it is certainly priced at an incredible value for the wide range of quality programming, membership benefits and discounts, educational experiences, seminars and workshops, public and social service contributions, communications, and support for member related issues!

As a guy who really likes the word “free,” I would certainly pay a lot more for my annual membership to the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. I thank all of our many members for your continued membership renewal. I hope that you continue to find great value in what your Cook County Farm Bureau has to offer.

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

### Recipe of the Month:

## Greener Green Goddess Dip

2021



**Greenhouse, farmstand ingredient list:**  
lemon, arugula, parsley, chives, shallots

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 c mayonnaise
- 1 T fresh lemon juice
- 2 T fresh arugula, packed and chopped
- 1/4 c fresh flat parsley, packed and chopped
- 1/4 c fresh chives, chopped
- 2 T shallots, minced
- 2 anchovy fillets, packed in oil
- 2/3 c whole-milk plain Greek yogurt
- Salt and fresh cracked pepper, to taste

**Directions:**

- In blender or food processor, combine all ingredients except yogurt, salt, pepper. Pulse until smooth, about 10 to 15 pulses.
- Transfer mixture to a small bowl and gently fold in the yogurt until well combined. Adjust seasoning with salt and freshly ground pepper.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour to allow flavors to develop. Serve with fresh vegetables or pita chips.
- Makes 1 1/4 cups; prep time 30 minutes

(Sneak peek recipe from 2021-2022 Recipe Collection available late April)



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## Helping you protect what matters most

0819-503HO

## Farm Bureau Recognizes COUNTRY Financial Achievers

On an annual basis, the Cook County Farm Bureau® pays special tribute to the COUNTRY Financial Managers and Financial Representatives that earn All American honors as well as those that are named in the top 10 recruiters of membership. A gift is provided to those Reps that earn the recognition and are “Farm Bureau certified” by seeking additional knowledge and information about the Cook County Farm Bureau. The following Country Financial Managers and Financial Reps are recognized for their 2020 successes...

- Orland Park Country Financial Agency (Cary Tate, Manager)**  
All Americans: Jim Andresen, Nora Beverly, Mike Spadoni  
Top 10 Recruiters of the Year: Kurt Husein, Troy Vidovic, Mike Spadoni
- South Holland Country Financial Agency**

- (Jeff Orman, Manager)**  
All Americans: Randall Cox, John Van Gennep  
**Chicago South Country Financial Agency (Jeff Maxson, Manager)**  
All Americans: Nick Zegar, Jeff Maxson  
Top 10 Recruiters of the Year: Kirk Gregory, Jr., Alonzo Nevarez, Gwen Shaw, Ed Beavers, Leo Maldonado, David De Santiago  
**Chicago Northeast Country Financial Agency (Sharon Stemke, Manager)**  
All Americans: Matt Powell, Yanni Zavakos  
**Chicago North Country Financial Agency (Victoria Nygren, Manager)**  
All Americans: Ilir Numani, Sylwia Grochowska  
Top 10 Recruiters of the Year: Margaret Jura (#1), Matt Whitsett, Ilir Numani, Mirsad Kljucanin, Vicki Nygren (#1 recruiting agency)  
*Congratulations to all of the 2020 All Americans and Recruiters of the Year!*

## Nursing Scholarship Application Available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty-ninth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered

Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, program manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via email at [dgallivan@iffb.org](mailto:dgallivan@iffb.org).

# CCFB Foundation Scholar Winners Announced

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation have selected seven individuals as recipients of the 2021-2022 Scholarship Program. Colleen Elzinga of Evergreen Park was awarded the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship. Receiving general farm and food scholarships were Jonathon Poole of Chicago; Katherine Manika of North Riverside; Daniel Macina of Mt. Prospect; Jennifer Miller of Justice; Thomas Poole of Chicago; and Andrew Smits of Sauk

Village. A total of \$16,000 of scholarship funds were distributed.

**Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship**

This scholarship is designed to honor Mr. Howard Paarlberg, the first President of the Foundation and President of the Farm Bureau for 19 years. The recipient carries the prestige of being the top-rated applicant and a greater financial reward for the individual.



**Colleen Elzinga** Howard Paarlberg Award University of Illinois



**Daniel Macina** Michigan State



**Thomas Poole** University of Illinois



**Jennifer Miller** Illinois State University



**Jonathon Poole** University of Illinois



**Katherine Manika** St. Xavier University



**Andrew Smits** Purdue University

*The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation was established by the Cook County Farm Bureau to carry out charitable, literary, and educational work in Agriculture. The Foundation Board established the Agricultural Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance to students pursuing education for agricultural careers and to encourage the best and brightest young minds to return to Agriculture as their chosen career.*



## CENTENNIAL LEGACY PATIO CREATED TO BENEFIT FOUNDATION

*A COMMEMORATIVE LEGACY PATIO IN HONOR THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF CCFB SERVICE TO MEMBERS*



To mark the Centennial celebration of the Cook County Farm Bureau, the Farm Bureau and Foundation partnered to create a Commemorative Patio on the grounds of the Cook County Farm Bureau. The Commemorative Patio is close to the east entrance of the Farm Bureau building and features personalized memory pavers, three park benches, a wrought iron fence, and flower boxes. Members and Farm Bureau/Foundation supporters and partners can still support the project by purchasing a paver that will be incorporated into the patio. The paver can include the member or family name, encouragement, recognition, and other well wishes.

Three sizes of paver are available and proceeds from the sale of the pavers go directly to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to improve and enhance agricultural literacy in Cook County. Donation for the pavers are fully deductible per IRS guidelines. Go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) or call the CCFB office at (708) 354-3276 for order form or to donate.

## Soil Testing Kits Available

Cook County Farm Bureau offers both members and non-members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth's store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables, or crops. Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous and other key elements to begin the soil improvement process.

well as mailing information included in the test kit and members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

### Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

1 sample Soil 098Test Kit: \$25 | 2 sample kit: \$32 | 3 sample kit: \$50 | 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$52 | 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$45. Non-member pricing also available.

Soil Kits are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau for by phone at 708-354-3276 using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover at no additional charge. Costs are subject to change.

Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as

# Spring Yard, Lawn and Garden Prep. Subtitle under is Compliments of the Master Gardener Help Desk, South Suburban Cook

Spring is upon us and with it comes outdoor cleanup of yards, lawns, and gardens, for the coming growing season. We asked award winning South Suburban Cook Master Gardener Help Desk for tips on getting started...here is what we learned:

### When cleaning up yard debris from the previous season, think about and look at what you are removing:

- Broken branches should be pruned off. Be sure to disinfect pruning tools before and after pruning.
- Any diseased materials should be disposed of, not composted.
- In the fall we advised to leave hollow stems from herbaceous plants up through the winter, as native insects including solitary bees overwinter in the hollow stems. Do not remove these too early.
- Also, some native fritillaries overwinter as caterpillars on or near their host plants. Eastern black swallowtail butterflies overwinter as pupa inside a chrysalis, which camouflages well with the twig or branch it's attached to; take care not to remove these treasures.
- Other beneficial insects such as ladybugs and lightning bugs overwinter

in leaf tatter and in the moist earth; take care not to remove their habitat too early. Plus leaving healthy leaf tatter in place will help keep the soil from becoming too dry, and the decomposing leaves add nutrients to the soil.

