



GO-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

SEPTEMBER	PAGE
11 FARM CRAWL	11
11 & 12 Conceal & Carry Class 16-hour Training	12
15 Get a Grant Workshop	6
18 Shred Day	12
21 DIY Night at CCFB	12
OCTOBER	
2 21st Annual Giant Pumpkin Contest	12
12 Workshop on Preparing Wills/Trusts	12
27/28 Smart Driver 2 Day Course	12

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to 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.

Question of the Month

What Chicagoland area food pantry received a grant for refrigeration with the assistance from the Cook County Farm Bureau?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, fax your answer to 708-579-6056 or email to fbcooperator@gmail.com to enter the drawing for a \$25 gas card.

(Please include name, FB# and phone number)

August Winner is George Deboer

The summertime food favorite, sweetcorn, accounts for what percentage of the corn grown in Illinois?

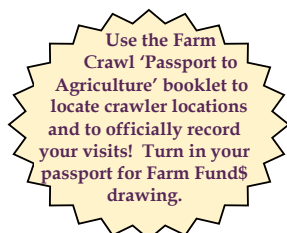
A. 98%; B. Almost 2%; C. Less than 1%

Answer: "B. Almost 2%"

But Wait, There's More!

Go to www.cookcfb.org for these extras...

- Growing a Diverse Ag Industry
- Growing Solutions Through Listening Partnerships
- Midwest Farmland Values Heat Up
- Navigating Landowner-Tenant Relationships
- Perspectives-Urban Honey Production



Join Us...Farm Crawl 2021

Saturday, September 11th | 10 am—4 pm

Visit our diverse Cook County Farm Bureau® member Family Farms, Greenhouses, Garden Centers, Feed Stores, and Agri-businesses on this self guided tour.

- No set schedules, a self-guided crawl
- You pick and choose where you want to visit
- Opportunity for tours, great value purchases, and fall/farm experiences
- Use the Passport to Ag or your Farm Bureau card for promotions

Big John's Farm Market & Greenhouse
1754 E Joe Orr Rd Chicago Hts

Brandau's Farmstand
10544 W 191st St Mokena 60448

Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse
2785 E Lincoln Hwy Lynwood

Clarke's Garden Center & Stone
2061 W 14th Street Lynwood
Farm Crawl Special

Crete Garden Center & Nursery
1625 East Richton Rd Crete
Closes at 3PM

Deer Creek Farm
360 Glenwood Dyer Rd Glenwood

Horcher Farms & Flower Shop
910 McHenry Rd Wheeling

Just Picked Farm Stand *New!*
8200 171st St Tinley Park

Kopping Farms
12300 115th St Lemont
Farm Tour at the top of every hour

Ludwig's Feed Store
13205 131st Street Lemont
Spartan Mosquito killer with purchase

M & D Farms
14946 S. Bell Rd. Homer Glen

McCarthy Farms
14946 S. Bell Rd. Homer Glen
Fresh sweet corn 10% off with passport

Melka Landsc & Garden Center
11606 179th St Mokena
Crawl member discount • Raffle • Popcorn & refreshments for crawlers

Puckerville Farms
13332 Bell Rd Lemont

Schroeder's Garden Center/Ldscp
10800 Southwest Hwy Worth

Smits Farms
3437 E Sauk Trl Sauk Village

Ted's Greenhouse
16930 S. 84th Ave Tinley Park
See how poinsettias are grown
Closes at 3 PM

The Feed Store
5400 S Harlem Ave Summit

VanderGriend's Farm Market
2812 Glenwood Lansing Rd Chicago Hts
Farm Crawl Special

Historic Wagner Farms
1540 Wagner Rd Glenview

Windy City Harvest— Farm on Ogden *New!*
3555 W Ogden Ave 60623
Farm Crawl Special

Zeldenrust Farm Market
1001 Glenwood Dyer Rd Chicago Hts

Ways to obtain your Farm Crawl Passport to Agriculture:
• **Download at:** <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/farm-crawl-event>
• **Email:** membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org
• **Call:** 708.354.3276 • **Pick up a copy** at CCFB office
• **Each Crawl location** will have limited copies available on 9.11.21

Have Passport stamped/signed at each location you visit.
Submit passport to the CCFB office and be entered into the drawing for Farm Fund\$ to use at 2021 crawl location of choice!

Cook CFB Leadership Meets with IDOA Director Costello

Cook County Farm Bureau leaders Todd Price, board member, Ruth Zeldenrust, board member, Kim Morton, Governmental Affairs Team member, and Bob Rohrer, Cook County Farm Bureau manager met with Mr. Jerry Costello II, Director of Illinois Department of Agriculture and Mr. Rob Baren, agricultural Legislative Liaison for the department.

During the discussion session, the group reviewed agriculture in the state of Illinois as it emerges from the pandemic. Director Costello said, "As agriculture in Illinois comes out of the pandemic, I believe that the Illinois farmers are going to have a number of new product opportunities, production demand, and market capabilities. The pandemic demonstrated to the public agriculture's importance in our state."

Cook County Farm Bureau leadership

Continued on Page 2

What's in a Label? A Look at Organic Certification and What it Means for Consumers and Farmers

by Carrie Steinweg

For consumers looking at food labels, it can be difficult to understand them and know what the claims mean and if they've been verified or are regulated. One label that consumers can feel confident about is one which is "organic certified."

When a label has the "USDA Organic" logo on the packaging, it means that the contents were grown and processed according to federal guidelines related to soil quality, animal raising practices, pest and weed control and use of additives. According to USDA.gov, "organic producers rely on natural substances and physical, mechanical or biologically-based farming methods to the fullest extent possible. Produce can be called organic if it's certified to have grown on soil that had no prohibited substances applied for three years prior to harvest."

When a consumer sees that label, it ensures that the requirements of organic standard have been met and verified by a third-party certifier, which is accredited to certify by the USDA, said Julie Barton, Sustainable Agriculture Educator with the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association.

"Certification is an annual process and annual fees cover the cost of the certification service," said Barton. "There is a cost share reimbursement program funded through the Farm Bill to help offset the cost of certification."

Once certification has been earned, it is maintained through annual re-certification. "The operation needs to annually put together, submit to a certification agency and get inspected on their OSP (organic systems plan), which describes all aspects of their operation and how the operation complies with the

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!

Cook CFB Leadership Meets with IDOA Director Costello

Continued from pg. 1



(left to right) Cook County Farm Bureau leaders Kim Morton and Todd Price met with the Illinois Department of Agriculture Director, Jerry Costello II, and Legislative Liaison for the department, Rob Baren, to discuss agricultural issues in Cook County and to bring the Director up to date regarding the Cook County Farm Bureau's activities.

expressed appreciation to Director Costello for his leadership during the pandemic in making sure that Cook County farm stands, garden centers, greenhouses, farmers markets, and produce farmers were able to remain open to the public as an essential worker group. The director stated, "It did not make sense to us last spring that certain businesses in the state could continue to operate but smaller farmer businesses providing the same type of products could not." Director Costello indicated that the weekly conference calls he had in 2020 with key agricultural groups including the Illinois Farm Bureau and commodity organizations were very important in staying in touch with the issues facing farmers.

The group also discussed the challenges in finding agricultural labor, especially in labor dependent farming operations. The Director indicated that his department was having similar issues as it relates to finding workers for the two Illinois state fairs that happened in August. Workers with difficulties finding childcare continues to be an issue. Some farms that depend on migrant farmworkers continue to have challenges in the process. He indicated that as Covid-related unemployment dollars end this fall, it will be interesting to see if unemployment numbers increase or decrease.

The importance of rural connectivity and internet access, especially for effective

education and business functions was discussed. Alternative energy, including solar and wind, was brought up. The need for a strong agricultural mitigation agreement and enforcement was emphasized as a key for farmers and their property rights. Cook County Farm Bureau leaders also urged the Director to continue to seek ways to support area small livestock processing to accommodate the locally grown livestock demand. The Director indicated that his department continues to add meat inspectors as an important health and safety connection for the public.

Director Costello was appointed as acting director by Gov. Pritzker to lead the IDOA in February 2020. He was approved by the Illinois Senate in April 2021 as Director. As acting director, he was immediately thrust into the various agricultural issues connected with the Governor's stay-at-home order, supply chain disruption, essential worker guidelines, transportation of essential products, and a number of other issues.

Todd Price presented the Director with a Cook County Farm Bureau 100-year anniversary gift bag including the history book and logo hat, lapel pin, coffee tumbler, and more. Director Costello was also shown the location on the Cook County Farm Bureau grounds in which the organization is installing a pollinator garden this fall.

