



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 92 No. 5

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

May 2018

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

15th & 16th Defensive Driving Course (Must attend both classes) Page 1

17th Eldercare Emergency Toolkit Page 1

22nd Marketing for Today's Consumer Page 1

JUNE

7th Family Breakout Box Glenwd/Lynwd Pub Lib Page 6

9th Wagner Dairy Breakfast Page 11

13th Family Breakout Box Historic Wagner Farm Page 6

14th Family Breakout Box Morton Grove Pub Lib Page 6

20th Family Breakout Box Evergreen Pub Lib Page 6

23rd Shred Day Page 10

23rd Growing & Cooking with Herbs Page 12

JULY

10th thru 13th Summer Agriculture Academy Page 6

19th Family Breakout Box LaGrange Pub Lib Page 6

AUGUST

18th Farm Crawl Page 11

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to cookcfb.org, or contact the office at 708-354-3276.

You can register for most programs using the member service center at cookcfb.org.

Cook County Farm Bureau®

Presents

Marketing for Today's Consumer

Workshop & Break out Session for Small Business Owner Members

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Time: 10 :30 AM | 2:00 PM | 4:30 PM

3 One-hour Presentations with "1 on 1" Consults Available

Presenter: Sabrina Burkiewicz, Senior Social Media Specialist, IFB

- Learn how social media can help generate more revenue for your small business.
- Learn how to choose the right social media platform for your business.
- Learn how to promote your business on social media.
- Learn about tools to make it easy to promote your business on social media from your phone.

Member businesses are encouraged to bring their devices (phones, iPad, laptop) to view business' website, social media sites.

Pre-registration required by calling the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276, emailing membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or online by accessing your account at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.



Cook County Farm Bureau®

6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-3276
www.cookcfb.org/Events



Victoria Settles (left), Tesheana Dillard (middle), and LaSheena Clark (right) rolled up their sleeves and found a paint brush at CCFB's 1st Build a Board night. Over 20 members enjoyed a girls night out!

Get the Tools You Need for Eldercare



The Eldercare Emergency Toolkit: Taking Care of Your Loved Ones Before the Crisis

As our parents and spouses age, we have a special obligation to look after them. But that care can come with stress and heartache, especially for those who don't have a plan before an emergency occurs.

Join renowned attorney and speaker Ben Neiberger of Generation Law, as he shares 10 moral imperatives for eldercare to help you:

- Mitigate the stress of caring for a loved one
- Continue to have a healthy, productive life
- Develop an end-of-life plan that works for all involved

Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m.

Cook County Farm Bureau

6438 Joliet Road

Countryside, IL 60525

Register today at 708-354-3276

Question of the Month

What is the web address of the brand new website of the Cook County Farm Bureau?

☆Bonus☆: What page of this publication is CCFB mascot Corny Calvin "hanging out" on this month?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or fax your answer to 708-579-6056. **If you will be emailing your entry, our email address has changed. Please email your answers to FBcooperator@gmail.com (Please include name, FB# and phone number)** for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 gas card.

April's winner is **Roselyn King**.

Last Month's Question:

When will the Master Gardeners begin staffing the green "resource center" Farm Office for the 2018 growing season?

Answer: April 16th

☆Bonus☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, Corny Calvin, was hanging out in the April issue of the Co-Operator was... page 7.

\$\$\$Receive discounts on your auto insurance\$\$\$

Defensive Driving Course

Spots are limited!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® and Country Financial will be hosting a Defensive Driving Course on May 15, 2018 & May 16, 2018 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the CCFB office in Countryside. Both days must be attended to receive the certification. Cost for the class is \$15 for members and \$25 for non members (includes course materials and lunch both days).



The course explores the causes of vehicle collisions (mental, physical and environmental factors) and teaches how defensive driving principles can prevent most of these costly incidents. Upon completion, you may be eligible for a discount on your auto insurance. Rated drivers 55 and over who have not had a motor vehicle accident or violation within the past 12 months are eligible. The savings will extend for 3 years on the policy.

This program was developed by the National Safety Council and will be taught by safety specialist, Doug Sommer, Pekin, Illinois. The course, which is conducted in a classroom setting, is very informative, entertaining and relevant to today's driving environment and standards. An exam is not required to complete the course or receive certification.

Reservations are required and class size is limited. Call the CCFB at (708) 354-3276 to make your reservation or for more information.



Mike Rauch, a Cook County farmer

Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

"Why do you use chemicals on your farm?"

Answered by Mike Rauch, Cook County Farmer

Every farm is different. Farms have different soil types. Farms have different weed, insect, and disease pressures. Because of these differences and others, some farmers will choose to use crop protectants and some farmers will choose not to use crop protectants.

Before making any decision, farmers carefully consider soil types, seed traits, and their markets. Farmers also review land grant university studies and new developments in farming to ensure that they are using the safest and

best practice on their farm. Before applying any crop protectants, farmers examine their crops for insects, weeds, and disease and only use crop protectants when needed.

The crop protectants of today are extremely precise, effective, and leave virtually no residue. They're also extensively tested and proven safe by the Food and Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Before a farmer can purchase or apply any chemical, they are educated, tested, and certified by the Department of Agriculture.

Have a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.

IDOA Honors First Bicentennial Farm Family

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Governor Bruce Rauner joined Ag Director Raymond Poe and members of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission to honor Gerald and Betty Brown of Jonesboro, the first family to be bestowed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bicentennial Farm designation. The family was presented with this honor at the annual Agricultural Legislative Day at the Capitol on Tuesday.

The journey for the Brown family started back in 1816 when Abraham Brown II, his wife, and three children made the trek from Rowan County, North Carolina all the way to Union County, Illinois. Many others were traveling west to southern Illinois and since the land that the Browns were farming was worn out, they decided to join the others.

To leave everything and head to a new location at that time took a tremendous amount of courage and survival skills as it was not a short, nor easy, trip. After their arrival in Union County, Abraham and his family took shelter in a hollow sycamore tree until their cabin was finished. Shortly after that in 1817, Abraham registered his cattle and land. That same land parcel has been passed down from generation to generation with at least one of each generation staying and farming that very same ground.

Continued on page 11

Eggs, OJ Boost Spring Marketbasket Survey

Higher retail prices for several foods including eggs, orange juice, meat products, bagged salad, shredded cheddar and vegetable oil resulted in a slight increase in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Spring Picnic Marketbasket Survey.

The informal survey showed the total cost of 16 food items that can be used to prepare one or more meals was \$51.05, up \$1.02 or 2 percent compared to a year ago. Of the 16 items surveyed, nine increased and seven decreased in average price.

"Most of the increase was due to higher retail egg prices – 37 percent higher than a year ago," said John Newton, AFBF's director of market intelligence. "U.S. egg exports were up nearly 50 percent in 2017 while egg production remained flat."

"Orange juice was another significant driver for the increase in the basket, up 24 cents or 7.5 percent. A hurricane late last year that came through parts of Florida, where most orange juice comes from, led to growers harvesting the smallest crop in 70 years," he added.

Several foods showed modest retail price decreases from a year ago: whole milk, white bread, chicken breasts, toasted oat cereal, apples, potatoes and flour.

Milk decreased in price by 6 percent (20 cents per gallon) due to continued



record production volumes in the United States and a very competitive beverage case.

As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped 14.8%.

A total of 93 shoppers in 23 states participated in the survey, conducted in March 2018.

According to USDA, Americans spend just under 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, the lowest average of any country in the world.



Cook County Farm Bureau welcomed spring by celebrating "30 days of Cook County agriculture" on our Facebook page!