### When planning for your new gardens, take a critical look and review what worked last year and what didn't and why. A Master Gardener slogan is, "Don't fight the site!" For example:

- If your garden floods, use plants that will not just survive but thrive in that setting.
- Also how do you want to use your garden: Kitchen herbs? Attract butterflies? There are plants that will be on-point for your goals. If in doubt, ask a Master Gardener!

### Looking at your winter lawn, now what?

As snows depart each spring, lawns often show damage that occurred during the winter. In particular, vole (mice) and snow mold (fungus disease) damage can be very destructive to lawns. Success or failure of a home lawn is closely tied into how well the soil and site was prepared prior to lawn establishment.

- Eliminating weed problems existing

on the site is an important first step. Perennial weeds, such as quack grass or tall fescue, need to be controlled prior to lawn seeding or sodding.

- Before seeding or sodding, it's important to thoroughly work the soil. Amend poor soils, such as heavy clay, by adding organic matter. Sources include compost, rotted manure, peat, and quality topsoil. Sand is not suggested as a material to improve clay soils for home lawns.
- Soil preparation should be done when the soil is not too dry or wet as tillage will destroy soil structure and create problems with air and water-holding capacity and drainage after a rain event.
- Soil testing\* is suggested prior to establishment and should be done during the planning process. Soil testing reveals the oil pH and amount of available nutrients such as phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). If major modifications are needed, it is easier to make these prior to establishing the lawn.

The University of Illinois Extension's Lawntalk website has detailed information on lawn care, a calendar, grass selection,

troubleshooting, and so much more. This can be found at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/lawntalk/index.cfm>.

\*The Cook County Farm Bureau's Soil Testing Program offers kits for sale. We partner with the South Suburban Cook County Master Gardener Help Desk to help with results interpretation and soil amendment.

To locate member garden center and greenhouse businesses and to ShopLocal for all your yard, garden, and lawn needs go to: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>.



# Cook County Farm Bureau® and Partners Raise Cash and Food Donations for Local Food Pantries

## Cook County Farm Bureau® Celebrates its 20th Annual Food Checkout Day

Together with partners, Cook County Farm Bureau® donated much needed food staples and essential non-food items to six Cook County food pantries. Donations were raised in celebration of Food Checkout Day. Food Checkout Day celebrates the healthy and nutritious food local farmers grow and raise by providing food or cash donations to people in need.

In light of the tremendous pressure created by COVID-19, in addition to launching Farm Bureau's largest community effort to date, Cook County Farm Bureau matched members' monetary donations. Over \$11,000 was donated to local Cook County pantries in celebration of Food Checkout Day this year and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers.

The donations directly benefited the one in seven individuals in Cook County who are hungry. Partner food pantries, Alicia's House, South Chicago Heights; Lakeview Pantry, Chicago; Orland Township Food Pantry, Orland Park; Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, Hoffman Estates; St. Cletus Food Pantry, LaGrange; and Wheeling Township Food Pantry, Wheeling, were selected by local representatives from COUNTRY Financial®. Representatives were from the following COUNTRY Financial agencies Chicago North, Chicago South, Chicago Northwest, Chicago Northeast, Orland Park, and South Holland COUNTRY Financial offices.

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

For the past 19 years, Cook County Farm Bureau has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. Through the generosity of partners for nearly two decades, Farm Bureau donated over \$145,000 and nearly 100,000 pounds of food. In 2012, Food Checkout Day was named a Summit Award winner by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Summit Award recognizes the positive impact that non-profit associations have on their community.

Thank you to the following members who donated:

### Alicia's House, South Chicago Heights

- Patti Alex
- Randall Cox
- Jeff Orman

### Lakeview Pantry, Chicago

- Omar Ariza
- Malgorzata Jura
- Vicki Nygren
- Zoe Sing

### Orland Township Food Pantry, Orland Park

- Linda and Peter Bosy
- Nick Burke
- Tom Geraghty
- Tim Hartnell
- Samantha Hayes
- Lynn Heim
- Valerie Martin
- Terry LeMastus
- Liana Mierendorf
- Tony Palumbo
- Mike Spadoni
- Cary Tate
- Mike Thauer
- Joel Wrzesinski

### Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, Hoffman Estates

- Barbara Bennett
- Irene Burnett
- Mark Coon
- Kevin Gomes
- Marla Miler
- Tony Scalzitti
- Kevin Snow
- Cheryl Winter

### St. Cletus Food Pantry, LaGrange

- Mary Jane Garrett
- James and Linda Kemper
- Janet McCabe
- Bob and Jayne Rohrer

### Wheeling Township Food Pantry, Arlington Heights

- Paula Matzek
- Sharon Stemke

Donations matched by the Farm Bureau to local food pantries that were not partner pantries:

- Edward and Marikay Benes, Together We Cope
- George and Geri Boyle, Open Food Pantry (Bethany Lutheran Church)
- Ned and Pamela Bruns, Elk Grove Pantry
- Angelica Carmen, Mission of our Lady of the Angels
- Horton Chiropractic, Self Help Closet and Pantry of Des Plaines

Congratulations to the Orland Park Country Financial Agency who won the Tipping the Scales Competition with Cook agencies for their financial and food donations.

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.



Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders supported Alicia's House Food Pantry in South Chicago Heights as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Leaders shopped for, purchased, and donated non-perishable food items and personal care items requested by the pantry.



Chicago North COUNTRY® Financial representatives and Farm Bureau leaders delivered food to the Lakeview Pantry in Chicago in celebration of this year's Food Checkout Day and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers.



House Republican Leader Jim Durkin joined Farm Bureau leaders for food delivery at St. Cletus Food Pantry in Countryside. In addition to assisting with the delivery, Leader Durkin also financially supported St. Cletus Food Pantry and their efforts in the community.



Illinois Senator Bill Cunningham, pictured center, joined Cook County Farm Bureau and representatives from the Orland Park Country Financial agency for this year's Food Checkout Day. Financial representatives from Orland Park selected the Orland Township Food Pantry as their partner pantry.



Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders and volunteers delivered food to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry in celebration of this year's Food Checkout Day. In addition to non-perishable food items and cash donations, Farm Bureau also matched member donations to local food pantries, including Wheeling Township Food Pantry.



Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison joined Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders and financial representatives from the Chicago Northwest COUNTRY® Financial agency to deliver nearly 700 pounds of non-perishable food to the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry. Also financial representatives from Chicago Northwest COUNTRY® Financial donated over \$1,000 to the pantry in celebration of Food Checkout Day.