What's in a Label? A Look at Organic Certification and What it Means for Consumers and Farmers

Continued from pg. 1

organic standards," said Jeff Heinsohn, a partner at Walnut Grove Farms in Kirkland, Illinois who grows both non-organic and organic crops. This is his ninth year of organic certification growing corn, soybeans, wheat and sunflowers.

"From a practical on-farm view the difference between non-organic and organic products is the way they are produced and the tools the farmer can use to manage the crops. Organic producers are limited to the only organic approved products and have to employ a system and practices that comply with the national organic standards requirements," Heinsohn explained. "Non-organic crops do not have to certify their practices like organic producers and have a lot more options to manage their crop as they best see fit."

For farmers like Heinsohn, who grow both organic and non-organic products there are advantages and disadvantages to each way of growing. "When an organic system is implemented well and the weather



cooperates, it is exciting to see the quality and quantity that can be produced and the farmer can be rewarded for that, but it takes I'd say five times more work by the farmer to get there and at higher risk," he explained. "Non-organic crops have the advantage of having more tools available to manage fertility, pest and other challenges faced by a crop. Therefore, it is more consistent in its results."

To learn more about organic certification, visit usda.gov.

5 Things Members Should Know About...the Young Leaders Team

1. The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors established this group in 2013 following an exploratory picnic of potential members at Kopping Farms in Lemont as a way to involve a younger set of members and develop leadership skills within the group.
 2. Farm Bureau members ages 18-35 with an interest in agriculture, leadership development, and public service are eligible to participate in the group.
 3. Since its creation, the group has provided social outreach through donations to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, coordinated packing events at Feed My Starving Children and the Greater Chicago Food Depository, collected hundreds of toys for the Toybox Connection in Orland Park for Christmas gifts, collected and donated hundreds of coats to Together We Cope in Tinley Park, supported organizational efforts with Food Checkout Day benefit for Ronald McDonald House and area food pantries, and much more!
 4. The past two years, the team has participated in the Illinois Farm Bureau Adopt-a-Classroom program by working with the third grade classroom in Summit and teacher Eva Manzski by providing farm-related videos, lesson plans, and in person Q&A sessions.
 5. This group enjoys hosting fun experiences through barbecues, Top Golf, Whirlyball, snowmobiling, zip lining, go carting, escape rooms, and more!
- For members interested in learning more about the group, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email Tom Poole, chairman, tpoole2@illinois.edu.



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...

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...

Farm Bureau Board member Dan Biernacki for his commitment and desire to make Cook County Farm Bureau's on-site pollinator garden a tremendous success. Stay tuned for future pictures and pollinator events.

Farm Bureau board members Jim Gutzmer and Jim Bloomstrand for representing the Farm Bureau at the Lake County Fair Auction and purchasing lambs from local 4H members Maddie Plante, Harper Hasbrook, and Zoe Stevens and a hog from Alexa Argeros. The meat will be donated to partner food pantries in Cook County!

Members Bob & Kay Resch for preparing Ag in the Classroom fall mailings at home and returning them to the Farm Bureau and to new volunteer and Farm Bureau member Jay Burns for driving to our office to prepare additional materials for AITC fall programming.

Midwest Dairy for providing support our communities by providing Undeniably Dairy grant funding for commercial-grade refrigeration units to Alicia's House Food Pantry.

Tom Poole, Young leader Chairman, for setting up and coordinating the tour of the Plant in the Packingtown Museum.

The many members that contributed and lent a hand to the Cook County Farm Bureau food pantry support efforts the past year that helped us earn the Power of A Summit award from the American Society of Association Executives.

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

Co-Operator

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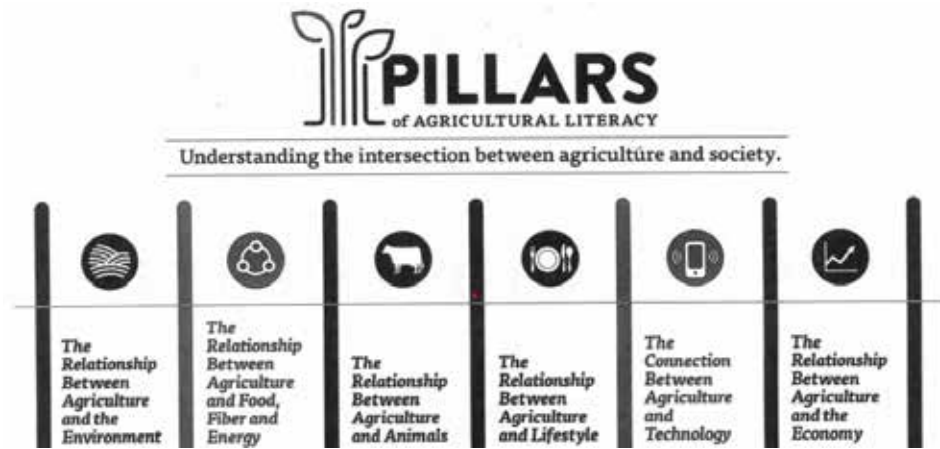


Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Ag Literacy Pillar 1”

I was disposing of some piles of old papers (“spring cleaning” every 20 years), and I ran across the American Farm Bureau Federation Foundation for Agriculture document shown below:



“Whoa,” I thought as I reviewed the six pillars listed. Those are some good thought pillars!

Rather than throw the pillars list away, I decided to “recycle” by using a pillar each month in this column and sharing stories and connections to each of these pillars that come to mind. Recycling is the key to saving the environment I’m told and now I have a writing topic for the next few months!

Pillar 1: The Relationship Between Agriculture and the Environment

It is simple. Agriculture lives in and intersects with the environment all the time. Definitely a close relationship. Soil, water, and air as crucial resources for farmers are a regular and continual focus by farmers for care and protection.

Soil conservation practices are used by farmers with the goal of keeping the soil where it belongs, on the farm and not in the waterways, ditches, streams, rivers, and air. Farmers want “gully washers” to be a term of the past.

My stepson was recently sharing how hilarious he found it that his grandmother used the term “gully washer” following the series of heavy rainstorms that we saw at the end of June. The term became a Midwestern lexicon for a good reason. Farmers seek ways for heavy rainfall to soak into the ground as opposed to roll quickly off and take precious soil with it.

Groundwater and surface water is also a major focus of attention by farmers. Farmers and their families and livestock drink the water. Farmers, crops, trees, and grass depend on water. They certainly want water that is clean, healthy, and plentiful. The same can be said about the fresh country air. The importance farmers place on the protection and health of these natural resources is huge.

Both simple and complex water and air conservation concepts are commonplace on Illinois farms. Like kids turning off the tap when brushing their teeth, these conservation protection approaches have become second nature on the farm.

75% of the habitat for wildlife in the state of Illinois can be found on Illinois farms or maintained and managed by Illinois farmers. Farmers provide habitat by maintaining woods and timber, pastures, fencerows, waterways, and even in their crop fields (Not as popular for farmers!).

That still leaves 25% of the wildlife habitat to be created and maintained by homeowners, public lands, companies, and government. From someone who has collided with deer a few times in my life, let’s not encourage keeping and the maintaining of wildlife on our Illinois roads. [That reminds me of the story of the lady who called a radio show asking why deer crossing signs need to be posted along roads. She encouraged taking those deer crossing signs down so the deer would no longer cross there.]

That word “sustainability” has become overused word by many, and people have applied many different meanings to it. Certainly, many of the definitions of sustainability are attached to Illinois family farms, bringing great value to long-term maintenance, protection, and care of the environment.

It can be easy to point a finger at what other people should be doing to save the planet. However, it is more difficult to seek the positives, celebrate similarities, work together, and reflect internally on solutions. Residents and citizens of Cook County are taking into consideration environmental impacts of daily choices...the same is true for farmers every day.

Next month: Pillar 2: The Relationship Between Agriculture and Food, Fiber, and Energy

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org

Live LOCAL SHOP LOCAL
GROW. BUY. EAT.

Join today, get your business listed, and reach your community with your products.

Cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local

1920-2020 FARM BUREAU Farm. Family. Food.



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Helping you protect what matters most

0819-503HO



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Recipe of the Month:

Apple Slices

Kathy Lesser



CRUST

- 2 c flour
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 T fresh lemon juice
- 2/3 c butter
- dash of salt
- 1/4 c water

Cut butter into flour and then add the other ingredients and combine in a food processor until the dough forms. Cut dough into two pieces. Roll 1 piece to fit a 9 x 13-inch greased pan.