Translate to Other Languages

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

Gracias

Gracias **THANK YOU** **Gratified**

The Gratitude Box

Each month, there are people that go out of their way to lend a hand to help with our cause in many ways, big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

The Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- Historic Wagner Farm for being the host site for our Ag Day North Program.
- Luke Allen for teaching introductory Parliamentary Procedure to the Young Leaders Group.
- Our great speakers for the "Creating a Farm Enterprise" Workshop...Ellen Phillips, Angelica Carmen, Marge Trocki, Raghela Scavuzzo, and Tony Munno. Bravo!
- Our new 100 - year Anniversary Committee for beginning plans for a great Centennial Celebration.

Recognition Appreciative Gratitude

Thanks Appreciative Gratitude

Gracias **THANK YOU** **Gratified**

Gratitude

Co-Operator

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Team Hat”

My wife and I headed to the family farm to celebrate Easter with Mom and Dad. When I heard that Dad, the Farmer, was headed to the local café to enjoy a cup of coffee, I quickly invited myself as there is nothing quite like the local coffee shop to find out the mood in farm country! I hadn't been to that café in at least 15 years.

Most people patronize a variety of different restaurants and eating establishments, especially in our urban area. However, in farm country, restaurants are sparser, and are mostly found in small communities that feature one, or maybe two, food options. People tend to “frequent” the same place for years.

As we hopped into the Farmer's truck, I noticed that my Dad was wearing his camouflage FS grain farm cap. I felt a pang of regret; last year, my brother gave me a version of that same hat, but it was in my closet at home. We could have been “hat twins.”



On Saturday mornings, my Dad has a standing coffee date with another farmer, Dave, so we swung by to pick up Dave along the way. Dave lives at the end of a mile-long gravel and dirt driveway. I felt my inner farmer returning as mud caked the truck from that driveway. As Dave stepped into the truck, I noticed that he was wearing his camouflage FS grain cap just like

Farmer Dad. Did they coordinate their hat wardrobe? We could have been triplets if only I had brought my camouflage FS grain farm hat!

After a few country miles, we arrived in Fairview, IL, population 522. The town is also home to the Fairview Café. I noted the faded facade outside the café was the same as my last visit over 15 years ago (and probably over the past 50 years). As we walked up, a man exiting the café knew the Farmer and Dave so we took a few minutes to chat about random farm stuff before heading in. I couldn't help noticing that the man also wore a camouflage FS grain cap... Conspiracy, I wonder? We could have been quadruplets!

As a rule, you do not want to be the first person of the group to enter the café because it brings big responsibility. The first person in gets eyeballed from everyone in the place and must choose which table to sit at. In farm country, choosing the table is an artform. In a farm-oriented restaurant, some seating is reserved for certain people that always sit in the same place, and you certainly don't want to take someone's designated “spot”. Also, there is usually a “Liars Table” in which certain farmers, highly skilled in the gift of gab, gather to swap stories and try out half-truths on one another. I certainly didn't want to sit there.

The strategy for not going in first is to get to the door first and hold the door open for the rest of your group to enter. It sounds courteous, but really, it's about avoiding being that first person to enter. I almost had to knock over Farmer Dad and Dave to get to the door first. It was a bit like Norm entering the Cheers Bar... Everyone was shouting “howdy” to Farmer Dad and Dave throughout the place. The place was exactly as I remembered: same tables, chairs, carpet, coffee pot, wall hangings, water stains in the ceiling, etc. The décor was similar to the faded façade and had certainly not changed in 15 years (or the past 50 years, probably).

I spotted five or six empty tables, so I was a bit perplexed when the Farmer and Dave headed for a rectangular table for 10 already occupied by two sets of two people on each end. We sat smack in the middle of that table for 10.

As is my habit, my knee hit a table leg while sitting down and I knocked over the coffee of the two farmers on my left side. Embarrassed and expecting anger and irritation, I apologized, saying, “That's how I like to introduce myself to most

people.” The two farmers laughed and retorted “We hope you didn't break your knee.”

While I was busy spilling coffee and embarrassing myself with the folks at the left side of the table, Farmer Dad was busy introducing me to a man and his wife to my right as “my son from the Chicago area”. Apparently, the word Chicago provides a gut reaction to folks in that café. The man expressed his belief that Chicago be annexed to Siberia or the South Pole. He went on by explaining that he had an idea about bulldozing the city into Lake Michigan but the EPA restricts the dumping of “excrement” in the water.

The next hour was composed of coffee talk about the Cubs, rental houses, squirrels and other wildlife, farming practices, weather, prices, regulations, and references to many farm folks with colorful nicknames. I enjoyed strong coffee and high-quality biscuits and gravy while trying to say little...I had realized that we were at the Liars Table!

During a brief lull in the whoppers, I looked around the restaurant and counted 24 people, men and women, mostly dressed in various levels of camouflage, flannel and seed corn caps including more FS hats, laughing, storytelling, eating, and enjoying one another's company. I only saw one person sitting solo and he was the only person in the entire restaurant with his nose in his phone...why did that feel so foreign?

Small community cafes and restaurants provide not only nourishment, but wonderful community gathering places connecting rural people in ways that the phone cannot duplicate for friendship, information sharing, and conducting farm business. It felt great to reunite with this feeling of farm community. Thanks Farmer Dad and Dave for letting me tag along! Next time I will bring the team hat!

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0417-510HO

The 2018 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection is Here!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® 2018 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is available. Recipes focus on cooking with the freshest locally grown ingredients submitted by Cook County Farm Bureau members.

To receive a free copy:
email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org,
or phone 708-354-3276 to request one!

To download a copy online, go to:
www.cookcfb.org/buy-local/recipe-collection



New CCFB Website to Deliver the Goods



To serve members better, communicate more effectively to the general public, and to modernize the public virtual “Face” of the organization, a new Cook County Farm Bureau® website will go live on Friday, May 18.

The goals of the website project were simple: design a mobile-friendly site that serves the needs of members, serves as the face of Cook County agriculture, encourages members to act, provides access to farmers by the general public, and enhances involvement of members in all aspects of the local organization.

“We wanted to provide an easy to use, intuitive website adaptable to whatever device a member prefers... Phone, tablet, laptop or workstation,” said Bob Rohrer, Farm Bureau Manager. “This website will provide members benefit and program information at their finger tips, teachers with classroom tools with a click and provide farm related information to the public on demand!”

“Our goal was to create a website that is visually appealing, user friendly, and beneficial to Farm Bureau members, agents, staff, and the public,” said Bona Heinsohn, Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations. “We appreciate all for the time and talent that was dedicated to this project.”

The website will always be a “work-in-progress” as we provide regular news, events, benefits, and programs every day.

Cook County Farm Bureau staff is excited to be able to deliver quality services through this electronic door to your Cook County Farm Bureau.

Check out the new site at www.cookcfb.org.



Eager farming entrepreneurs attended a farmer training workshop at the Cook County Farm Bureau® on April 14th. Members and guests heard from excellent speakers during an agenda packed with information to assist in Creating a Farm Enterprise! Speakers included: Ellen Phillips, Educator and Consultant; Raghela Scavuzzo, Local Foods Program Manager, IFB; Tony Munno, Financial Representative, Country Financial; Angelica Carmen, Sustainability Specialist, Fairway Farms at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club; March Trocki, Master Beekeeper and Owner, Bee Wild Honey; Bob Rohrer, Manager, Cook County Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau Opposed to Legislation Allowing Additional Lawsuits

Senate Bill 3005 and House Bill 5119 would allow any person to file a lawsuit against an agency and the person involved in a permitting decision or approval, including the approval of a livestock farm under the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA).

This legislation undermines existing case law that provides that a person must be a party of record to the administrative decision

to challenge that decision in court. This could result in farmers and others seeking approvals from state agencies facing costly lawsuits from any person that does not agree with the approval. It will grind development of the agriculture economy to a halt.