## Your Orland Park Agency



Cary Tate  
708-226-1111  
Agency Manager  
Orland Park, IL



Piero Setta  
708-226-0431  
7601 W 191st St  
Tinley Park, IL



Jim Andresen  
708-633-6490  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



Thomas Geraghty  
708-425-9700  
5003 W 95th St  
Oak Lawn, IL



George Parthemore  
708-226-1896  
9432 W 143rd St  
Orland Park, IL



Mike Skrabis  
708-226-1666  
9731 W 165th St  
Orland Park, IL



Tony Palumbo  
708-403-5708  
7601 W 191st St  
Tinley Park, IL



Mike Spadoni  
708-425-1825  
3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



Bob Johnson  
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Tinley Park, IL



Dan Stumpf  
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17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



Bill Thompson  
708-361-1304  
106 Stephen St  
Lemont, IL



Nora Beverly  
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17605 S Oak Park Ave.  
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Brian Zielinski  
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Lemont, IL



Nick Burke  
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3923 W 95th St  
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Mike Thauer  
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3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



Erica Storrs-Gray  
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12130 S Harlem Ave  
Palos Heights, IL



Terry LaMastus  
708-754-5900  
3308 Chicago Rd  
Steger, IL



Joe Voves  
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3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL

9731 W 165th St, Suite 36  
Orland Park, IL 60467  
708-226-1111



# Ag Lit Bit

“A Fresh Start”



Diane Merrion,  
CCFB Director of  
Ag Literacy

The backhoes arrived and out it all came. After years of digging through rocks to plant flowers and bushes, I decided enough was enough. Like all home improvement projects, I always think everything looks easy and can be done by me or my husband (just ask him). We first began trying to remove the rocks by hand, shovel by shovel, and progressed to wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow. After a few weeks and him finally quitting on me, I purchased endless bags of mulch and covered all the rocks up thinking it would make my misery disappear. Unfortunately, it did not.

With April upon us and ironically, National Gardening Month I was ready for a fresh start. If there was any year for a fresh start it was 2021. While the year has not turned out to be a bed of roses so far, it has provided new hope and new possibilities which was exactly what I was looking for in my garden!

The origin of National Gardening Month can be traced back to 1986 when President Reagan

declared April 12-18 as National Gardening Week. The week was observed yearly in April until 2002 when the entire month of April was dedicated to “all things gardening”. The benefits of gardening are numerous including reducing stress, promoting healthy eating, providing exercise, producing food, and helping the environment. What a wonderful way to connect with neighbors, celebrate family time and meet others who share your passion. I am excited to welcome warmer weather and to start digging in the garden and filling pots with soil. Feel free to reach out to us here at the farm bureau for soil test kits, school garden resources, lessons, books and activities and local greenhouse referrals. We hope you will join our Wacky, Wonderful World of Plants ZOOM session on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Diane can be reached at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).

*A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. — Gertrude Jekyll.*

For more information, contact Diane Merrion, [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).



## COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION 2021 BOOKMARK CONTEST

“THANK YOU FARMERS FOR OUR FOOD, FIBER AND FUEL”

Design a bookmark illustrating how agriculture affects your life every day.

Whether it's eating a food pollinated by a bee, enjoying a glass of milk from a cow, eating popcorn, coloring with a soy-based crayon, wearing clothes made from cotton, eating cereal made with wheat or driving a car using ethanol, we want YOU to show us how farmers impact our lives. Open to students up to age 12.

A First Place winner and three runners up will be selected. The First Place winner will receive a \$40 Amazon gift card, Runner Up winners will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. The winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution this summer at local libraries and park district events hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau®.

Entries must be received by 5/1/2021 via email or mail. Judging will be completed by 5/15/2021

Mail entries to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Bookmark Contest,  
6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525  
Email entries to: [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org) – Subject: Bookmark Contest



\*Please print carefully

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*By submitting your bookmark artwork to this contest, you give the CCFB the right to reprint and distribute your bookmark design at local events hosted by the CCFB.

Use the template below or use the same measurements on a white sheet of paper: Size is 7 1/4" x 2 1/4"



## Ag Day Excitement

The students could not come to the farm for Ag Day this year, so Ag in the Classroom did the next best thing and brought the farm to the schools virtually. Learning materials were gathered, boxed, and shipped to teachers ahead of time. We were amazed to reach 1,000 students who participated in the program virtually with their classrooms on March 25.

Learning stations taught about the importance of agriculture and featured video presentations about horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, corn, and soybeans. As each topic was taught, students were able to find correct answers to their pretest questions and gained knowledge they needed to score well on their “Show What You Learned” post-test. Ag in the Classroom sent custom BINGO cards for participants to mark off as they heard key words (or saw pictures for younger learners) that were

covered during the informational stations. An additional 20 classroom teachers requested and received the program content as an independent learning activity. Special thanks to AITC Assistant, Jill Drover, for creating the virtual content.

This program could not have been made possible without our partnership with The Children's Farm at The Center in Palos Park, IL. Our gratitude to their Farm Director, Amy DiDominicis, and Farm Educator, Tara Garcia, for providing the animal videos and live Q&A during the program and to the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation for funding this virtual experience. For more information about Ag Literacy programming, visit our Teacher Resource page at <https://cookcfb.org/ag-literacy-and-education/teacher-resources>.

**COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU AG IN THE CLASSROOM**

Presents • **Earth Day Teacher Workshop**  
 Thursday April 8th 4-5PM  
 1 PDCH credit awarded upon completion  
 Email Jill at [Aitc2@cookcfb.org](mailto:Aitc2@cookcfb.org) to reserve a spot

We will be conducting a summer PD opportunity that will include agriculture content to supplement your existing curriculum. This will include farm tours and accompanying lesson resources. For more information email Diane at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).

**SPRING 2021 MINI GRANT**

School Garden

## School Mini Grant Recipients 2021

We are pleased to announce three outstanding recipients of our School Mini Grant:

**Rolling Meadows High School** – Funds will be used to purchase seeds and harvesting supplies to support their greenhouse program that is growing greens and produce to donate to community members in need. Additionally, agriculture books will be purchased to include with these food donations for families with younger children. What a wonderful way to give back and to help spread the awareness of the importance of agriculture!

**Ancona School (Chicago)** – “Beeing Our Best Selves” will introduce students to the importance of bees to our community and our

farmers. Our grant will provide supplies for a 6-8 lesson unit that will include ag literacy resources and a 4-H Honeybee Challenge Kit. We are excited to see learners develop an appreciation of bees as food pollinators.