Set aside. Pre heat oven to 400 degrees

FILLING

8 - 10 apples (locally grown Jonathan or Macintosh work well or use your favorite baking apples)

- 1 c sugar
- 2 T flour
- 1 1/2 t cinnamon

Peel and slice apples and arrange on the bottom crust. Blend the sugar, flour and cinnamon together and sprinkle over the apples. Roll out the other crust and place on top. Seal sides and cut a few vents in the top. Bake for 30 - 40 minutes.

FROSTING

- 1 c powdered sugar
- 1/2 t vanilla
- 2 T milk

Blend the frosting ingredients together and while the apples slices are still warm put the frosting on. Makes about 12, 3-inch square slices. Enjoy!

2021 Recipe Collection Booklets are available!



To receive a free copy:
Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Download a digital copy at:
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes>

Call the Farm Bureau at
708-354-3276

Cook County Farm Bureau® Named 2021 Power of A Award Winner by ASAE

Earlier this summer, the American Society for Association Executives (ASAE) announced the winners of the 2021 Power of A Awards, including Cook County Farm Bureau's *Food Pantry Support* program. As visits to local food pantries skyrocketed on average by more than 50% and at times up to 150% during the height of the pandemic, Cook County Farm Bureau developed several subprojects designed to enable Farm Bureau to reach its objective of financially supporting in-need families and the food pantries that support them. The *Food Pantry Support* project included in-person efforts to purchase and deliver food and member donations to partner food pantries; online engagement to raise awareness of area food pantries, their needs, and service areas; and a grant program for local food pantries to expand their food offerings or facility in light of unprecedented need due to the pandemic. Overall, this project directly impacted over 7,400 individuals, engaged 15 Farm Bureau and 153 community volunteers, and 72 community partners.

The Power of A Awards were created to celebrate and promote the invaluable contributions that associations make to America and the world. Six associations will be recognized with a 2021 Summit Award, ASAE's highest honor for the association community, during the Summit Awards on September 30, 2021, at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

The winners were selected by ASAE's Power of A Awards Judging Committee. This year, the committee received 118 entries in five award categories: The Power of Advocacy; The Power of Industry/Professional Advancement; The Power of Global Development; The Power of Diversity and Inclusion; and The Power of Community Support and Engagement.

"Congratulations to this year's Power of A Award winners, who continue to exemplify the indelible impact associations have on not just the industries and professions they represent, but on society at large," said Barry Pilson, CAE, 2021 Chair of the Power of A Awards Judging Committee. "Given the pandemic-related challenges associations experienced over the past year, it's incredible to see countless cases of associations going above and beyond

their everyday mission to change the world. It's a testament to our community and we're very proud to highlight these award-winning initiatives this year."

Janet McCabe, President of the Cook County Farm Bureau, said, "We are so very proud of the efforts made through the generous support of many members to provide food and resources for food pantries across the Chicagoland area during this very difficult time of the pandemic."

This is the 2nd Summit Award received by the Cook County Farm Bureau. In 2012, the organization was recognized with the Power of A Summit award for the organization's efforts to support area Ronald McDonald House Charities®.



The 2012 Summit Award received by Cook County Farm Bureau

The Summit Awards, founded by George D. Kirkland, CAE, is ASAE's signature event of the year showcasing the unique and indispensable role associations play in America and around the world in bettering communities, fostering volunteer efforts, and harnessing the collective will and expertise of their members to ensure a better quality of life. As reinforced by the Power of A program, America's associations have the power to drive the economy, put people to work, prepare for the future, and enrich lives. The Summit Awards is the industry's chance to celebrate our profession and share that positive message with other key audiences.

Compeer Financial Awards \$169K in General Use Grants

The Fund for Rural America, Compeer Financial's corporate giving program, has awarded 32 General Use Grants, totaling over \$169,000. General Use Grants fund initiatives and organizations whose work enriches agriculture and rural America, aligning with Compeer Financial's mission.

In total, the grants this cycle will directly impact the lives of 104,296 people and will touch 850,000 lives.

Since the program was established in 2018, the Fund has awarded 267 General Use Grants, totaling over \$1.4 million.

"The effects of COVID-19 and food insecurity are prevalent and continue to impact rural communities," said Karen Schieler, senior corporate giving specialist at Compeer. "Many groups continue to find ways to support rural communities and enrich agriculture in their

communities. We saw many applicants continue to find new and innovative ways to assist those impacted by the pandemic and food insecurity."

Cook County Farm Bureau® and Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation are receiving funds for a nutrient loss rural urban exchange and agricultural literacy efforts to connect students to agriculture in an urban environment respectively.

About the Fund for Rural America

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America is the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, structured to support Compeer Financial's mission to enrich.

About Compeer Financial

Compeer Financial is a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities.

Cook County Farm Bureau Welcomes Volunteers

Cook County Farm Bureau® is a member driven organization. Members are at the heart of the organization and are at the heart of every decision made by the Board of Directors.

We want to take a moment and welcome you not only as a member but hopefully as a volunteer with the county's largest general farm organization! By volunteering you're not only adding value to the association, you're also meeting and working with other individuals who share a common interest: agriculture and the healthy food grown and raised by local farmers.

As an organization we're striving to create opportunities that are both personally fulfilling

for volunteers and members and provide mission-related outcomes for the Farm Bureau. Volunteer opportunities range from serving on various committees to assisting at events, preparations for events, serving on task forces, or even joining us for focus groups on a variety of topics. Volunteer opportunities vary in timing as well as time commitment in the hopes that there's an opportunity for everyone who wishes to become involved. As an organization we are striving to have a diverse and inclusive pool of volunteers.

If interested, please visit <https://bit.ly/3iqrQff>. We look forward to hearing from you!

Local Pantry to Receive Needed Refrigeration

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Midwest Dairy quickly pivoted its work to support our communities by providing Undeniably Dairy grant funding for commercial-grade refrigeration units to local food banks in need.

Earlier this year, Cook County Farm Bureau® submitted an application for commercial-grade refrigeration for Alicia's House, a local Cook County food pantry.

Alicia's House Food Pantry is dedicated to Alicia who loved people and loved helping people. She would spend hours working with her Grandma Stella at the church food pantry, making bags of food to hand out to people in

need. Although her Grandma had a specific way to nutritionally pack the bags, Alicia would always add her special touch by making sure each bag would contain a special treat, usually candy. To honor the memory of Alicia who passed away at the age of four, Grandma Stella and Poppy Juan started Alicia's House. Alicia's House feeds hundreds of hungry families and each bag of food contains Alicia's special loving touch. Alicia's House serves the communities of Beecher, Crete, Steger, Peotone, University Park, Monee, and South Chicago Heights.

To date, Midwest Dairy has approved 50 grant applications which will serve an estimated 55,877 people.

Young Leaders



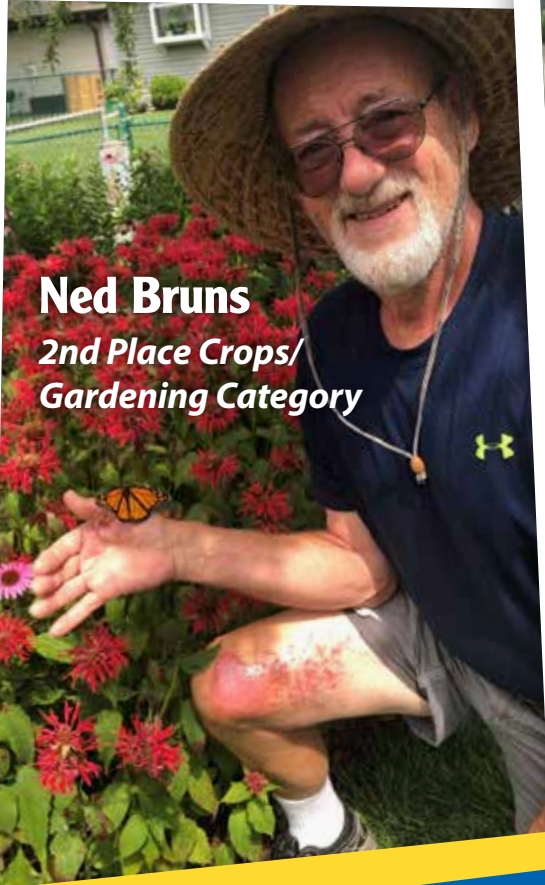
Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and friends, Monica, Karina, Kelsey, Blake, Thomas, and Tom, gathered to chat following a tour of the Plant and the Packingtown Museum on August 15. The Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Team and other members participated in the tour of the facility located at 1400 W 46th St. in Chicago. Members 18 to 35 years old with an interest in agriculture, leadership development, and community service are welcome to participate in the Young Leaders group. For more information, contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Hops at the Farm Bureau



On the grounds of the Cook County Farm Bureau, a few new plants are being established. With the need to provide green cover to the chiller/garbage structure following the removal of overgrown shrubs, the Building Committee thought that they might see if hops would fill the need. Once established, the plants have grown quickly.