Farm Bureau is opposed to the legislation and is actively working against it in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Meet a “Face” of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. This month’s “Face of CCFB” is ...

Jim Bloomstrand



- Jim Bloomstrand has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2013.
- Bloomstrand is the Chairman of the Cook County Farm Bureau Member Relations Team, a past member of the Ag Literacy Team, and an Ag in the Classroom presenter.
- When not presenting the “Agriculture in the Classroom” Program, I like to spend time at our family farm.
- I look forward to warm weather so I can drive my antique cars with other old car enthusiasts.
- I enjoy working on old cars, vintage tractors and other “hands on” projects.
- I value the time I can spend with my wife Kathy and our son Matt.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

Black Angus Cattle

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?

Olivers

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Homemade Pies

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

Every day our lives depend on Agriculture. Cook County Farm Bureau keeps us informed on the latest changes in local Agriculture and Agricultural businesses.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

It allows me to interact with people who have the same interest in sharing the importance of Agriculture.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Working with Dad

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



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“From the Country” Let’s take a retirement test drive



Victoria Nygren,
Country Financial
Agency Manager
Chicago North
Agency

Retirement is probably something you’ve been dreaming about for years – and we don’t blame you. Some want to escape to a sunny beach or calming mountain top, while others just want to sip coffee on their porch in the morning and escape the rat race. We’re here to help make that happen.

With all of the retirement tips floating around, we know it can be overwhelming. There’s loads of information out there and different approaches you can take. Country Financial wants to make it easy for you.

Here’s a simple step you can take to see if you are financially ready to retire: Test drive retirement.

Here’s what we mean:

- Identify all of your sources of retirement income, including social security, 401k, savings, and pension.
- Determine your monthly income from those sources.
- Here’s where the “test drive” part comes in. Set that as your new monthly budget and continue to work.
- Direct any income that exceeds your new monthly budget to your 401k or other retirement plans to boost that balance during your “test drive.”

To be sure you can handle any peaks in expenses, such as holiday expenses and vacations, keep working for six months to a year and see how comfortable you are with your expected retirement income.

If you’re financially comfortable after your “test drive,” that might mean you’re closer than you thought to calling yourself a retiree!

Victoria can be reached at Victoria.Nygren@countryfinancial.com.

Statement from the Illinois Farm Bureau Regarding Legislative Redistricting Reform



The following is a statement from Illinois Farm Bureau® Vice President Brian Duncan regarding the call to change the Illinois congressional and state legislative redistricting processes. Illinois Farm Bureau joins with the Fair Map coalition to

urge the General Assembly to approve HJRCA 43 and SJRCA 26.

“We are excited today to call upon the Illinois House and Senate to pass these two proposals to give the voters of Illinois the opportunity to bring an unbiased redistricting process to our state.

“The proposed constitutional amendments would create a balanced and independent redistricting commission that is desperately needed. The 16-member commission would give the citizens of Illinois an opportunity to provide input on proposed redistricting plans before they are adopted.

“Illinois Farm Bureau members have long supported the creation of an unbiased third-party redistricting process. We have supported numerous citizen initiatives over the past ten years, most recently supporting the voter initiative in 2016 that garnered more than 560,000 signatures to place it on the ballot.

“Illinois Farm Bureau fully supports these two constitutional amendments and implores the Illinois General Assembly to approve these for the November 2018 ballot.”

Farm Bureau Schedules Education Program for Legislators and Staff

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® for the 2018 Staff Exchange Program.

The program is designed to provide attendees with an enhanced understanding of agriculture in Cook County.

Wednesday, June 20
Bus Departs at 8:30 a.m.
Bus Returns at 3:00 p.m.

Although details are still being finalized, participants will tour the Stickney Water Treatment Site and explore the steps that municipalities and water treatment sites are taking to reduce nutrient output before traveling to Smits Farms. At Smits Farms participants will explore the greenhouses and vegetable fields while discussing farmers’ efforts to reduce nutrient runoff from crop protectants.

Nutrient pollution occurs when there are excess nutrients. The main culprits of nutrient pollution are phosphorous and nitrogen. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation

District has developed a process that recovers the phosphorous and nitrogen in wastewater and converts it into a high-grade, slow-release fertilizer. The fertilizer can be used for agricultural applications.

Smits Farms is a family-owned and operated business. Over the last 25 years, Smits Farms has grown from a single greenhouse and a family of two to thirteen greenhouses and a family of eight.

Responses are needed by June 1.

This program is limited to Cook County legislators and staff. For additional information, contact the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD

Please indicate which day you are planning to attend: _____

Name: _____ Office: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____

Work phone: _____ Email: _____

Cell phone: _____ DOB: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Phone number: _____ Relationship: _____

Please indicate any allergies: _____

Please indicate if you are NOT riding the bus with the group

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

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

Signature: _____

Dear Members:

Agriculture and Cook County Farm Bureau has changed a lot since the organization was created by a group of leading farmers back in 1920.

As we consider the long, storied history of the Cook County Farm Bureau, we have begun seeking memorabilia and artifacts that can help tell the story.

We are asking members to check your attics, closets, bookshelves and basement storage areas for items that can help us chronicle agricultural and Farm Bureau history in Cook County. We also welcome any affiliated company history such as Lake-Cook Farm Service Supply, Country Companies, etc.

Items may include: photographs, member signs, clothing, newspapers, lapel pins, old “give-a-way” promotional items, documents, and other keep-sakes.

If there is a story behind the item, please share it with us as well. We will be pleased to credit you and your family... items can be provided on loan or donated.

We hope to be able to partially recreate the evolution of Agriculture and Farm Bureau through the power of memory items. Please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org

Thank you for your help!

Truly,
Bob Rohrer, Manager



Cook County Farm Bureau® Begins Plans for Centennial Celebration

The Cook County Farm Bureau was established in the year 1920 by a group of farmer pioneers who took an idea...a dream of farmers working together for their common benefit and formed it into reality!

In March 2020, the Cook County Farm Bureau will celebrate the fruits of success that are a direct result of this group of forward-looking leaders by observing its centennial birthday.

Throughout the 100 years, the immense volunteer time, energy, passion, cooperation, creativity, money and risk that was put forth to build a successful organization for the short- and long-term is hard to fully appreciate and imagine.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has taken action to create a 100 Year Anniversary Celebration Committee to design a suitable tribute to recognize the accomplishments and celebrate the legacy of the Cook County Farm Bureau and build upon it for another 100 years of excellence! Members of the Committee include Janet McCabe, Cary Tate, Jessica Biernacki, Jim Bloomstrand, Todd

Price, Tim Stuenkel, Jerry Anderson, Gerry Kopping, Karen Biernacki, Kristen Yunker, and Ruth Zeldenrust. These individuals represent the various 5 active Teams of the Farm Bureau, the Young Leaders, Country Financial leadership, and Board.

Initial concepts the group is considering includes the creation of a historical display and agricultural timeline for member viewing, an open house at the Cook County Farm Bureau, creation of a 100 year anniversary book, a ceremonial placing of a time capsule, the purchase of memory bricks, and much more.

CCFB President Janet McCabe said, “We are excited about the opportunity to celebrate the amazing local farmers and leaders that have made this great organization what it is in this modern era and will use this occasion to lay the groundwork for the challenges our members will face over the next 100 years.”

Please see the request for memorabilia/artifacts letter from Manager Bob Rohrer. If anyone has an interest in assisting in this effort, please contact Manager Bob Rohrer at 708-354-3276 or email brohrer@cookcfb.org.