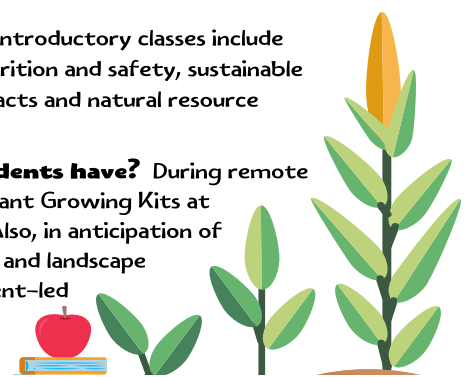
**Eisenhower Coop (Crestwood)** – This developmental learning unit will focus on the topic, “My Favorite Pizza” allowing students to experience the farm-to-plate process involved in creating pizza. Students will plant seeds, research garden maintenance methods, and enrich their math, reading, and research skills leading up to their food prep class/family project.

**Get to know Agriculture Education in Cook County!**

THE BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND STEM

The Barack Obama School of Leadership and STEM offers students an 800 square foot glass greenhouse and 9 Tower Gardens providing many hands-on Horticulture opportunities. Teacher, Nancy Herschberger provided information on this amazing horticulture program at the school in Chicago Heights, IL.

- **How many students are enrolled in your AFNR courses?** As our AFNR (Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources) program is in early development, this year 32 students from each grade, 6–8th, will be introduced to a wide range of AFNR topics during their 9-week blocks.
- **How many students are FFA Members?** Our district is proud to announce the inception of our first FFA Chapter at Barack Obama School with 12 students leading the way. With this year's remote learning, students are exploring potential leadership and agriculture projects with hopes of implementation in the spring.
- **What classes do you teach?** Current introductory classes include plant science, food supply chains, food nutrition and safety, sustainable and urban agriculture, environmental impacts and natural resource conservation.
- **What kinds of projects do your students have?** During remote learning, students have benefited from Plant Growing Kits at home for hands-on explorative learning. Also, in anticipation of warmer months, students hope to design and landscape theme gardens at our school. Other student-led projects will involve growing produce for sale and donation.

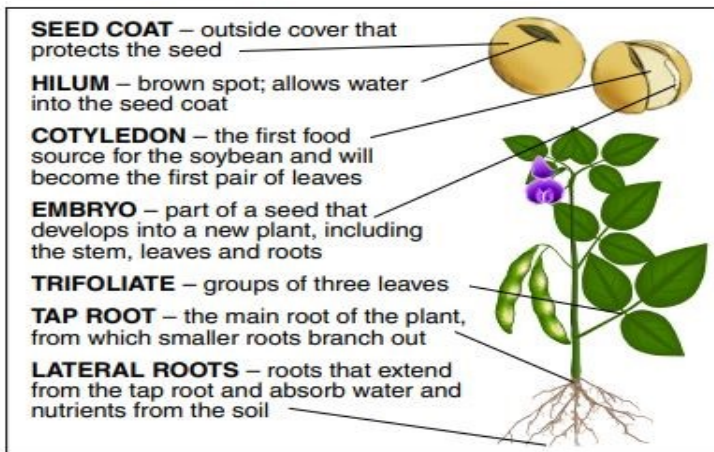


# Agriculture Adventures for Families

This month we highlight the importance and versatility of soybeans. In a few short weeks you will see farmers entering their fields to plant soybeans in Cook County. Not only will you find soy in foods you eat, but as a renewable resource they are finding their way into less obvious products as well including car parts, artificial turf and much more. Have fun growing your Beanie Babies and drop us a note if you need a few soybeans!



## Soybean Parts



## Technology, Drones, & Soybeans



Farmers have been growing soybeans for thousands of years, but the technology used by farmers is constantly changing. Here are just some of the ways technology is changing the soybean industry today:

**BLOCKCHAIN** – A new technology changing the way banks, companies and people send money to one another. While it is most famous for its uses with digital currencies like Bitcoin, one of the very first blockchain transactions tracked the purchase and shipment of soybeans. This new technology has the potential to speed up and protect soybean sales in the future.



**DRONES** – Up to 80% of nonmilitary drone use in the United States is for agriculture. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs as they are sometimes called, help farmers survey their fields in new, important ways.

Previously, to get an image of an entire field a farmer would have to lease a private pilot to fly over and photograph the field. Now farmers can control UAVs themselves and take clearer images more often, and for a much lower cost. Soybean farmers use different types of imaging when surveying with drones. Aside from spotting flooded areas, and mapping the terrain, specially equipped drone cameras can take Normalized Difference Vegetation Index images (NDVI) which can help farmers analyze crop health.

**BIOTECHNOLOGY** – By making small changes in the genetics of plants, biotechnology practices can help those plants thrive in less than perfect conditions. Like flipping a light switch on and off, scientists activate or deactivate certain traits in a plant by turning parts of the plant's genetic code on or off. For soybeans, this technology is used to help more soybeans grow in less space. In a way, biotechnology has been around since the ancient beginnings of farming through selective breeding. Early on, people realized they could replicate the traits they liked in their crop by planting the seeds of plants with that trait.



## Beanie Baby



Now that you know how soybeans grow, why not grow your own?

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Jewelry size resealable bag (found in craft stores)
- Crystal Soil (Found in plant nurseries or from Flinn Scientific 800-452-1261)
- Hole Punch
- Water
- Measuring spoons
- Soybeans
- Yarn



1. Punch a hole in the top of your bag, above the zipper seal.
2. Place ¼ teaspoon of Crystal Soil into the bag.
3. Drop 1-2 soybeans into the bag.
4. Add 1 tablespoon of water.
5. Seal your bag.
6. Insert the yarn into the hole to make a necklace.
7. Use the yarn to hang your beanie baby around the room to chart the effect of various exposures to light and heat. You might want to wear it around your neck and under your shirt to provide constant heat for your Beanie Baby!
8. Check your Beanie Baby several times a day to watch the process of germination.
9. Record the growth on a chart.



### 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

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2021 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..

Angelo Luciano



## April Word Search

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

<b>Brown</b>	<b>Plant</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>Roots</b>
<b>Drones</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Embryo</b>	<b>Seed</b>
<b>Field</b>	<b>Soybean</b>
<b>Green</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<b>Hilum</b>	<b>Traits</b>
<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Water</b>

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.

## Phones Planted Like Pliers in Farmer Pockets



I still remember the spring when an unnamed farmer attempted to grow a crop of cell phones.

While outside the tractor cab in the field, he had dropped then driven over his two-week-old cell phone twice. Once with a planter and soon after with a tillage implement that placed it subsurface like a seed.

The soil rang. He found the phone. The dirty flip phone (this was 2009) could dial the local equipment dealership with a breakdown. However, the shattered screen left him unable to read a text message about the commodity markets. A new phone soon suspended from a bungee cord on his collar, safe keeping for a device that farmers, like most Americans, find too important to go without.

Cell phones, and specifically smartphones, have arguably surpassed the importance of pliers to the daily farmer attire. The tool has yet to tightly wire a gate, but it wields the power to access everything from local weather to global agriculture markets at our sometimes-soiled fingertips.