JULY SELFIE CONTEST WINNERS ARE IN!



Ned Bruns
2nd Place Crops/
Gardening Category



Don Carlson
1st Place Crops/
Gardening Category



Stephanie Oehmen
3rd Place Crops/
Gardening Category

Cook County Farm Bureau® Summer Selfie Contest

The Member Relations Team sponsored the Summer Selfie Contest for June, July, and August sub-missions. We thank all members who joined in the fun to participate. Next month, we will show our August winners. Thanks for a great crop of photos and fun this summer!

CATEGORIES:

- 1) Farmers' Markets
- 2) Crops/Gardening
- 3) Farm Animals

PRIZES:

Photos were selected from each of the three categories. 1st and 2nd place winners will receive a cash prize and photos will be featured in the Co-Operator, on our website, and social media.

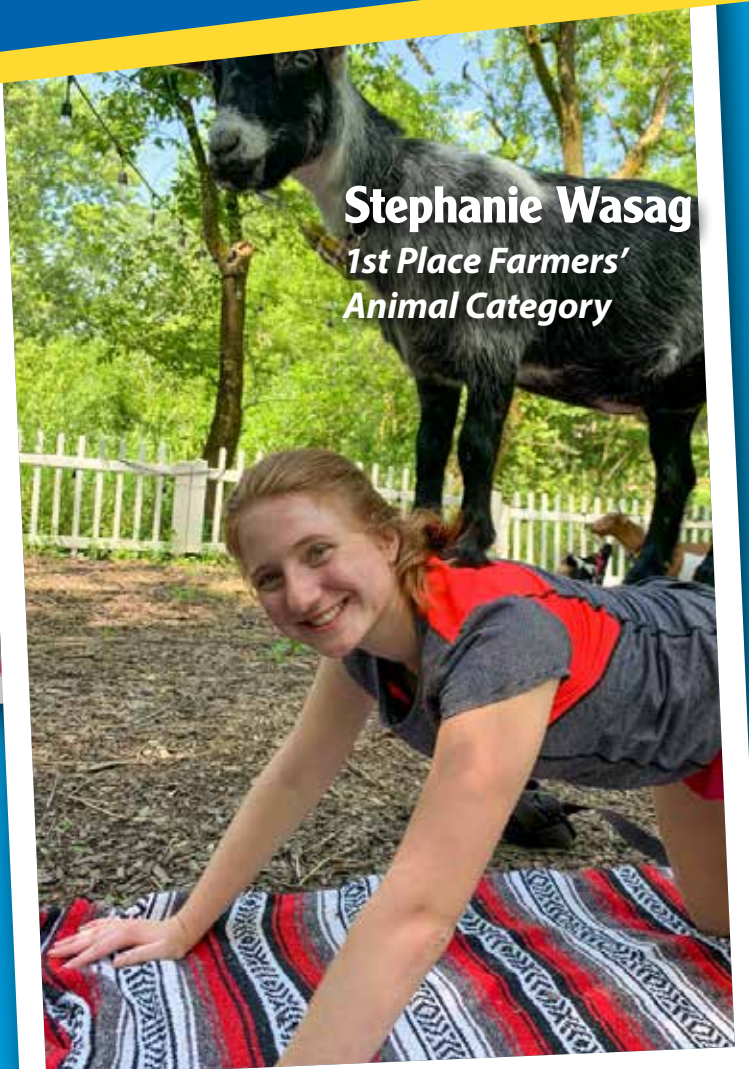
- 1st place: \$75
- 2nd place: \$35
- 3rd place: CCFB swag bag



Ruth Zeldenrust
1st Place Farmers'
Markets Category



Candice Conner
2nd Place Farmers'
Markets Category



Stephanie Wasag
1st Place Farmers'
Animal Category

The Cook County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce winners of the July selfie contest! The photos will be featured in various publications, on our website, social media, etc. Thank you and congratulations!



Emily Lopata, 2021 Agriculture Literacy Summer Intern

Ag with Em An Opportunity to Grow

Spending my summer with the Cook County Farm Bureau as an Ag Literacy Intern can only be described as wonderful. Working with an organization whose vision is to help people recognize and value the importance of agriculture has been so rewarding. Every day I felt that I was contributing to a cause that is so important to me.

Some of my favorite responsibilities included writing my monthly column to share information about agriculture in a fun way and creating videos to post on Facebook and the website. This experience allowed me to teach agriculture to families at local libraries both virtually and in person. I also got to explore community gardens in Chicago during my time as an intern. I was able to experience agriculture in a region beyond my own, giving me a new perspective. While at home, I am accustomed to seeing rows of corn following me down every road, but here I was impressed to see beautiful urban gardens throughout the community. While agriculture is important to all of us, I have learned that we all experience and relate to it in many ways.

I am excited to head back to Illinois State University for the year and finish my degree. Having a degree in Agribusiness is the best of both worlds. I can learn lots of new and

important business skills while also diving deeper into a topic I already knew I loved. Though I come from a family farm, many of my classmates do not have an agricultural background. You do not have to be a farmer to study agriculture! If you look at the numbers, there are more jobs open than there are students graduating each year with degrees in agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environmental sciences. This means there is an overabundance of opportunities waiting for recent graduates in these fields!

Studying agriculture is exciting and offers many different routes you could go! If you are interested in business like me, then Agribusiness or Animal Industry Management could be great options for you! Otherwise, if you are someone who likes to be creative, you could explore opportunities in Agriculture Education or Agricultural Communications. There are also possibilities to focus on science in Crop and Soil Science, Agronomy, or Pre-Vet!

Completing your degree is only part of a successful college experience. Getting involved and having internships play an important part in finding your passion through real-life experiences. I am so thankful I was able to have this opportunity to grow throughout my internship with the Cook County Farm Bureau!

Emily can be reached at aitcintern@cookcfb.org.

Agriculture Books and Activities in Your Classrooms Get a Grant Workshop

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Spend an hour with us learning fun ways to add agriculture topics to your curriculum through our Book and/or Project Grant Applications. We will also feature free resources and activities that will be offered through our Ag in the Classroom programming this school year. Earn 1 Free PDCH

Time: 4-5 p.m.

Location: Cook County Farm Bureau or virtually

Registration: Call Jill or Diane at 708-354-3276 or email aitc2@cookcfb.org



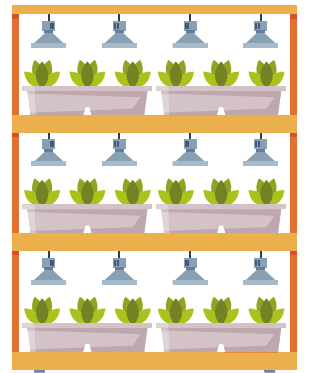
2021-2022 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Grants for Teachers

BOOK GRANT

The Thing about Luck
The Great Pumpkin Smash
The Broken Bees' Nest
BUZZING WITH QUESTIONS
Flowers are Calling

<https://bit.ly/Books2022>

PROJECT GRANT



<https://bit.ly/projectGrant>

Application deadline October 15, 2021



We partnered with the River Trails Park District Program in Mt. Prospect for our final Ag in the Classroom Program this summer. The two-hour program included four learning stations held in two sessions where students from kindergarten to sixth grade (along with their camp counselors) enjoyed learning about Farm to Table: Where Does my Burger Come From, Chicken and Eggs Up Close, What's Growing at the Farmer's Market and Plant Parts: Making a Seed Ball. The 150+ children were drawn to the hands-on activities and very curious about Grant, the Ameraucana Hen who lays green eggs. Our thanks to all presenters including University of IL Extension staff and volunteers and AITC Staff. If your organization is looking to partner on agriculture education, please contact us at aitc@cookcfb.org.

High School Ag

As summer winds down and cooler evenings relieve the daytime heat, we turn our attention to fall harvest and the return of school. Two schools in Cook County have been working all summer to implement new courses in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR).