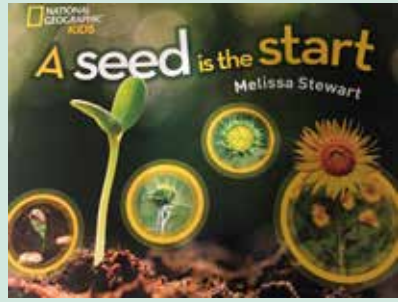
Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: A Seed is the Start

By Diane Merrion



Indeed, a seed is the beginning! As I've begun plans for planting my gardens this month,



seeds come to mind. What should I plant this year based on my outcomes from last year? Do I want more herbs and vegetables or more flowers? Such important life questions to ponder (or to get my mind off more important life issues). I admit, I'm a sucker for flowers and can't live without them. While nothing tastes better than homegrown anything, my focus always goes back to the color and happiness that flowers bring to me.

A Seed is the Start, by Melissa Stewart is a new book in our Ag in the Classroom library and I love it. This colorful non-fiction selection has so many simple, yet meaningful facts that all can relate to. Publishers Weekly describes the book as follows, "In a brightly photographed primer about how seeds travel, grow and thrive as plants, Stewart begins with a corn seed. A cross-section of ground shows the seed as it splits open, its roots push down, a shoot

pokes out of the soil and the corn plant sprouts leaves. Some seeds 'fly' on the wind; others 'tumble' across land or 'spill'. Some 'float' and some even 'creep.'" A favorite part of mine that I know kids will love is her description of seeds 'riding inside' where she discusses animals and insects who eat seeds and later poop them out to create new life in the soil. I know this will bring a smile to those who read it. Check out this book here at the Farm Bureau or through your library or bookstore.

I'm anxious to begin planting and hope my seeds and seedlings produce good results. I'll think of this book as I plant, and I will also think about the seeds of knowledge our Ag in the Classroom presenters planted this school year. More on that topic next month.

Diane can be reached at Aitc@cookcfb.org.

A Message from Your Ag Literacy Committee Chair

By: Tim Stuenkel

As a farm kid, a Cook County farmer, and an employee of the agricultural equipment/technology industry, I know about the challenges and opportunities that we face in agriculture today. One of the critical tasks of ensuring the long-term success and growth of Cook County, Illinois, and American agriculture is by having an educated workforce and activated consumer base. Learning about agriculture, like most things, is a lifelong process, but starting young is key. We've found over the years that around the 4th grade is an excellent age to start educating our local youth about agriculture.

The mission of the Ag Literacy team and the Ag in the Classroom program is to expand students' awareness and appreciation for the importance of agriculture everywhere. We have certainly expanded that awareness through new programming in 2017/18. Programs such as customized school presentations align to new learning standards can be given to classes studying agriculture at all grade levels. The focus on agriculture in the curriculum has created new demand for educational speakers in classes such as

Global Studies, Environmental Science, and Food Chemistry. High school and college students are realizing the huge career opportunities in our industry including Plant Science, Animal Science, Engineering, and far more. Teachers are realizing what an outstanding resource we have here at the Farm Bureau and we're glad to help. While our major school program continues to be our 4th grade ag presentations, we try to accommodate other outreach efforts wherever possible. Our Part Two 4th grade programs provide an opportunity to reconnect with the same group of students later in the school year and reinforce the learning process.

Our Ag Literacy team meets four times per year to discuss our programming, review our goals and direction, and brainstorm on new ideas and opportunities. We are always in search of new input from people with interest and expertise in the areas of agriculture, education, and creative thinking. If you are interested in volunteering, becoming a contract presenter, or even attending a meeting to learn more about us, please reach out to us at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Ag Day North at Wagner Farm

As hundreds of 3rd grade students made their way to Ag Day Learning Stations, all eight presenters put on their agriculture hats to share facts and conduct activities to engage the participants. This year's topics included Poultry, Corn/Soybean, Horses, Pigs, Farm to Table, Dairy, Sheep/Spinning and Plants. Teachers all received preparation materials to review with students prior to the program including pre-tests and Ag Mags. Each participant left with a planted seedling and materials to take home to help explain to their families the importance of agriculture. The two half-day sessions were interactive and explained the origins of food and fiber, including how products go from production on a farm to distribution at the store. We thank all of the volunteers who devoted their time to these young learners by serving as Group Leaders and Presenters to



provide agriculture education including Gemini Bhalsod from the University of Illinois Extension (and her volunteers), Amy Toth, Kathy Lesser, Jim Bloomstrand, Terry Landschoot, Sarah Duncan and Jill Drover from CCFB, and Mary Ellen Walston and Katie Shook (American Ag Insurance); special thanks to Historic Wagner Farm's Sarah Schoenberg, Todd Price and their entire staff for hosting and presenting at this Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation funded event.

Natural Resource Workshop Engages Educators

In honor of Earth Day, teachers attended our Natural Resource workshop to learn new ways to teach students about the importance of the earth's resources as they relate to agriculture. Soil was the focus of the first part of the workshop where educator, Haley Siergiej of Nutrients for Life, led the teachers through a series of lessons including soil permeability, particle sizes and soil layers. It was great to see the teachers doing the activities they will bring back to their classrooms before the end of the school year. Ag in the Classroom lessons on school garden math ideas, Water Jeopardy and a Breakout Box activity for teachers to solve wrapped up the evening program. This was our last professional development workshop during the school year as we look forward to our Summer Ag Institute program in July.

Bring a team and beat the clock to unlock clues and enable the farmer to get local produce from the farm to the market. This farm-themed night is sure to challenge even the best detective. Join us for a fun-filled hour hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau. After solving the breakout box, detectives will wrap up the night with a quick game of Ag Bingo.

Program is free to all attendees and includes snack, activities and prizes. Call program location to register.

- 6/7 Glenwood/Lynwood Public Library 6:00-7:00PM
- 6/13 Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview 6:00-7:00PM
- 6/14 Morton Grove Public Library 6:30-7:30PM
- 6/20 Evergreen Public Library 6:00-7:00PM
- 7/19 LaGrange Public Library 6:30-7:30PM

JULY 10-13, 2018 SUMMER AGRICULTURE ACADEMY



Using the Farm to Teach K-12 STEM

Enjoy 3 days of intense learning as we travel throughout agriculture stops in Central IL. Speakers, farmers and agri-business professionals will provide tours and discussions about the importance of ag. Day 4 will provide on-site lesson plans and collaboration.

- Includes 3 days coach bus, hotel, tours, speakers, meals
- Binder with classroom materials/resources
- \$125 includes 30 PDCH credits. May be offering 2 graduate credits through St. Francis University for additional \$200
- Registration open until May 1 or class filled; call or email Diane or Jill @ 708-354-3276 aitc@cookcfb.org



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

aitc@cookcfb.org
July 10-13
2 overnights included

Four farms to learn how food is grown

Learn how to include agriculture in your STEM curriculum

Connect food, fuel, fiber from farm to Chicago

Experience active learning like driving a tractor/walking a corn field

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES



April showers can bring May flowers and renewed growth throughout the soil including Illinois native plants such as Big Bluestem. Big bluestem was the most abundant grass on the prairies that once covered much of Illinois hence the state nickname of Illinois as "The Prairie State". The name big bluestem grass comes from the fact that this grass can grow to be very large, 3 to 10 feet and can bloom from June through September. Big bluestem grass grows in dense stands which keeps other grasses from getting any sun and growing. As a result, there are usually large areas covered only by big bluestem grass. This grass has very deep roots. This kept the wind that constantly blows on the prairie from blowing away the soil so when settlers plowed the big bluestem grass there was nothing to keep the soil from blowing away. That is how the dust bowl disaster in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas of the 1930s began.

http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/big_bluestem_grass.htm



Our state plant is the Big Blue Stem

Our state song also highlights the importance of the prairies to our great state!