Grandpa, who farmed with literal horsepower in childhood, never imagined a handheld device could text and email business partners and display instant radar images, yet

function as a flashlight. Remotely, we can control the grain dryer and monitor the solar array's energy production. Apps on the device deliver field-by-field rainfall totals, timely agriculture podcasts and virtual farm teleconferences. Smartphones grant rural families the conveniences any modern American families employ, such as online shopping, restaurant pickup orders, voice-guided navigation and live virtual access to anything allowed.

From the bleachers at a home basketball game, my daughter and I watched a calf's birth via live video footage from barn cameras at the home farm. We found true delight in witnessing the little heifer stand within 30 minutes and gallop about the straw in another 10.

The smartphone provides our camera, calendar and calculator. It replaced the dinner bell for summoning family members from the barnyard and, quite precisely, can track their location out in the fields. It provides a hotspot for homework, a device to fill downtime and an app to identify constellations on a starry summer night.

The future likely will bring more exciting conveniences and practical uses, but for now, a key function on our farm remains conversation, both business and social. The same phone that calls the local grain elevator to market corn also orders the Sunday night pizza. It texts a question about production records and reaches relatives seldom seen when planting season peaks, assuming no one plants the device and needs a replacement.

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

## Farm Bureau Working on Legislation to Benefit Farmers and Families



Farm Bureau is engaging with legislators on the following issues:

**Agricultural tourism limited liability:** Senate Bill 458 (Senator Wilcox) limits the liability of agritourism operations. Under the bill, an agritourism operator would not be liable for injury or death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of agritourism activities if the agritourism operator posts the required warning notice. Nothing prevents or limits the liability of an agritourism operator if the agritourism operator: (1) commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant; or (2) has actual knowledge or reasonably should know of an unusual dangerous condition on the land, facilities, or equipment used in the activity or the dangerous propensity of a particular animal used in such an activity, and does not make the danger known to the participant. This is a legislative priority for the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Specialty Growers Association.

**Agricultural experiences allowance:** House Bill 3560 (Representative Halpin) creates the Agricultural Experiences Act which prohibits a county from requiring a special permit or any variance for agricultural experiences on a farm which an activity is open to the public with the intended purpose of promoting or educating the

public about agriculture.

**Income tax credit for small farms:** Senate Bill 279 (Senator Bryant) creates an income tax credit to taxpayers who own and operate a small farm and make a qualifying food commodity donation to a food bank or emergency feeding organization. It provides that the credit shall be equal to the lesser of \$5,000 or 15% of the value of the food commodity donated. This is a policy that is already in place for federal income tax but not currently for state income tax.

**Access to Nutrition Program:** Senate 629 (Senator Fowler) provides that the Department of Agriculture shall conduct an access to nutritious food program to establish and operate projects and strategies that focus on the distribution of fresh and nutritious food to food deserts and education in food preparation and nutrition. It provides that the Department shall promote the sharing of information concerning best practices and programs, including specified projects, that have proven to be effective in these areas. This is a collaborative measure to share best practices to bring nutritious food to areas in need.

Members interested in providing feedback and comments are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

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**Growing To Serve You Better**

## CCFB Foundation Drawdown for Ag Education Sponsors Recognized

The CCFB Board of Directors and the Foundation Fundraising Committee would like to thank the members and partners that made the Drawdown for Ag Education raffle a fundraising success for the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation. The actual event, scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, was held after press time. However, over 200 tickets were sold, and a number of individuals and area businesses sponsored the event.

Final details of the event will be published in next month's Co-Operator.

The following are the list of our generous sponsors at press time...



Bestwina Family  
 5408 S. Harlem Avenue  
 Summit, IL 60501



South Holland Agency,  
 Jeff Orman, Manager  
 Orland Park Agency,  
 Cary Tate, Manager  
 Chicago South Agency,  
 Jeff Maxson, Manager  
 Chicago North Agency,  
 Victoria Nygren, Manager  
 Chicago Northeast Agency,  
 Sharon Stemke, Manager  
 Chicago Northwest Agency,  
 Kevin Gomes, Manager  
 Gwen Shaw, Country Financial Representative,  
 Chicago South  
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 Glendale Heights, IL 60139



808 IAA Drive, PO Box 2901  
 Bloomington, IL 61702

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**Angie Hildebrandt**  
 South Beloit, IL

**ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES**  
 Growing good food relationships



## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

Earlier this year my younger cousin audaciously suggested that I forgo my beloved audiobooks.

For years audiobooks and my corgi were my companions as I trekked the 225 miles journey

from northern Illinois to Springfield. Bella and I listened to our favorite authors Kay Hooper, John Sanford, Iris Johansen, Linda Castillo, and David Baldacci all while cruising down 39/51 and 55. I actually remember the first audiobook I listened to, Hunting Fear by Kay Hooper. My mom grabbed it out of the five-dollar bin at the bookstore.

In a moment of weakness, I mentioned that I was struggling to find a new author or new book to listen to during my drives. To which my younger cousin informed me that she gave up audiobooks in lieu of podcasts. Candidly, I never gave podcasts much thought until she informed me that they're just basically audiobooks in miniature form. First off, she fibbed. Podcasts are not mini audiobooks. They are bite size nuggets of stories. And like a 10-piece chicken nugget meal, I always want more and extra sweet and sour sauce. But I kinda enjoy them.

Unsurprisingly to my farmer, my taste in podcasts is quite similar to my taste in audiobooks. Paranormal. A little weird. And definitely questionable. My first podcast was Unsolved Mysteries from the creators of the iconic television series with the same name. Since February I've explored Ball Cemetery, nvestigated a farmhouse fire in Tennessee, looked into the Salsa Queen murder, and ran from bizarre human-like creatures in Hockomock Swamp.

As my farmer has wired our new-to-us farmhouse, I've listened to Unsolved Mysteries, especially when I'm trying to bother him. If I'm only trying to only slightly bother him, I listen to In Session. In Session is hosted by the Illinois Senate Democrats and is moderated by state

senators. Candidly, the idea for my February column came from the In Session podcast. Near the end of every episode the moderator asks what books the guests are reading. I added Next to the Last Stand by Craig Johnson to my 'books in progress' pile. So far, it's not my favorite Longmire book, that title belongs to Hell is Empty.

Candidly, I'm weak in the area of national politics. I prefer state government, am more comfortable with the processes, and I spent more time studying it. In an attempt to stay abreast of national issues, I'm a regular listener of The Daily Punch from Punchbowl News. This daily podcast features a look inside Capitol Hill, the White House, and Washington, D.C. My blue-eyed girl waits patiently as I catch up on my missed episodes. She prefers when I listen to it alone rather than with her.

A little more local in nature, The CloutCast offers a Chicago centric policy and politics discussion. Daily Line reporters examine local politics and a host of topics ranging from budgets to redistricting to criminal justice. Guests include local politicians, lobbyists, and experts.