BARRINGTON HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

GROW LOCAL > THINK GLOBAL



Rich Township STEM High School, Matteson, hired Miss Piaget Felix to begin teaching their *Community Food Production* program. A graduate of Illinois State University, Miss Felix is excited to meet her new students and introduce them all of the opportunities that Ag can provide them. Students will have the opportunity to take Introduction to AFNR, Agriculture Biology, Food Processing, and Urban Agriculture. Over the next several years they will build a sustainable food production farm on land that was formerly athletic facilities. They will help students learn about healthy eating, employment skills, entrepreneurship, and provide food for their school culinary classes and their local food pantries.

Barrington High School, Barrington, has been working all summer with Horticulture Instructor John Ardente to incorporate sustainable food production into the horticulture program. Students will begin to design and implement plans for their greenhouse and areas of their school campus that were previously underutilized, including lawn space to grow food for use in their school culinary courses and cafeterias. Benjamin Rodriguez, Assistant Principal of Technology & Innovation, who has been leading the project said, "I'm excited about the opportunities students will have to get experience and skills in the burgeoning fields of sustainability and green industries. Also, after a school year marked by many challenges, engaging students in green learning can revitalize students through authentic, hands-on activities while leveraging innovative and sustainable growing methods."



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Ag in the Classroom

Virtual
LIVE

OR IN-PERSON

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AITC2@COOKCFB.ORG

FREE PROGRAMS

Membership brings out great value!

Go to www.cookcfb.org/membership to access great savings and discounts.

Agriculture Adventures for Families



As children (and adults) head back to school (or learn from home) it's a perfect time to thank local and U.S. farmers! They provide more than just the soy biodiesel in the school buses and the ethanol blend in our cars. Illinois wheat is used for chocolate chip cookies; Illinois specialty growers provide apples, and Prairie Farms Dairy and Illinois dairy farmers, provide thousands of ½ pint milk cartons filled with milk! But what about the rest of the back-to-school supplies? How are they linked to agriculture? Let's look at just a few!



California cedar trees are most used in pencils due to the non-warping features, and a classroom of 32 students, each carrying 5 new 100-page notebooks use the wood from roughly one tree. To see how pencils are made, check out this pencil making factory: <https://youtu.be/NPzCZZMnaal>. Did you know pencils do not contain lead, but graphite and clay?



Spruce, fir, aspen, and maple trees are typically harvested for use in facial tissues because of the thin wood fiber system that provide both softness and durability.

You can find soybean oil in some crayons (Prang), but you'll also find hair from cattle or pigs in paintbrushes, and more soy by-products in the cleaning materials to help clean up the art room!



Hand sanitizer can be made with alcohol produced from Illinois Corn. Many ethanol plants transitioned from making fuel for automobiles to making hand sanitizer last year as fewer cars were on the road.



Teachers will find lanolin from sheep in the lotion they use after grading all the papers and fatty acids from beef cattle are also used in cleaners and sanitizers!



You will find beef by-products in the new bottles of glue, as well as the erasers from those brand-new pencils!



Source: agintheclassroom.org

What about your back-to-school clothes?

Many are made from cotton.

Did you know that one bale of cotton makes 1,217 t-shirts, 215 pairs of jeans and 4,321 socks?

The extra sock is the one that gets lost in the laundry anyway!



Snack Stackers



Healthy Lunch Ideas

INGREDIENTS:

1 slice lunch meat 1 slice cheese 4 Ritz crackers

DIRECTIONS:

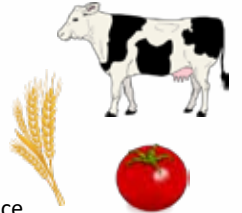
Cut 4 (1-1/2-inch) circles out of your choice of lunch meat (use small glass if you don't have a cutter that is that small and cut around it), then cut 4 (1-1/4-inch) stars out of your choice of cheese.

Top each cracker with 1 lunch meat circle and 1 cheese star or place in container and ship off in lunch box.

Lunchbox Pizza Quesadilla

INGREDIENTS:

2 -8 inches flour tortillas (small size to fit in lunchbox)
3 tablespoons spaghetti sauce or 3 tablespoons pizza sauce
1/4 cup shredded cheese (I like Monterey Jack, but use what you like)
8 slices pepperoni



DIRECTIONS:

These are made just like any other quesadilla or grilled cheese sandwich. Spray the bottom of a non-stick skillet with cooking spray and preheat. When the pan is fairly hot place 1 Flour Tortilla in the pan. Fairly quickly (because you want to get everything on before the bottom starts to brown) spread on a few tablespoons of sauce. Then add a layer of Pepperoni (and anything else you like). Then top with shredded cheese. Top it off with the 2nd Flour Tortilla. Just like any other quesadilla or grilled cheese let it brown then flip it over. After both sides are browned and the insides are hot and melted take the "pizzas" out to cool. Once cooled slice in 1/4 like a pizza and wrap snugly with plastic wrap or aluminum foil.

September Word Search

Apples
Corn
Cotton
Crayons
Glue
Milk
Paper
Pencil

Products
School
Socks
Soy
Supplies
Teacher
Tree
Wheat

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

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.

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...



Joel Holleman

Hey, Look at the Hay



While some people ho-hum about the drive between here and the Rockies, I noted the hay bales during our summer road trip. The large round bundles of dried fresh grasses or clover dotted the landscape, photo-worthy in most instances. They sat proudly in fields, waterways and field edges as an iconic symbol of rural America. And they're a major feedstuff for livestock, notably cows that consume more than 30 pounds a day when pasture grass cannot provide.

Iowa farmers baled waterway grasses meandering through corn and soybean fields. Nebraska farmers tended expansive hay fields. Colorado farmers baled against an impressive mountain backdrop.

In all those road miles, we saw equipment parked in barnyards and at field edges but rarely in action. Bales seem to show up like mole hills across the land, often without notice of the process that has evolved dramatically in the last century. This summer, my dad found an antique hay knife in an old barn. It reminded us that farming ancestors used to manually harvest

loose hay, stack it in a barn mow and later cut from the compacted pile for feeding livestock.

Today, mechanical balers handle the bundling and tractors the stacking, unless we opt to harvest a rack of small square bales. Most modern-day round bales don weather-protective net wrap straight out of the baler, a welcome improvement from my childhood when we fitted each bale with a plastic sleeve for outdoor storage.

Mother Nature's reign over the process spans the generations, remaining in control of when we harvest hay and how much we yield across several cuttings. The sun for haymaking seems to shine more on the weekends. However, most farmers will tell you that mowed hay, a crop that must dry or cure before baling, seems to increase the odds for a pop-up rain shower.

The kids don't share those worries and just enjoy the bundled forage, particularly leaping across the large round bales lined at the field edge. They also climb bales in the mow, a good place to talk about the differences between the hay and straw stored there.

During Dad's barn cleanup, he also found a vintage pop bottle near the hay knife. I like to imagine that the laborer enjoyed a cola break from his vantage point at the mow window, overlooking a harvested hay field and a job well done.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens

Family Farm and Food Bytes

ILLINOIS ALLOWS HOME COOKS TO SELL SHELF-STABLE FOODS BEYOND FARMERS MARKETS – The Illinois General Assembly passed a law this spring that will allow entrepreneurs to make direct sales and deliveries to customers beyond farmers markets. They will be able to sell their products across the state without a \$1,000 monthly sales cap. (Marketplace)

TEAM USA ON HOME TURF IN TOKYO'S OLYMPIC STADIUM - U.S. Olympians should have felt a touch of home in the Olympic stadium thanks to USDA and American ag research. Japan sodded its National Stadium field with TifSport Bermudagrass, developed by USDA and University of Georgia researchers on the Tifton campus, which is world renown for turfgrass research. TifSport is dense, medium-to fine-textured grass bred to withstand high traffic on sports fields and to tolerate herbicides. TifGrand also is shade tolerant, key for the Japanese stadium with high walls of seating and roofing that could hinder grass growth on the field. (FarmWeekNow)

DOLLAR GENERAL ADDING FRESH PRODUCE TO STORES - Dollar General reported the company expects to sell fresh produce in up to 10,000 stores over the next several years, according to Progressive Grocery. Currently, the variety store chain sells fresh produce in 1300 stores that provide the top 20 items typically sold in grocery stores and at about 80% of the types of produce carried by most grocers. In recent years, Dollar General's top merchandising priority has been adding freezers and coolers in new and remodeled stores make space for more refrigerated and frozen products. (FarmWeek)