Illinois

By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois,
O'er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois, Illinois,
Comes an echo on the breeze.
Rustling through the leafy trees,
and its mellow tones are these, Illinois, Illinois,
And its mellow tones are these, Illinois.
From a wilderness of prairies, Illinois, Illinois,
Straight thy way and never varies, Illinois, Illinois,
Till upon the inland sea,
Stands thy great commercial tree,
Turning all the world to thee, Illinois, Illinois. (An excerpt from the Illinois State Song)



Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. This year it will be celebrated on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.



Victory Gardens - Shortly after the United States was drawn into the Second World War, victory gardens began to reemerge. During World War I, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers were recruited into military service and farms were transformed into battlefields. As a result, the United States began to encourage Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported to our allies. Citizens were urged to utilize all idle land that was not already engaged in agricultural production—including school and company grounds, parks, backyards or any available vacant lot.

"Sow the seeds of victory" encouraged people to plant their own vegetables as part of the war garden movement (as it was originally known) was spread by word of mouth through numerous women's clubs, civic associations and chambers of commerce, which actively encouraged participation in the campaign. Amateur gardeners were provided with instruction pamphlets on how, when and where to sow, and were offered suggestions as to the best crops to plant, along with tips on preventing disease and insect infestations. The endeavor was so well received that the government turned its attention to distributing canning and drying manuals to help people preserve their surplus crops.



Eleanor Roosevelt even planted a victory garden on the White House lawn. Some of the most popular produce grown included beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, turnips, squash and Swiss chard.



May Word Search

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: membershiplinda@cookcfb.org

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

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Armed Forces | Peas |
| Cabbage | Produce |
| Patriotic | Squash |
| President | Big Blue Stem |
| Song | Lettuce |
| Turnips | Prairie |
| Beets | Roosevelt |
| Kohlrabi | Tomatoes |

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)



Roger Lemke

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!



Time to Get Trade Back on Track

Late March brought the worst winter storm we'd seen in some time: about 10 inches of wet, heavy snow that drifted only because the wind blew so hard. Confined to the indoors, my daughter and I baked several cakes. She used her 4-H skills to decorate them in preparation for Granny's 80th birthday party the next day. But late into the baking process, we measured one cup shy of shortening for the final batch of frosting.

With trucks stuck in nearby drifts and a local highway temporarily shut down, I phoned the neighbor in lieu of a hazardous voyage to the local food mart. She saved the day with plenty of Crisco on hand to share. I pulled on my snow boots and walked across the field to fetch a cup of Crisco. I thanked her for being such a good neighbor. She responded, "Anytime, glad to help."

If only our government's relationships with Mexico and Canada could be so neighborly. Instead, I read daily updates on the concerning status of agricultural trade, namely through unpleasant NAFTA renegotiations or mounting trade tensions with China. As if parenting and farming didn't bring enough worries. Government policy and actions again impact farm markets and threaten profitability.

Amid unfriendly trade tactics, Mexico, the No. 1 importer of U.S. corn, has started to buy more corn from Brazil. In early April, China, the No. 1 importer of U.S. soybeans and No. 3 importer by value for U.S. pork, imposed a 25 percent tariff on pork and proposed one for soybeans and other Illinois-grown commodities. I joined other Farm Bureau members who sent emails to our lawmakers and the president, urging them to find a resolution and to prevent agriculture and farm families from becoming collateral damage.

Our government's attempt to address trade issues comes with unintended consequences that trivialize the trade of food, a basic need of life, and food production, the livelihood for families who own 97 percent of U.S. farms. The world is the marketplace for American agriculture, which has annually produced a trade surplus since 1959, according to USDA. In particular, the Illinois Department of Agriculture says international markets buy 44 percent of the grain grown on Illinois farms, almost every other row of it. Illinois families may farm in the center of a continent, but the state has a tremendous asset in its waterway system. The Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers serve as arteries pumping commodities that Illinois proves great at growing into international markets, where 95 percent of customers reside.

As the National Corn Growers chairman recently said, trade is a two-way street. Farm families generally have supported fair and open trade practices for decades, allowing countries to buy and sell the products they grow or make well. The idea seems as neighborly as a cup of Crisco, but the road to fair trade appears drifted and treacherous with poor visibility. It's time to clear the roads and get trade back on track.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from West-Central Illinois where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.

Farm and Food Bytes

CASH RENTS (FarmDoc)– Estimates show cash rent levels on professional managed Illinois farmland were roughly the same in 2018 as in 2017. Farm managers expect 2019 cash rents to remain stable or slightly decline.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP (AP)– U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he'll soon file a bill legalizing industrial hemp. Supporters say the bill will bring more certainty for farmers, agribusinesses and investors looking at the crop.

KEEPING THE BEST STUDENTS IN ILLINOIS (FarmWeekNow). Rather than compete against each other for students, the U of I, Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University and Western Illinois University have united to keep students in Illinois to pursue their college education.

Illinois Farm Bureau assisted in facilitating the development of the collaborative marketing effort. Research indicates high school students that leave the state to go to college are less likely to return after they graduate. Illinois leads the nation in net loss of students, totaling 14,344 in 2016

USDA REPORT: AVERAGE FARM SIZE DOUBLES IN 25 YEARS (FarmWeekNow) - A recent USDA study confirmed a obvious trend of growing farm sizes and shed light on who's driving consolidation in the ag industry. A recent USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) study report titled "Three Decades of Consolidation in U.S. Agriculture," found the midpoint of cropland acres on an average farm nearly doubled from 650 acres in 1987 to 1,201 acres in 2012. The number of crop farms with 2,000-plus acres during that time swelled from 20,638 to 38,205, while the number of farms with 100 to 999 acres eroded from 785,180 to 431,300. The number of small farms, 1 to 49 acres, actually increased by more than 100,000 to 797,677, while the farms in the 50- to 99-acre range declined only slightly during the same time.

"Technology allows farmers to manage more acres or animals than they could 20 to 40 years ago," MacDonald said. "Larger, faster and smarter equipment also reduces labor hours." The consolidation trend has been accompanied by a trend of increased specialization. Field crop operations increasingly grow two or three crops versus four to six crops previously, while livestock production continues to shift to farms that produce no crops and rely on purchased feed.

The report found no evidence of corporations or government policies playing a key role in farm consolidations. ERS reported 98.7 percent of farms were family-owned as of 2015, and account for 89.4 percent of production.

Meanwhile, ERS evaluated 55 crops and livestock production and found consolidation was persistent across 53 of the 55 crops, most of which are not supported by commodity programs.

Looking ahead, the trend of growing farm sizes could continue. Visit ers.usda.gov to view the full report.

FARM BILL DRAFT UNVEILED (FarmWeekNow.com)– Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee rolled out their 2018 farm bill proposal last month. The release came just months ahead of the current law's expiration and with little to no apparent support from House Democrats due to its controversial new work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

TRUMP TALKS TPP (Wall Street Journal) - President Donald Trump is talking about getting the U.S. into the Trans-Pacific Partnership. After Trump withdrew the U.S. from the partnership last year, the remaining 11 nations struck their own deal.

CCFB TPP BACKGROUND: You may recall that TPP was Illinois Farm Bureau's #1 priority in 2016. U.S. withdrawal from TPP early in 2017 was a huge blow to U.S. leadership on trade, U.S. economic leadership in the Asian region, and to farmers' market prospects in Asia.

- Illinois Farm Bureau has always supported U.S. inclusion in TPP and would support the administration in efforts to rejoin TPP.
- The eleven other countries in the agreement are already important trading partners today and represent significant growth opportunities for sales of U.S. farm commodities in the future.
- Exports to TPP national already support nearly 30,000 jobs in Illinois and contribute significantly to Illinois farmer income.
- Reduced tariffs and pork and beef and increased access for dairy, wheat, and other products through TPP will enhance Illinois sales to the region.

Following the announcement, President Trump seems to have reversed his consideration...