My podcast library is rounded out with Polycast with the VP from the Illinois Farm Bureau. Monthly, Joint Resolutions Committee Chairman Brian Duncan discusses Farm Bureau policy. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau's strength is in its policy and policy is surfaced and developed by members. I'm not a policy wonk but I quite enjoy Farm Bureau's policy process and the guidance policy provides when considering legislative issues.

Our new-to-us farmhouse is still sorely lacking in the area of a television. As a family we gather in the mudroom at our dining room table. If we're feeling casual, we sit on the stairs. Or on an upside down five-gallon bucket. Both spots are prime pickins' for the dogs to get in a few licks or steal a snack. What our new-to-us farmhouse has given us is a greater appreciation for podcasts. Library books. And couch cushions.

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

## Farm Bureau Monitoring the "Closure of Business Loopholes"

After the election in November, Governor Pritzker made several statements that he wants to "close business tax loopholes," but until his mid-February budget address, there were no details.

In his budget address, the Governor laid out what his initial focus was on. Those items include removing:

- Cap Corporate NOL (Net Operating Loss) Deduction at \$100,000 per year- \$314 million
- Align treatment of foreign-source dividends to treatment of domestic source dividends- \$107 million
- Roll back federal accelerated depreciation- \$214 million
- Accelerate the expiration of the exemptions for biodiesel- \$107 million
- Reverse repeal of the Corporate Franchise Tax- \$30 million
- Cap Retailer's Discount at \$1,000/month- \$73 million
- Reset tax credit for private school scholarships at 40%- \$14 million
- Eliminate new add-on income tax credit for construction job payroll expenditures- \$16 million
- Remove production related tangible personal

property for the manufacturing machinery and equipment sales tax exemption- \$56 million

To date, there have been no specific details or proposed legislation encapsulating these proposals. Details are not expected until the final weeks of May.

The sales tax incentive on biodiesel was the only incentive included in the Governor's proposed budget that is directly tied to agriculture. According to the Department of Revenue, in 2018, if the sales tax incentive was not in place, the State would have collected \$138 million in sales tax from the purchase of biodiesel. Farm Bureau is working with the on House Bill 229 and Senate Bill 2394, which makes changes and phases out the biodiesel sales tax incentive over the next several years and replaces it with a fuel standard.

Farm Bureau will continue to engage with legislators on these and other issues. Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org) with any questions or concerns regarding this issue or any others.

## Additional Requirements for Taxing Districts Approved by County Board

Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved Ordinance 21-1048 at the end of February. The ordinance was supported by the Cook County Farm Bureau®.

Farm Bureau sent the following communications in support of the ordinance in advance of the vote:

Cook County Farm Bureau® (Cook CFB) respectfully requests support for Ordinance 21-1048, an amendment to the Taxing District Debt Disclosure Ordinance.

Ordinance 21-1048 stipulates that taxing districts, including tax increment financing (TIF) districts are required to disclose:

- Information related to each TIF district redevelopment project.
- Total dollar amount of each TIF district redevelopment project.
- Name of vendor, contractor, or tax district, amount paid, and category of each eligible TIF district redevelopment project.
- All administrative, management, and staff costs, whether paid directly by the TIF district or paid by a taxing district and reimbursed with the funds from the special allocation fund, the name of the employee, job title, and amount paid.
- All contracts that the TIF district's increment advisor and/or consultants have entered into with entities or persons that have received, or are receiving, payments financed by tax increment revenues produced by the same redevelopment project area, copies of all

contracts, in an electronic format.

- Economic Disclosure Statements for all vendors and/or contacts to the TIF district.
- Amounts re-allocated from one TIF district redevelopment project to another, including the name of the TIF redevelopment project from which the funds were transferred, the name of the TIF redevelopment project to which the funds were transferred, and any and all documentation reflecting the reason for the transfer.

The ordinance also provides that each TIF district shall also provide the Cook County Treasurer's Office with the above information for the past five fiscal years.

Farm Bureau policy #121 (State and Local Finance) (p. 94, l. 45-46) supports requiring local governments to publicly disclose information on TIF districts including the locations of the districts, funds generated, use of funds, and contractors.

Organized in 1920, 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.

Members interested in providing any comments or feedback concerning this or another issue is encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276.

## Farm Bureau Working on Urban Agriculture Statewide Policy

Cook County Farm Bureau® is in the process of drafting and reviewing a statewide policy supporting, defining, and recognizing urban agriculture. Urban agriculture generally refers to the cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban settings.

Urban farming has grown more than 30% in the U.S. in the last 30 years.

The policy draft generally supports:

- Recognizing the importance of urban agriculture and its contribution to the agricultural economy
- County Farm Bureaus working with units

of government to develop zoning codes conducive to urban agriculture

- Ensuring that sites have access to affordable water
- The keeping of bees and beehives in urban settings

Farm Bureau members will review the draft and provide feedback during their April meeting.

Members interested in providing comments or feedback are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org).

### COOK COUNTY'S CONNECTION TO AGRICULTURE



95% of farms and greenhouses are family-owned and managed businesses

4% or over 224,000 jobs are agriculturally related in Cook County.

Agriculture adds over \$17.8 million to the county's economy.

Source: 2019 Illinois Agriculture Economic Contribution Study

Agriculture includes the growing of plants and animals in all types of settings, rural, suburban, and rural. Agriculture includes the on-site production of crops (including horticulture) and animals, inputs, and food processing. Agriculture extends from the farm to individuals' tables.



## Membership Travel Discounts

### Car Rentals:



**Budget Worldwide Discount Code #Y775713**

Call (800) 527-0700 or book online at [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com) for discount

Save up to 30% off Budget base rates- may vary between 10% and 30%. Nationwide and 165 countries.



**Avis Worldwide Discount Code #298813**

Call (800) 331-1212 or book online at <https://www.avis.com/en/association/A298813> for discount

Save up to 30% off Avis base rates- may vary between 10% and 30%. Nationwide and 165 countries.



**Alamo Discount code-Contract I.D.#421770**

Call (800) 462-5266 or book online at <https://www.alamo.com/en/car-rental-deals.html> for discount

Save up to 20% off your next car rental from Alamo.



**Enterprise Discount code: Rate Plan: ILFARM**

Call (800) 736-8222 or book online at <https://www.enterprise.com/en/reserve.html#book> for discount

Exclusive Discount for Cook County Farm Bureau Members (exclusive discount may not always be greater than the regular discount offered to all Illinois Farm Bureau members, as it depends on date and size of vehicle).



**National Car Rental Discount code: Contract ID # 5706352**

Call (800) 227-7368 or book online at <https://legacy.nationalcar.com> discount

Cook County Farm Bureau & Illinois Farm Bureau members can save an average of 5% on National Car Rentals.

### Hotels:



**Wyndham Hotels Discount Code ID#: 800002027**

Call (877) 670-7088 or book online at [www.wyndhamhotels.com](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com) for discount rate.