LABOR SHORTAGE NOT NEW TO FARMING, BUT THERE IS EVEN MORE COMPETITION NOW – From the fruit orchards of California to dairy farms in Cambria County, Pa., a labor shortage is affecting the entire food chain industry, including agriculture. The labor shortage is also hitting home in the Heartland, where some farms struggle to attract qualified labor, restaurant job ads go unanswered, and some corn de-tasseling contractors struggle to meet deadlines due to short crews. (Farm World)

PHILIPPINES APPROVES GOLDEN RICE FOR COMMERCIAL USE – The Philippines on July 21 became the first country to approve commercial propagation of Golden Rice. The hope is that the approval of Golden Rice will help the Philippines meet its Sustainable Development goal of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. (World-Grain)

BACON MAY DISAPPEAR IN CALIFORNIA AS PIG RULES TAKE EFFECT – At the beginning

of next year, California will begin enforcing an animal welfare proposition approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2018 that requires more space for breeding pigs, egg-laying chickens and veal calves. Unless the courts intervene or the state temporarily allows non-compliant meat to be sold in the state, California will lose almost all of its pork supply, much of which comes from Iowa. (NBC News)

MCDONALD'S RIDING THE TREND IN COMFORT FOOD TO SOARING SAME-STORE SALES RESULTS – McDonald's Corp. reported global comparable sales growth of 40.5% in the second-quarter, up 6.9% on a two-year basis, helped not only by the pandemic recovery, but also a comfort food trend that has taken hold over the past year. (MarketWatch)

HOW TO USE SNAP BENEFITS AT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET – Fresh fruit and vegetables can be one of the more expensive items on a grocery bill. During financially challenging times, the goals of making ends meet and putting those healthy foods on the table may seem at odds with one another. But today in the U.S., local farmers' markets and government organizations are working to help people get greater access to these nutritious foods with assistance programs. (Allrecipes)

FOR FIRST TIME, AVERAGE PAY FOR SUPERMARKET AND RESTAURANT WORKERS TOPS \$15 AN HOUR – The U.S. labor market hit a new milestone recently: For the first time, average pay in restaurants and supermarkets climbed above \$15 an hour. Wages have been rising rapidly as the economy reopens and businesses struggle to hire enough workers. Some of the biggest gains have gone to workers in some of the lowest-paying industries. (The Washington Post)

FOOD STAMPS TO GET THEIR BIGGEST BOOST EVER, WITH BENEFITS RISING MORE THAN 25% – The Biden administration is overhauling food stamps by putting in place a permanent increase in grocery benefits, providing a 27% bump in aid that marks the biggest-ever increase for the program. The boost comes as a temporary increase of 15% was set to expire next month. (CBS News)

About Family Farm and Food Bytes: This is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau® organization. The articles summarized above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally, and globally.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU. Farm. Family. Food.

- Generally, consists of grass or alfalfa and includes leaves
- Main purpose is for livestock feed due to its high nutritional value
- Usually, a light shade of green and it has a slightly sweet smell to it

Hay VS. Straw

A bale of hay and a bale of straw may look similar and may be found together in the same places, but they are quite different.

- By-product of harvest, usually the hollow stalks and stems from crops like wheat or oats
- Main purpose is for livestock bedding
- Usually, a golden color and it doesn't have much of a smell to it

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Growing To Serve You Better



Janet McCabe, Cook CFB President, sent us her favorite view from the tractor as she raked hay recently.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

For many families, August and September bring the return of school. Routines. Schedules. Fall sports. And another month closer to Halloween. For our family, the tail end of summer brings the county fair.



The weekend before he claimed his first check at a National Barrel Horse Association sanctioned barrel race.

Our three show calves affectionately known as Apple Crisp, Poppy, and Velociraptor made their debut at Boone County. Our blue-eyed girl clipped her calves. I handled the delicate work on their faces, tails, and legs. But she did most of the work. Our farmer held the biggest one still. Fluffy red and white fur tickles the nose and makes the heifer dance.

Each animal had their time in the show ring. Our grade Holstein picked from the lot over spring break went on to win Reserve Champion at the VIP Show and Junior Reserve Champion at the 4H Show. Her biggest fault is that her face is too short.

Our littlest, wildest girl, Velociraptor, was at a tremendous disadvantage, her late birthday combined with her size dropped her placing deep into the class. Our blue-eyed girl could care less about Velociraptor's size or her placing, she adores the little monster. Unlike the other two, Velociraptor made a show ring return for Pee Wee Showmanship with our big little boy. Together they strutted their stuff and took home a bucket of goodies. Together they promptly devoured the candy.

Apple Crisp, our blue-eyed girl's favorite yearling who identifies as a puppy, strutted her stuff to a first-place finish in the Junior Show and a second-place finish in the Open Show. Unlike her small friends, Apple Crisp did not appreciate being away from her pasture. Friends. Or pond. Unlike her neighbors, she would drag you down the aisle and out the door. Next year she will likely become our first owned and family shown animal to enter a show ring at World Dairy Expo. And I will add Show Mom to my resume.

As our fair comes to a close our blue-eyed girl's love of her animals, 4H, and fair continues to grow. As parents, we want nothing more than blue-eyed girl to want to milk the cows. Drive the tractors. Farm. Just like her dad, grandfather, and great grandfather before her.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org



Fair count to date is four: Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin; Carroll County, McHenry County, and Boone County in Illinois. I wish I could say I ate my way through each one. Heck I wish I could say I had a lemonade shakeup at each one. But I didn't. Nor did I enter open baking, sewing, or woodworking. We have livestock.



Our big red dragon and his kid brother have graced each fair except for Carroll County. With our blue-eyed girl in tow the big red dragon showed off his smooth as butter jog. Confidence going near obstacles. And fearlessness when faced with a mailbox during the Boone County 4H Pleasure Show.

His kid brother raced through poles, flag, barrels, and plug. Nine months ago, our infamous space cadet was sailing over jumps in a hunter ring so expectations for success at Western speed events this year were quite low. Apparently, no one told him that. With his blond passenger in tow, he raced to a win at poles, barrels, and plug. His brakes are still somewhat sketchy, so flag was not his forte.

Cook County Government to Receive Over \$1 Billion in Funding Through the American Rescue Plan Act...CCFB Monitoring

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), counties are receiving a lot of money to help turn the economic tide on the pandemic. With this money comes questions about eligible expenses on which it can be spent. Information provided in this article has been pulled from the U.S. Treasury Interim Final Rules and guidance.

Under the Interim Final Rules, counties have broad flexibility to use funds. They, in large part, just need to demonstrate their spending supports the public health response and that recipients have experienced economic harm from the pandemic. Counties can supplement government revenue lost from providing public services tied to the pandemic, premium pay for essential workers who could not work remotely, and investment in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Counties can also use the funds to:

- Respond to the public health emergency and negative economic conditions impacting individual households, small businesses, and nonprofits.
- Aid impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- Increase the number of its employees, up to the number of employees as of Jan. 27, 2020, and cover payroll, covered benefits, and other related costs.

Guidance from the U.S. Treasury provides more examples of these primary options where counties can consider investing funds. These examples are apart from the broader use of funds allowed for under the "lost revenue allowance."

- Support public health response: Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain county public health, public safety, human services, and other related staff.
- Address negative economic impacts: Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and rehiring of public sector workers (including county staff).
- Replace public sector revenue loss: Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced during the pandemic – this provision allows for a much broader use

of funds.

- Premium pay for essential workers: Offer additional compensation, up to \$13 per hour in additional wages to county employees and other essential workers who have faced, and continue to face, the greatest health risks due to their service. These funds can be used retroactively back to January 27, 2020.
- Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure: Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.

There are a few ineligible uses of the ARPA funds addressed in the Interim Final Rules. Listed below are a some of those restrictions:

- Funding pension accounts.
- Premium pay for employees who were able to work remotely during the pandemic.
- Paying off local government debt.
- Deposits into a "rainy day" fund or financial reserve accounts.
- Paying legal settlements or judgements.
- Economic or workforce development not connected to economic loss from the pandemic or related to the "revenue loss" allowance.
- Infrastructure spending outside of water, sewer, and broadband, such as new county buildings and road and bridge improvements.

In general, counties are limited to the use of funds to cover costs incurred from March 3, 2021 to Dec. 24, 2024, with all activities completed by Dec. 21, 2026. However, counties can offer retroactive premium pay that dates back to the start of the public health emergency on Jan. 27, 2020.

For additional guidance on spending, review the publication, Overview for America's Counties: U.S. Treasury Interim Final Rule & Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, provided on the National Association of Counties website.

Cook County Farm Bureau reviewed proposed fund use and continues to monitor project proposals.