TPP HOKEY-POKEY (New York Times)– After flirting with the idea of rejoining the TPP, President Donald Trump Tuesday slammed the door on the suggestion, saying that while Japan and South Korea would like the U.S. to rejoin the agreement, he had no intention of doing so. "Too many contingencies and no way to get out if it doesn't work," Trump tweeted. "Bilateral deals are far more efficient, profitable and better for OUR workers."

About Farm and Food Bytes: This article 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 summed up above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions (unless we provide CCFB background), but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Farm Bureau Believes that the Chinese Tariffs Pose a Significant Threat to the Future of Illinois Agriculture

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to U.S. Congressmen and Senators regarding the impact of the Chinese tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports:

In response to President Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum, China announced 25% tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports including: soybeans, pork, ethanol, corn, and beef.

Illinois, Cook County included, exports \$1.4 billion in soybeans, most of which are used to feed a rapidly growing Chinese hog industry. Corn exports are \$64 million. Illinois pork producers depend heavily on the Chinese market. Although Cook County doesn't have a large pork industry, Illinois's pork industry supports approximately 10,000 jobs.

After the Chinese government announced retaliatory tariffs, Illinois farmers lost an estimated \$475 million in market value. This comes as farmers are experiencing the worst agricultural economy in 16 years.

Cook County is home to over 8,000 acres of family-owned farmland. Many of those acres grow soybeans and contribute to Illinois being the top soybean-producing state.

The tariffs are a significant threat to the future of Cook County and Illinois agriculture. Farm Bureau supports the free movement of goods and urges the U.S. and China to return to negotiations and craft an agreement that serves the interests of the world's two largest economies.

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.

If you have any questions or we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact our staff Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Farmers Prepare for Spring

Cook County Farm Bureau® sent the following letter to Cook County police chiefs regarding farm implements on the roadways:

Members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® have expressed concerns regarding the difficulties of moving farm vehicles and implements on Cook County roadways this spring. We understand that farm variations from standard vehicle laws can be confusing and tend to fall outside of the day-to-day experience of most urban law enforcement officers.

The purpose of this communication is to discuss pertinent issues associated with moving farm implements and commodities on roadways. We hope that you and your officers will find this information helpful when faced with the complexities of farm vehicle law. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact The Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org.

Commercial Motor Vehicles

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued guidance clarifying that implements of husbandry are not "commercial motor vehicles" (76 FR 50434, August 15, 2011); therefore, implements of husbandry are not subject to Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, but are instead regulated under the laws found in the Illinois Vehicle Code.

The driver of a motor vehicle operated by a farmer is not required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) when such vehicle is being

used to transport the farmer's own: agricultural products; implements of husbandry; or farm supplies to and from a farm, as long as such movement is not over 150 air miles from the originating farm. The exemption extends beyond 150 miles within Illinois, if the vehicle qualifies as a "Covered Farm Vehicle" (625 ILCS 5/18b-101). This does not apply to the driver of any motor vehicle being used in a common or contract carrier type operation (625 ILCS 5/6-507).

Trucks registered with a "B" or "D" plate and the "CFV Designation" may qualify as a Covered Farm Vehicle (625 ILCS 5/318 (a-5)).

Implements of Husbandry

Implements of husbandry are vehicles designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock raising operations, including farm wagons, wagon trailers, or like vehicles used in conjunction with farming (625 ILCS 5/1-130).

Implements of husbandry are generally not subject to **vehicle registration** (625 ILCS 5/3-402) or **mandatory insurance** requirements (625 ILCS 5/7-601). Some fertilizer equipment can be required to display specialized plates (625 ILCS 5/3-809(c)).

A **driver's license** is not required to operate a farm tractor on public roads from farm-to-field or field-to-field (625 ILCS 5/6-102). "Farm tractor" include any self-propelled implement of husbandry (625 ILCS 5/1-120).

Implements of husbandry may be operated on

public roads **after dark**, as the law suggests (625 ILCS 5/12-205.1). There's no statutory prohibition against on-road operation from sunset to sunrise.

Implements of husbandry are generally exempt from **weight limits** (625 ILCS 5/15-101(b)). Exceptions would include wagons, fertilizer buggies, and nurse tanks, which are generally limited to 36,000 pounds gross vehicle weight with no axle limit (625 ILCS 5/1-130) and (625 ILCS 5/3-809(a)).

Implements of husbandry are not required to have the lighting and markings of commercial vehicles. Example: some wagons may not have **turn signals**. Implements manufactured prior to 2003 are treated differently than those that are manufactured that year or after that time. Standards for markings on farm equipment and nationally-recognized industries are set by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). In Illinois, the ASABE lighting and marking standards (S279.11) apply only on equipment manufactured in 2003 or later. (625 ILCS 5/12-205 and 12-205.1)

Slow Moving Vehicle Emblems

Slow Moving Vehicle emblems are scientifically engineered and legally protected to specifically indicate the presence of a slow moving vehicle. Improper use of the emblem (i.e. as a driveway marker) distorts the meaning of the symbol and is illegal (625 ILCS 5/12-709(d)).



By Bona Heinsohn

squeaked out a narrow victory over political newcomer Jeanne Ives. His squeaky, narrow victory signals major trouble this fall as he faces off against billionaire and political newcomer J.B. Pritzker. The Rauner and Pritzker victories set the stage for an epic millionaire v. billionaire battle this fall.

Closer to home, incumbent Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle sailed to victory over former Alderman Robert "Bob" Fioretti. Along with grabbing 60 percent of the vote she also carried Bill Lowry, Bridget Degnan, and Brandon Johnson to victory thus strengthening her position of power on the county board

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

and Cook County Democratic Party.

However, her endorsement didn't carry incumbent Assessor Joe Berrios to victory. Cook County Democratic Party chairman and incumbent Assessor Berrios lost to political newcomer Fredrick "Fritz" Kaegi. Kaegi ran on a promise to provide transparency to Cook County's property tax system.

Lowry, an attorney and anti-violence activist, sailed to victory in the third district in a field of seven candidates. Lowry garnered the support of Preckwinkle. The opening in the third district was created when incumbent commissioner Jerry Butler announced that he wouldn't be seeking re-election. Butler was first elected in 1985. The third district stretches from the near northside lakefront to the south suburbs.

In November, Lowry will face off against George Blakemore. A former

teacher turned vocal thorn in local governments' side.

Degnan, an attorney and former medical marijuana dispensary regulatory for the state, won the 12th district against incumbent commissioner John Fritchey. Fritchey, an early and outspoken critic of the beverage tax lost by 10 percent. Degnan was supported by public employee unions and by Preckwinkle in a district that zigzags from downtown to the northwest side.

Johnson received Preckwinkle's support after incumbent commissioner Richard Boykin introduced a scathing resolution declaring a vote of no confidence in the Cook County Assessor and County Board President regarding regressivity in the property tax system. Although Boykin later amended the resolution, the former Chicago Teachers Union organizer edged to victory over the outspoken

beverage tax and sales tax opponent. The first district includes the far west side and many western suburbs.

Lowry, Degnan, and Johnson's victories likely pave the way for less turmoil and a smoother path on the county board for Preckwinkle's priorities- public health, public safety and economic development during her final term. Both Fritchey and Boykin were outspoken opponents of Preckwinkle's beverage tax and sales tax increase. Both also worked diligently to streamline the county's operations and minimize the budget impacts of the revenue reduction created by the elimination of the beverage tax.

March's victories could signal significant concerns this fall for commissioners in contested races who supported the beverage tax repeal.

Bona Heinsohn can be reached at bona@ccfb.org.

MEMBER RELATIONS



Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a "Shred Day" on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10am to 12pm at the

Rolling Meadows Country Financial Building located at 4190 W Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows. Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like have shredded.