**Choice Hotels CCFB/IFB Discount code#: 00800614**

Call (800) 258-2847 or visit Choice Hotels online for discount

Under the "Select Rate" field, choose Special Rate/Corp ID and enter IFB#.

## 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.



**\* Malgorzata Jura**

*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*

Malgorzata Jura has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. Her office is located at 6136 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-631-9107. Malgorzata has been a Financial Representative since January 2008.



**Dana Hamlett**

*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*

Dana Hamlett has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. Her office is located at 1701 W. Belmont Ave. in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-248-1741. Dana has been a Financial Representative since May 2020.



**Matt Powell**

*Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager*

Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. 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 Financial Representative since February 2005.



**Aaron Del Mar**

*Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager*

Aaron Del Mar has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. His office is located at 25 NW. Point Blvd. Ste. 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-794-1224. Aaron has been a Financial Representative since November 2020.



**Brett Riekema**

*Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager*

Brett Riekema has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St., Prairie, IL. His phone number is 847-415-2666. Brett has been a Financial Representative since May 2011.



**\*Matthew Below**

*Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager*

Matthew Below has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2021. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste. 930 in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3151. Matthew has been a Financial Representative since September 2019.



**\*Tom Geraghty**

*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*

Tom Geraghty has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for February 2021. His office is located at 5003 W. 95TH St., in Oak Lawn, IL. His phone number is 708-425-9700. Tom has been a Financial Representative since December 1982.



**Kurt Husein**

*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*

Kurt Husein has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2021. 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 February 2021. 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.



**John Tymn**

*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*

John Tymn has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for February 2021. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone is 708-480-5091. John has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

\*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.

Who knew that coffee was a plant?

# Wacky, Wonderful World of Plants

April 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Join this family-friendly program and learn about fun plants to grow along with tips and tricks from creative horticulturists who will provide a behind the scenes look at their operation.

Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/3ORyeLV>  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and materials in advance.

The first 10 registered who attend the program will receive Farm Fresh Funds which can be used at local greenhouses

Register by April 19

My shirt grew on that plant?

## Hello Ciao Guten Tag Hola Bonjour Tere Olá Shalom Translate to other Languages

We are very fortunate to have members that come from various backgrounds and countries. While we publish this newsletter in English, the Google Translate App can convert the publication text through your smart phone screen into Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, and a host of other languages. Check it out. Enjoy and happy reading!

**Cześć Aloha Zdravo Salam Dobry den Hei God Dag Alo**

# 2021 CookFresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients:



**• Neola Street Community Garden**

located in Cook County's Park Forest, is a community garden with a focus on bringing the community volunteers and cooperatives together safely to grow their own food as well as share with community residents in order to become a healthier, more sustainable community. Grant funds will be used to purchase compost, soil mix, and materials to create additional raised beds.

**• Rainbow Beach Victory Garden,**

established in Chicago's South Shore community in 1917, is creating a perennial pollinator garden to educate local students and community members about gardening, the importance of bees to our eco-system, and how community gardens feed community tables and local spirit, while building pride in one's community. Grant funds will be used to purchase perennial plants, seed, and organic soil.

**• Roots Community Garden,**

located in Palatine, is a community volunteer garden producing close to 400 pounds of fresh produce through gardening. It also serves to provide a space to offer children's activities and community events, including growing, meal

planning, and cooking with fresh vegetables among other programs. Funds will be used to purchase vegetable plantings, garden materials, tools, and garden stakes.

**• Estella's Garden,**

located in Chicago's Englewood community, is a community garden that provides residents free access to fresh produce, while educating them on food sustainability while bringing beautification to the neighborhood. Hands-on participation from community youth and adults in the gardening process, maintenance, and harvesting stage, fostering beauty, and hope. Funds will be used for plantings, soil, fertilizer, garden materials, and gloves.

**• GRF Community Garden & Apiary,**

located in Cook County's Park Forest neighborhood, is a community garden seeking to educate families and residents about growing food and producing honey, while providing a space to learn new skills, with a focus on income projects for every family involved. Funds will be used to purchase garden tools, irrigation hoses, beekeeping materials, and soil.

**• Palos Park Public Library Pollinator Garden,**

located in Cook County's Palos Park community, is a garden that provides hands-on opportunities to educate the public on the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem. Youth activities, crafts, and lectures take place with the garden as its focus. Grant funds will be used to purchase garden supplies, tools, compost, mulch, sand, and pollinator plants.

## ShopLocal this Spring

Prep & Planting is happening! Visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses, Garden Centers, and Farms for all your outdoor needs this spring! Their vegetable and flower plantings, trees, shrubs, lawn, landscape materials, grills, and garden décor await you!

For a complete listing of member businesses and producers in the Cook County area, please visit: [https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-](https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory)

[local/online-directory](https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory)

Member businesses offering additional discounts to CCFB members include Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center in South Barrington, Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park, and Zeldenrust Farm Market & Greenhouse in Chicago Heights. Check our website for details and restrictions at: <https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits/profile/home-business-and-agriculture>



## Classifieds

All ads that we receive for The Co-Operator are also listed on our website at [cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds](https://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 month's 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

Price reduced, many possibilities, 2350 sq. ft. brick commercial (Zone B) building, with full basement, excellent location, 1 mile from expressway, 3 blocks from Arlington Park train station and Arlington Park racetrack. Call Rita 847-259-9339.

Cemetery plot- Lakewood Memorial Park, Elgin, IL. 5 gravesites can be divided. Excellent location in The Last Supper, Section 20, Lot 70. Asking \$1275 each, cemetery price \$1500. Call 847-359-6712.

Cybox ARC Trainer 620A. This is a commercial quality cardio exercise trainer. Includes TV monitor. Awesome workouts. No electric needed so you can place this machine anywhere in your house or gym. Has multiple programs, heartrate monitoring, Inclines and much more. Call Dave for details, test rides and photos 312-951-6412. \$2400 obo.

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

## Vehicle

2006 Yamaha V-Star 650cc Silverado, windshield, studded seats, backrest, leather saddlebags, two-tone silver paint, approx. 6800 mi, beautiful bike in great condition. \$3750. Call Gulio at 708-267-8548.

## For Rent

Vacation Villas at Fantasy World II Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. Seven (7) nights in onebedroom suite, full kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, sleeps four (4). \$650 for seven (7) nights. No presentation is required. Call Ms. Day at 708-347-9369 for availability.

## Wanted

Wanting to buy your HO scale or N scale electric train engines, cars, buildings, or anything train related. Do you have electric trains in your closet, basement, crawl space, attic or garage that you're not using? I buy train items from just a few pieces to hundreds of pieces at a time. Why sell them bit by bit, I'll offer you a price on all you have! TURN THOSE UNWANTED TRAIN ITEMS INTO CASH and give me a call! I also buy slot cars. Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

Wanted 1972 older cars, Trucks/ parts unfinished projects. Call 708-439-9770.