Rural Urban Exchange



Cook County Farm Bureau® leaders participated in the urban portion of the 2021 Rural Urban Nutrient Loss Exchange Program held in conjunction with Fulton County Farm Bureau® and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in late August.

Farm Bureau is also excited to announce that the 2022 Rural Urban Nutrient Loss Exchange Pro-gram received funding through the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America grant. These funds are designed to support Compeer Financial's mission to enrich agriculture and rural America.

Township Assessed Value Report (2020)

Report | Fig_AV | Table_AV | Table2_SelectedAV | Fig_AVshare | Table2_TopPctts | Report_pertown | Appendix_ByClass | Appendix_total

Township Assessed Value Report: Tax Year 2020 For Residential (Class 2) and Non-Residential (other) Properties in Cook County

Select township(s) to the right. All properties in the South Triennial townships (suburban townships south of Leyden Township) were fully reassessed in 2020. Questions? cookcountyassessor.com/contact

Figure 1. Residential and Non-Residential AV



Every year, the CCAO certifies its own changes to Assessed Value (AV), then certifies those made by the Cook County Board of Review (BOR). Changes to 2020 assessments happened in these three stages: 2019 BOR (County final), then 2020 CCAO, then 2020 BOR (County final).

Total AVs are grouped in Residential (Class 2) or all other Non-Residential property classes (such as vacant land, commercial, industrial, and large apartment properties).

Class Group	2019 BOR	2020 CCAO	2020 BOR
Non-Residential	\$27,741,260,587	\$29,938,087,975	\$26,978,067,769
Residential	\$40,673,184,380	\$37,914,312,339	\$37,655,411,028

In 2020, all properties in South Triennial townships were reassessed resulting in significant changes to property assessments, especially with commercial property. Data regarding assessments, top assessed values per township, and percent share of total assessed value is available at <https://bit.ly/3s4989w>. Residents can view the data on a per township, multi township basis, or entire county basis.

As a non-for profit serving our members across Cook County, we want to make sure that members know where to find information concerning property assessments that affect property taxes and financial resources.

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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 July 2021. Her office is located at 6136 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ste F, in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-631-9107. Malgorzata has been a Financial Representative since January 2008.



Tracey Foster

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

Tracey Foster has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. Her office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave., in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-472-1820. Tracey has been a Financial Representative since April 2021.



Joe Munch

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Joe Munch has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E, in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8835. Joe has been a Financial Representative since February 2015.



Ray Massie Jr.

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Ray Massie Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. His office is located at 25 NW. Point Blvd., Ste. 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-794-1217. Ray has been a Financial Representative since May 2019.



Brett Riekema

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Brett Riekema has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St., Prairie View 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 July 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.



Ed Beavers

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Ed Beavers has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., #150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-588-1404. Ed has been a Financial Representative since June 2020.



Bill McConnell

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Bill McConnell has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for July 2021. His office is located at 6438 Joliet Rd., in Countryside, IL. His phone number is 708-352-5555. Bill has been a Financial Representative since March 2020.



Tim Hartnell

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Tim Hartnell has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 2021. His office is located at 1938 E. Lincoln Hwy., Unit 217 in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is 815-462-0023. Tim has been a Financial Representative since January 1993.



Nadia Abueid

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Nadia Abueid has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 2021. Her office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave., Unit A in Palos Heights, IL. Her phone is 708-995-0233. Nadia has been a Financial Representative since December 2019.



Jim Parthemore *

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

*Jim Parthemore has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for July 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.



Darryl Hervy

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Darryl Hervy has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for July 2021. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101, in Oak Forest, IL. His phone is 708-381-4010. Darryl has been a Financial Representative since April 2021.



The Shop Local directory provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect growers, buyers, sellers, and consumers. Get listed and expand your reach to thousands of new customers.

How to set up your Shop Local business profile:

- STEP 1** Get started at any Shop Local partner website. Visit SpecialGrowers.org/ShopLocal or visit your county Farm Bureau Shop Local website.
- STEP 2** Register and create a login.
- STEP 3** Set up your business information.
- STEP 4** Join networks and choose your business affiliations. Adding affiliations makes your business more searchable. Don't forget to add Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Buy Fresh Buy Local Illinois, and any other business affiliation you belong to.
It's important to know that you will need your Illinois Farm Bureau membership number to add your affiliation. Not a member? Contact your county Farm Bureau or visit myilfb.org to join today!
- STEP 5** Congratulations, your profile is set up and your business is listed. Login and access your account as often as you need. You can also add an e-commerce store or link to an existing store.

- Visit <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory> for info.
- For technical support, contact rscauzzo@ilfb.org.
- For recording of ShopLocal webinar, email membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.



Growing Our Community Together

Shop Local is brought to you through a partnership with Illinois Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, and Illinois MarketMaker.



*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.

This Month in Cook County Agriculture



Farm Bureau Member farm stands are open and bursting with color – red ripe tomatoes, green delicious zucchini, and yellow juicy sweet corn, in spite of the weather! Purchase all your local, farm grown produce at a member farm stand. To locate a member business near you, visit our ShopLocal online directory at:

<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>

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- Buying Rural Farmland 101 Webinar on September 9, 6-8 p.m., presented by Liberty Prairie Foundation. The webinar will feature three experienced speakers – a realtor, a lending specialist, and an appraiser – who all specialize in working with farmers and farmland. The fee for attending the event is \$10/ person and to register go to: <https://libertyprairiefoundation.salsalabs.org/BuyingRuralFarmland101/index.html?etype=EmailBlastContent&eld=866f86a1-3da2-4b5b-8d5b-fcbdd5c1eba2>

- Crawl with us...during the 5th Farm Crawl of participating CCFB member Ag locations on Saturday, September 11, 2021. The family friendly crawl is self-guided using our Passport to visit participating locations, and will include location details, hours, with many offering special discounts that day. Turn in your passport and be entered into our raffle for Farm Funds too! Details & Passport at: <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events/event/2021/09/11/farm-crawl-2021> or call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

- Cog Hill Golf & Country Club hosts their 4th annual Farm to Table Dinner on Sunday, September 12th, 3 pm - 7 pm. The dinner begins with a 3pm Cocktail Hour on Fairway Farms & Apiary, 5pm Dinner on the famous Pork Chop Hill, Dubsdread. Ticket info can be found at: <http://coghillgolf.com/growing-green>.

- The Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the spring Tree and Fish Sale. Order forms are available on the District FaceBook Page (address below) or can be picked up at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District office during business hours. U.S. Mail, email and fax copies can also be requested by calling (815) 462-3106 x 3. The District has a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and trees available this fall. Stock ranges in size from 8 inches to 6-foot linear stock, and one, two and three gallon potted stock. Fish varieties for sale include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Fathead Minnows, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Triploid Grass Carp and Golden Shiner. ALL Fish Orders must be placed and received by September 15th. Grass Carp Orders require permit information on bottom of form to be filled in completely. Orders are pre-paid only. Tree orders will be available for pickup on Thursday and Friday, October 7th and 8th - 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 9th, from noon till 4pm at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox. Fish stock will be available for pickup on Saturday, October 9th, 7 a.m. only, at the above location. For more information on the sale, Call (815) 462-3106 ext. 3 or email info@will-scookswcd.org. Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/willsouthcookSoilandWater/>

This article is for local farmstands, farmers' markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations that are hosting farm-related activities, events, workshops, and gatherings that will occur soon.

To promote your activity, email membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708-354-3276 by the 15th of the month. Please include your name, the event date/time, a one-sentence description of the event, and how a reader can obtain further information in the email. We will edit submissions based on space allowances in the publication. In addition, we will post farm, garden, or livestock related photos on our social media platform if you forward those to: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org.

Master Gardener Resource Center Continues to Assist Members During the Fall Season

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and the University of Illinois Extension continue to partner on a project that benefits local Farm Bureau members and the general public. Since April 15, the master gardeners have been back (working virtually) to answer questions from members and the general public related to gardening and horticulture. This dedicated group will continue to respond to questions through mid-November of 2021.

The master gardeners will be accessible by emailing mastergardener@cookcfb.org or by contacting the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

General topic areas that can be addressed include soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification and treatment, and more. Commercial related questions will be forwarded to the University of Illinois Extension professional staff.

Classifieds

All ads that we receive for The Co-Operator are also listed on our website at 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. 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 months. 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

Fine Leather Hancock & Moore sleep sofa, emerald, green, excellent condition, rarely used. \$475 cash. Sugar Grove/ Aurora. Call Dee 630-664-2230.