FREE OF CHARGE!

Please call the CCFB at 708-354-3276 to make a reservation.

**Better than a burn barrel
Much easier than using scissors
Free for members**

GRAINGER
FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE

Deep Discounts And Free Shipping On All Grainger Orders

CCFB members get deep discounts on all equipment and supplies from Grainger, PLUS get free standard ground shipping on all standard Grainger products*. Get started with your price savings using 3 easy methods:

1. Present the IFB organization account number at time of purchase; **IFB Discount Code #853007128**
2. Go to <https://www.grainger.com/content/farmbureau> to establish a new [Grainger.com](https://www.grainger.com) account using that account number; or
3. Call Grainger customer service at 877-620-2852 to update your existing Grainger account with the Farm Bureau organization account number or contact Mike Giangrand at mike.giangrand@grainger.com

To be sure you get your Farm Bureau discount, always reference Illinois Farm Bureau's organization account number when visiting your local branch, making a telephone order, or when setting up your personal account online.

FREE standard shipping on all orders shipped ground transportation. Other freight charges will be incurred for services such as expedited delivery, special handling by the carrier, sourcing orders and shipments outside the continental United States.

New Member Benefit Platform



Sign up to access over **302,000** discounts
<https://ilfb.abenity.com>



Access local and national discounts at work, at home, or on the go! Save on thousands of hotels, restaurants, movie tickets, retailers, florist, theme parks, national attractions, concerts, and events.

Sign up today! <https://ilfb.abenity.com>

Cook Country 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.



Margaret Jura

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Margaret Jura has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. Her office is located at 6136 N Milwaukee Ave Suite F. Chicago, IL 60646. Her phone number is 773-631-9107. Margaret has been a Financial Representative since January 2008.



Kamila Rosinska

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
Kamila Rosinska has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. Her office is located at 3703 N Harlem Ave. Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-628-2659. Kamila has been a Financial Representative since June 2015.



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. 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 Career Financial Representative since February 2005.



Mary Jane Alagheband

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
Mary Jane Alagheband has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. Her office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste 550 in Skokie, IL. Her phone number is 847-733-7956. Mary Jane has been a Financial Representative since December 2012.



Zachary Youngblood

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Zachary Youngblood has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2018. Zach's office is located at 10A W. Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-3595. Zach has been a Financial Representative since February 2002.



Andrea Ortiz

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
Andrea Ortiz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2018 by Jack Smith, Agency Manager. Andrea's office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-3072. Andrea has been a Financial Representative since June 2017.



Leo Maldonado

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Leo Maldonado has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. His office is located at 5716 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629. His phone number is 773-254-5841. Leo has been a Career Financial Representative since November 2012.



Steve Phillips

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
Steve Phillips has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for March 2018. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., Ste 150, Chicago, IL. His phone number is 312-846-4722. Steve has been a Financial Representative since Nov 2014.4-1688.



Erica Storrs-Gray

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Erica Storrs-Gray has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for March 2018. Her office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A, Palos Heights, IL. Her phone number is 708-671-1733. Erica has been a Financial Representative since February 2006.



Kurt Husein

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
Kurt Husein has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for March 2018. His office is located at 12130 S. Harlem Ave. Unit A, in Palos Heights, IL. His phone 708-480-5099. Kurt has been a Financial Representative since December 2017.



Frank Forsythe

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Frank Forsythe has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for March 2018. His office is located at 320 W. North St. Manhattan, IL. His phone number is 815-478-5797. Frank has been a Career Financial Representative since March 1994.



Tim Winters

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
Tim Winters has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for March 2018. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave, Unit 1A in Worth, IL. His phone number is 708-480-5094. Tim has been an Employee Financial Representative since May 2016.

**"546,000"
Co-Operators
went to
households in
the last year!**

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 (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) 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 date 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 free, 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.

Motorized Vehicles, Boats and Accessories

1976 M.G Midget runs great no rust. New carb, gas tank and top. Moving to Florida. Garage kept \$2900.00. Call 847-361-9292. Arlington HTS, IL.

Real Estate for Sale/Rent

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

Florida Keys free-standing condo for rent. Furnished 3bedroom, 2.5 bath, full kitchen, washer, dryer, decks & pool. (1 king bed, 1queen bed, and 2 twin beds.) Located in the middle Keys with easy access to ocean gulf. Boat slip directly behind house and it's included with rental. Coral Lagoon unit 18, Marathon, FL. 305-390-2315 or 305-289-2212.

5star Resort 3br/ 2ba Condo 7 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$80/ night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com

Sales/Rentals

Helen brand water mate 3 water conditioning system water softener. Model WM 3-32 gr. Used three years. Never run out of soft water with this twin tank softener. \$600 or best offer. Call 708-349-0627

5' Almond color polyvinyl fence. 179.5' plus two 5' wide gates with standard hardware and posts. Scallop top with gothic style post caps. Dismantled. Needs to be washed. This is not a big box store fence. \$2000.00 call 708-349-0627

Fine leather Sleep Sofa. Hancock & Moore. Queen size, 84" long. New over \$4000.00. Excellent condition. Cash only \$600. Antique chairs- \$40 each. Call Dee 630-664-2230.

GE Water Softner bought in 1998 and used for about 4 years. Still works fine and have not used it since 2003. \$50 or best offer. Call Dan at 815-462-1455.

2 Partially filled Collector stamp books. Call Marlene at 312-951-7539

Greenhouse buildings for sale must be dismantled and removed by July 2018. We also

have Concrete garden, Religious statues, and flower pot planters left. No reasonable offer refused. For viewing call Charlie 708-707-7423.

46piece Lladro collection for sale to settle estate. All excellent condition. All from the 1970's and 80's collector series. Please contact Jim at 224-388-3252 for location.

WANTED

Wanting to buy your electric trains and slot cars, turn those unwanted Trains and Slot Cars into cash! Call Ron at 630-272-4433.

Schwinn- Murray, Sears Huffly etc. Banana seat, Hi-rise handle bar 20inch bikes. Also, old motorbikes. Call 708-361-8230

Honest prices paid for your old gold, silver, diamonds new or broken, coins, watches, etc. and marbles Call 708-602-3350

Girls 24" Schwinn step through (very low scoop) bicycle. Call 708-942-9766.

IDOA Honors First Bicentennial Farm Family

Continued from page 2

Gerald Brown currently owns the land and is the 5th generation. His children and grandchildren will be the 6th and 7th generations to be part of this great tradition. The Brown family has also received sesquicentennial and centennial family farm designations from the Department of Agriculture.

The Bicentennial Farm designation program was launched in 2016 when the General Assembly passed legislation to honor these Illinois farm families. The program recognizes farms that have been held by descendants of the same family for 200 years or more. To qualify for Bicentennial farm status, an agricultural property must have been owned by the same family of lineal or collateral descendants for at least 200 years. A lineal descendant is a person in direct line of descent, such as a child or grandchild.

A collateral descendant is not a direct descendant, but is otherwise closely related, such as a brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or cousin.

About Illinois Bicentennial

On Dec. 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state in the union. The Illinois Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration of what has been BORN, BUILT & GROWN in the state and a reminder of why we are #IllinoisProud.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the celebration by visiting www.illinois200.com and using the hashtag #IllinoisProud. Partners and event and project managers planning activities between Dec. 3, 2017, and Dec. 3, 2018, can apply for endorsement to become an official part of Illinois Bicentennial by visiting the PARTICIPATE page at www.illinois200.com.

A New Season for the Morton Grove Farmers' Market Coming Soon

On Saturday, May 12, 2018 the outdoor "Mothers' Day Market" will run from 8am to 1pm in the lot outside of the Morton Grove Civic Center (6140 Dempster, the new 2018 location). Starting June 9, the regular weekly outdoor market will be in this same new location and now be open from 8am to 1pm (the new expanded regular hours for 2018). The market will operate every Saturday through October 20 (except for June 30 when it will be closed to accommodate the July 4th holiday carnival).