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

# Farmers Asked to Complete Survey on Potential Farm to Food Bank Program Grant Recipients:

Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers, the University of Illinois Prairie Research Institute, and Feeding Illinois are asking farmers to complete a brief online survey by April 30, 2021. The information will be used to assess the potential for a farm to food bank program.

The online survey available at <https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/1887185315> will take about 10 minutes to complete. Printed surveys are available by contacting Sharon Dodd at [sdodd@ilfb.org](mailto:sdodd@ilfb.org) or Raghela Scavuzzo at [Rscavuzzo@ilfb.org](mailto:Rscavuzzo@ilfb.org).

The survey is the first part of a feasibility study by the four partners on the potential to

expand programs and opportunities for farmers to move surplus food commodities to hunger relief agencies throughout the state.

The project's objectives include providing farmers with additional end markets for commodities, expanding the supply of fresh food to food banks, and increasing food security while reducing food loss and fostering a statewide circular economy.

The partners hope to uncover the optimal mix of incentives and program interventions to overcome existing barriers to efficient flows of fresh, Illinois-produced food to Illinois residents with as little waste as possible.



## Remap Effort Underway for Chicago's Wards

In March, CHANGE Illinois, community and civic organizations, and good government advocates announced their support for a Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission. They contend that the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission will help create a "people's map."

According to the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission's website, the goal of this commission is to create and support a community-led-and-driven ward remap process that will strive to keep neighborhoods whole as much as possible. Through this process, Chicago's advisory commission will be a model upholding racial equity and engagement, as well as best practices for independent redistricting nationwide.

The Commission will be a resident-based

group that adheres to independent redistricting principles to follow and best practices' training, hire a mapper/demographer, and support a hearing process that is done openly and centered on Chicagoans. The commission will be made up of 13 people who will be tasked with producing a map that reduces the splintering of neighborhoods as much as possible, engages communities historically marginalized, and upholds accepted independent mapping principles, including maximizing opportunities for communities of color to elect aldermen of their choosing.

The Commission's map could be introduced into the City Council. If it garners enough support, it may go before voters. Applications are available at <https://chicagoswards.org/commission-application>.

# 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)



### Pollinator Pot Workshop at Ray's Quality Greenhouse Limited In-Person and Take & Make via Zoom

Create your own pollinator friendly pot to display on your porch/patio this summer. This beautiful pot is designed to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. During class we will also share delicious recipes so you can enjoy bees, cookies and cocktails while admiring your new pot!

**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** Greenhouse location: 117 231st St, Steger, IL 60475 or via live zoom

**Price:** \$30.00 for members and guest; includes pot with soil, plantings, fertilizer, recipes

**In-Person:** Limited to 10 in person registrations

**Take & Make via Zoom:** Unlimited take & make via zoom with prior curbside pickup arrangements

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).



### Wacky, Wonderful World of Plants

Join this family-friendly program and learn about fun plants to grow along with tips and tricks from creative horticulturists who will provide a behind the scenes look at their operation.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 27

**Time:** 6:30PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Price:** No Charge

**Registration/Description:** Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/30RyeLV>. After registering, you will

receive a confirmation email and materials in advance. The first 10 registered who attend the program will receive Farm Fresh Funds which can be used at local greenhouses. Register by April 19.



### Conceal and Carry Class 16-hour training

The ABC's of self-defense, tools and tactics to keep you safe. No FOID is required to complete this class and obtain your training certificate. Must be 21 to participate. Please bring a pen and lunch both days.

**Date:** Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18

**Time:** 9AM -5PM (both days)

**Location:** CCFB building and Villa Park VFW (The gun range will be held at the VFW on Sunday afternoon.)

**Price:** \$120 (The price includes range fee, targets, classroom materials, gun rental, ammunition, eye and

ear protection.) \$60 for Veterans (only need to attend class on the 18th).

**Registration/Description:** Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276



### Virtual "Wine Wednesday" Tasting

Join Terry Landschoot, certified wine specialist, to taste, discuss, and evaluate your favorite wine or 2 (you purchase and pick your favorite) during this one hour "Introduction to Wine" session. We will create tasting notes to help you develop your wine palate. Limited participants.

**Date:** May 19, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom (the zoom link will be emailed to all participants the evening before the class)

**Price:** \$10 for members

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276

or online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).



### Hemp: Business Side of the Crop Lunch & Learn Webinar - Date Change

Grab some lunch and learn from local hemp industry expert, KifCure. Topics include:

Soil - Planting the right genetics for your 2021 grow, Seeds vs. Seedlings vs. Clones, CBD vs. CBG Varieties, Smokeable Flower vs. Biomass for Extraction.

Oil - Proper biomass preparations for extraction, Different types of oils and isolates to extract and distill and isolate, THC Remediation and Water

Soluble Cannabinoids, Delta 8 THC - the future of this new cannabinoid and what it means to the Hemp Industry.

Branded Products - Different types of products to white label, Creating markets in your back yard and community, Focusing on your Niche, Featured Branded Product: Vieve's Leaves CBD Cosmeceuticals

**Date:** NEW DATE: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM

**Location:** Webinar via Zoom or call in by phone - info and link will be sent the day before class

**Price:** Free for members & guests

**Registration:** Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 | Email [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org) - must provide full name, email address, phone number |Members only online by logging into your account at the Member Center.

For your comprehensive access to membership discounts & offers, go to

**Go to [www.cookcfb.org/membership](http://www.cookcfb.org/membership)**

**YOU, THE MEMBER, ARE THE MOST VALUABLE ASSET of the Cook County Farm Bureau**

# MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK 2021

**Monday, April 19 – Friday, April 23, 2021**

We truly appreciate our members, and during our Member Appreciation Week, we want to provide some extra love to say thank you for your membership, your involvement, your interest, and your support. We know that it has been a long and difficult year for many.

**Thank you for partnering with us to get through it!**

To show our appreciation and gratitude, enter our drawing for a chance to win great prizes, free memberships, and a daily gift basket full of fun for you!

**Daily Gift Basket Drawing**

- Buy local basket (Monday)
- Summer basket (Tuesday)
- Outdoor fun basket (Wednesday)
- Family fun basket (Thursday)
- Pamper yourself basket (Friday)

**Daily free paid membership for a year**

**Daily Drawings** (2 winners each day)

- Movie Monday—2 AMC movie tickets
- Turf Tuesday—Soil kits
- Wednesday Swag bag—CCFB logo items
- Treat your car Thursday— Delta sonic car wash gift card
- Food Friday—Home Run Inn gift card

*Must be a member paid in good standing to enter.*

**Member Appreciation Week Entry Form**

Monday, April 19 – Friday, April 23, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Entry form can be mailed to the office, faxed to 708-579-6056, emailed to [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com), or you can go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) to enter under the Membership section. One entry per member; entries received will be submitted for a chance at all drawings and will automatically rollover to the following day's drawings, if not selected.

**Questions?? Please call us at 708-354-3276!**

We wish all of our members a prosperous and healthy 2021. We look forward to serving you!