Two shelf black wheeled cabinet \$15. Hoover rug & upholstery cleaner \$25. Panasonic countertop large microwave oven brown case/black door \$25. Walker (adjustable) \$15. Noritake Fine China service for four with additional pieces serial #6501 Picadeilly design \$40. Holmes cool mist humidifier \$5. Christmas dish by Gibson dishwasher & microwave safe 8 dinner plates, 8 bowls, 8 mugs, creamer & sugar bowl \$25. Call Fran 708-614-8541.

King size bedroom set- White oak made in Canada, complete bedroom set, mattress, box spring, bridge headboard with nightstands-built in. Dresser & mirror, separate chest drawer, in excellent condition. \$1200. Call Jim 708-594-6399.

52" Bathroom sink and cabinet, honey oak color, \$100. Hp 19" computer monitor, \$40. Call Jim 708-594-6399.

Cemetery plots at Lakewood Memorial Park, Elgin IL. 5 Gravesites can be divided. Excellent location in the last supper, section 20, lot 70. Asking \$1225 each, cemetery priced at \$1500 each. Call Cheryl 847-359-6712.

For Rent

5 Star Resort 3br/2ba Condo 2 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$109/night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com/218673.

Wanted

One thing to buy your electric trains and slot cars, turn those unwanted trains and slot cars into cash. Call Ron 630-272-4433.

Wanted to buy older musical instruments, guitars, banjos, mandolins etc. Also, old records...Rock n roll, Blues, Jazz Lp's,45s also 78s. Call Jim 708-361-8230.

Wanted 1972 older cars, trucks/ parts unfinished projects and 1967/69 Camaros. Call 708-439-9770.

Wanted: Part Time Employee to serve in role of maintenance for 20,000 sq. feet, office building and grounds. Diverse skills in areas in HVAC systems, carpentry, plants and grounds, basic electrical and comfortable with hands-on labor. Hourly 20-25 hours per week. Limited benefits. Send cover letter and resume to Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.

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. Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum

Pollinator Garden



Cook County Farm Bureau leader Dan Biernacki lays the groundwork for the Farm Bureau's onsite pollinator garden earlier this summer. The garden will be planted this fall prior to frost and will feature a mixture of butterfly and pollinator friendly plants, including New England Asters, Cosmos, and Milkweeds. Stay tuned for exciting events and educational activities next summer.

New Member Benefit Platform



Sign up to access over 302,000 discounts

<https://ilfb.abenity.com>



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



Farm Crawl – Cook County Ag Member Locations

The Cook County Farm Bureau is sponsoring its 5th annual member FARM CRAWL on Saturday, September 11. The Farm Crawl is self-guided with no set schedules allowing members and the public flexibility to choose the farms and agri-businesses to visit during the CRAWL times. Full program details, and participating farms and business information will be available soon as well as on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at <https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>.

Date: Saturday, September 11

Time: 10:00-4:00pm; hours may vary by location

Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276; email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org; online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.



Conceal and Carry Class 16-hour Training

The ABCs 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 at least 21 to participate. Please bring a pen and lunch both days.

Date: Saturday, September 11 and Sunday, September 12

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 12th).

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



Shred Day

Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers' boxes) that you would like to have shredded.

Date: Saturday, September 18

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: 4200 Euclid Ave, Rolling Meadows, IL

Price: No Charge

Registration/Description: Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276 to make a reservation



DIY Night at CCFB

Have you ever macramé? Would you like to make your own macramé wall hanging? We invite you to join us for fun DIY night at the CCFB!

Date: Tuesday, September 21

Time: 7-9pm

Location: CCFB Building

Price: \$25 for members

Registration/Description: Choose from 2 designs with step-by-step guidance. No artistic experience required. Admission is \$25 for members (regularly \$35). Admission includes all supplies, snacks, and soft drinks. Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276.



21st Annual Giant Pumpkin, Dessert, Carving, Local Honey, & Youth Contest

Giant pumpkin growers, bakers, carvers, and beekeepers: this is the contest for you! Adult and youth (under 16 yrs.) divisions. Contest is free to members and registration is required. Cash prizes awarded in all categories.

Date: Saturday, October 2

Time: 9:00am check in time

Location: Puckerville Farms, 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont

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

or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Registration form and full program details at: [https://](https://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events/archive/2021/10)

cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events/archive/2021/10



Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts and Transferring Non-Titled Property

Estate Planning and Trust Administration

Presented by Thomas J. Olofsson, J.D., Estate Planning Attorney

Do you need to update your will? Do you know what to do in preparing a will and a trust? Do you understand what probate court is? This program will provide the advantages and disadvantages of preparing a will and trust. The program will inform you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust. Also,

tips will be shared on what to look for in choosing a lawyer and where to locate a lawyer for this task.

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

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

Price: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members. \$10 for non-members

Registration: Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276.

tips will be shared on what to look for in choosing a lawyer and where to locate a lawyer for this task.

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

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

Price: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members. \$10 for non-members

Registration: Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276.



AARP Smart Driver 2 Day Course

The AARP Smart Driver course, offered by AARP Driver Safety, is the nation's largest classroom driver safety course and is designed especially for drivers age 50 and older. You'll learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. By successfully completing this course, you may be eligible for a discount on your COUNTRY Financial auto insurance. People over 55 who have not had a motor vehicle accident or violation within the past twelve months are eligible.

Date: Wednesday, October 27 and Thursday, October 28

Time: 9am- pm

Location: CCFB Building

Price: The classroom course costs \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members.

Registration: Space is limited, so register now by calling 708-354-3276.



Composting Basics for Ag Operations Lunch & Learn Webinar

Grab some lunch and learn and what you need to know about composting for Ag producers and farms, led by industry expert, Ellen Phillips.

Date: Wednesday, November 17

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Webinar via Zoom or call in by phone – info and link will be sent prior to the webinar

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

email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org; online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

21st Annual

Giant Pumpkin, Local Honey, Pumpkin Dessert, Carving & Decorating Contests

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 9 am - 11 am

9:00 am Registration/Check-In

Puckerville Farms - 13332 Bell Rd, Lemont IL

Giant Pumpkin Weigh in Contest:

Divisions: Adult and Youth (16 and younger)
Rules: Contest open to CCFB members and their dependents. One pumpkin **grown** per person may be entered into the contest.

Prizes: Adult 1st Place - \$250 Youth 1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$150 2nd Place - \$75
3rd Place - \$75 3rd Place - \$50

Homemade Pumpkin Dessert Contest:

Rules: Contest open to any CCFB member/dependents; open to all ages and must be present to win. Dessert will be judged by appearance, taste, and texture.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$50
3rd Place - \$25

Home Grown Local Honey Contest:

Rules: Contest open to CCFB or CDDBA members/dependents and open to all ages. Honey judging criteria will be provided once registered, prior to contest.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$100 & ribbon
2nd Place - \$50 & ribbon
3rd Place - \$25 & ribbon

Youth Fun Contest:

Guess The Weight of the Pumpkin! Contest open to anyone 16yrs and younger in 3 age categories.

Prizes: 1st Place & Runner up prize in each age group
Participation Prize: All entries receive a pie pumpkin, activity bag

Pumpkin Carving Contest 3rd year!

Division: Ages 16 & up members and their dependents
Rules: Pumpkin will be provided by CCFB; free hand carving only, no patterns allowed. Carvers will have 1 hour to carve using their own carving tools.

Prizes: 1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$50
3rd Place - \$25



Entry Fee: Free for Members, Non-members may enter by joining CCFB.
Rules: Contest open to any CCFB member & dependents. Check in by 9:15 am to be considered; must be present to win.
Judging: Members of the Commodities/Marketing Team will serve as judges. The decision of the judges is final.

CONTESTS Registration Form

____ Giant Pumpkin ____ Adult ____ Youth-17 & under

____ Pumpkin Dessert (open to all ages)

____ Youth Pumpkin Guess How Much Contest:

____ 6 & under ____ 7-11 ____ 12-16 years

____ Home Grown Honey (open to all ages)

____ Pumpkin Carving Contest (16 yrs & up)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Farm Bureau Member Number: _____

Registration form online: <http://cookcfb.org/stay-updated/upcoming-events>

Mail, fax, or email entry form to:
Cook County Farm Bureau
Attn: Debbie Voltz
6438 Joliet Road Countryside, IL 60525
Fax: 708-579-6056

Email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Register by phone at: 708-354-3276



Past issues of the Co-Operator are available online at cookcfb.org/stay updated