Eric Brodsky, the MGFm Steering Committee Chair, shared the following reasons to consider when deciding where to buy food and why to visit the Farmers' Market this season. (1) Experience genuine taste & flavors of food (2) Engage in social networking with your community...the old fashioned way, face to face (3) Support local family farmers, businesses and artists. (4) Experience new & healthy ways to prepare meals. (5) Go green and eat green by getting produce near your home (6) Enjoy nourishing meals for you and your family.

The Morton Grove Farmers' Market is a Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce Committee. To learn more, visit their website (and blog) at www.mgfarmersmarket.org or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MGFarmersMarket/.

Historic Wagner Farm to Host Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® at this year's Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show at Wagner Farm in Glenview. The delicious, farm-style breakfast begins at 8 a.m. on June 9. After enjoying homemade pancakes and freshly grilled sausage, enjoy live music, dairy demonstrations, and hands-on activities at the Farm Bureau booth.

After the breakfast, view the 3rd annual Stock Show sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau. This drop-in show will feature lambs, pigs, dairy heifers and cows, as well as beef steers and heifers. Professional judges will evaluate the stock and select a top showman in each species. Exhibitors will be Lake, McHenry and Cook County 4-H and FFA members. This is a great opportunity to see and watch the youth of our counties showcase their hard work and dedication. Be sure to visit the Farm Bureau's "Ask a Farmer" booth to learn more about the different animals and animal care. The show will begin at 9 a.m.

Mark your Calendars!

FARM CRAWL

Saturday, August 18, 2018

**Cook County Farm Bureau®
Passport to Agriculture Farm Crawl**



The Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting its 2nd annual **FARM CRAWL** on **Saturday, August 18, 2018**. 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 in the coming issues as well as on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy. We hope to see you on the farm on Saturday, August 18!



- One out of three Americans age 65 or older fall at least once a year, and the chances of surviving a fall are six times greater if you are found in one hour.
- Every minute that a stroke victim goes unattended, the chance of permanent disability or death increases dramatically.
- Approximately 350,000 Americans die from heart attacks each year because they do not get help immediately.
- 3 million Americans sustain disabling injuries in or around their home each year.

A medical alarm device can provide the independence for the elderly, peace of mind for family members, and reassurance that help is just a push of a button away.

Call us at **217-994-9015** or toll free at **855-872-8404**.

PeaceofMind Alert is an ILFB Member Benefit, which means you will receive a Free Month of Monitoring accompanied with absolutely no shipping, set-up, or activation fees. PeaceofMind is also a non-soliciting business, as our goal is to inform the inquiring consumer on the medical alarm industry helping them make an informed decision when protecting themselves or their loved ones.



- 100% waterproof; essential as most falls of elderly occur in bathroom.
- Longest range from base unit on the market, 600 feet minimum.
- Only product that works with ALL phone lines: Standard, DSL, Internet/Cable, and VOIP.
- Manufactured, Assembled, and Monitored in America!
- No Contract Required and Price Guaranteed to NEVER Increase!
- Products Available for Those Without Landlines!
- Press the Button, Help is Called, Help is on the Way!
- Company is Family Owned in Illinois.

Members receive one free month of monitoring and no initial fee

Toll Free:
855-872-8404 or
217-994-9015



NEW Member Benefit!

Soil Test Kits on Sale | Master Gardener Resource Center Opens at the Cook County Farm Bureau®!



Why should I test my soil? Soil testing takes the guess-work out of soil improvement, growing plants and fertilizer recommendations insuring plant growth to its fullest potential.

How do I get a soil test kit? Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to request your soil test kit. You can purchase your kit by using a credit card over the phone or mailing in a check. Upon payment, your soil test kit will be sent to you.

Soil Test Kit Prices:

One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members)

Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members)

Lead Testing Kit Prices

\$37.00 for members \$42.00 for non-members.

Soil test kit includes soil sample bag(s), instructions on how to take a soil sample, questionnaire about your soil samples and a shipping box with a pre-paid UPS label. You will receive your test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Who can assist with results? Our Master Gardeners Resource Center opened April, in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL. They are available **on Mondays and Thursdays April 16th through November 8th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.** To contact a Master Gardener, call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email mastergardener@cookcfb.org.

Master Gardeners are available to assist with soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification/ treatment and more!

Growing & Cooking with Herbs

Make an Herb Planter Workshop with Chef Cooking Demo

Smits Farms

3437 East Sauk Trail, Chicago Heights

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018

Time: 10 am-Noon

Investment: \$30. Registration required.

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau® at 708-354-3276 or online at Member Center for details and registration.



Exclusive Member Savings to travel locally or see the world!

Travel is fun and members can enjoy the benefits of travelling with Mayflower Tours, and enjoy life enriching experiences while creating lasting memories!

Cook County Farm Bureau® members and their guests will enjoy exclusive savings on top of any and all discounts, promotions, and travel deals offered by Mayflower Tours.

Members simply provide our exclusive member discount code: **ccfb16** to receive the direct savings! To begin your Life Enriching Experience and learn more about Mayflower Tours call Kayla at 630-435-8201 ext. 201 and state that you're a Cook County Farm Bureau member to receive the added savings.



Visit one or more of our Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses & Garden Centers for all your planting needs this Spring! Plantings, flowers, trees and shrubs are gorgeous and of the highest quality. For all your landscaping needs— skip the big box stores and patronize our fellow Farm Bureau member businesses this Spring.

For a listing of Greenhouses and Garden Centers, please visit: <http://localfarmproducts.org/.../agricult.../ornamental-nursery/>.

Farm Bureau Volunteers...Thank You!

National volunteer week was observed April 15 through April 21 across the country. Volunteers providing time and energy make charity and not-for-profit organizations function throughout the United States.

Cook County Farm Bureau® is no exception. The Organization depends on our volunteer leaders to provide direction, input, labor, and skills for various types of programming in the area of Agriculture Literacy, Commodities/ Marketing, Member Relations, Public Policy, and Public Relations. Our Young Leaders group also provides great support.

We truly value our many volunteers for the hours and talent that you provide each year to make CCFB one of the premier Farm Bureaus in the Country.

We continue to seek more volunteers to help spread the workload, maintain fresh ideas, and provide more service and value to members of this organization.

Please contact the CCFB office 708-354-3276 or sign up at cookcfb.org if you are interested in helping to create a stronger agriculture in this urban area through your support.

THANK YOU!



Cook County Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2017/2018 Ford vehicle or \$750 Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible intelligently designed 2017/2018 Lincoln vehicle.

Enjoy valuable savings on your choice of vehicles from our comfortable and capable lineup! Take advantage of this exclusive special offer today by visiting our home page at www.cookcfb.org and click on 'Member Benefits'.

**Must be an eligible member for at least 30 consecutive days to take advantage of the Ford/Lincoln program.*

Theme Park

Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL
Tickets bought directly from Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$49.00**
Tickets DO NOT INCLUDE Hurricane Harbor but are VALID for Fright Fest.
Online 1-Day General tickets are \$54.84
No Processing fee; a minimum of 2 tickets must be purchased through ilfb.abenity.com.

Raging Waves, Yorkville, IL
1-Day General Admission Tickets: \$18.00
Ages 2 and under are FREE
Tickets only available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office

Santa's Village, East Dundee, IL
1-Day: \$16.75 Ages 2 and under are free.
Tickets for Santa's Village are available at the CCFB office.

For pricing and to order tickets online for King's Island, Cedar Point and Other theme parks go to
<https://ilfb.abenity.com/perks/>

To order tickets by phone call (708) 354-3276.