

Agriculture Adventures for Families

How does a scarecrow drink his juice?

With a straw!

Why did the ghost starch his sheet?

He wanted everyone scared stiff.

How do you fix a cracked pumpkin?

With a pumpkin patch.

October may bring an end to long days and warm nights, but it does provide us with the beauty of changing leaves, new fresh fruits and veggies and a favorite holiday for many to celebrate, Halloween. This is a busy month for our farmers as they harvest fields of corn and soybeans throughout the county and open their farms for us to enjoy corn mazes, hay rides and sweet treats.



Halloween starts on the farm...

Jack O' Lanterns

Have you ever carved a face into a pumpkin? Many people associate Halloween with the tradition of carving jack-o'-lanterns. Did you know what this tradition actually started centuries ago in Ireland? People carved frightening faces into turnips, put a candle in them, and placed them in their windows to scare away an evil ghost called "Jack of the Lantern."



When colonists from Ireland arrived in America, they found pumpkins. Pumpkins are larger and easier to hallow out than turnips. A new American tradition was born!

Source: Illinois Ag in the Classroom



Sweet Treats

Halloween is all about the candy and sweet desserts. And sugar is a key ingredient.

Most of the sugar in the world comes from two sources: Sugar cane and beets, as it is easily extracted from both and both contain large quantities of sucrose. 99.95% sucrose in fact.



Sugar cane is a tropical grass that grows abundantly in warm, moist and tropical climates and can reach 10-20 feet in height. Sugar beets are grown as an underground root crop in temperate climates.

Sugar cane is harvested by chopping off the stems or canes while leaving the roots so that the plant can grow again, making it a highly sustainable crop. Sugar beets are planted every year.

Source: <https://www.imperialsugar.com/sugar-101/cane-sugar-vs-beet-sugar>



Hay Rides

Square bales of hay make good seats on a hay ride or nice fall décor. The funny thing is, most people never realize that most of the "hay bales" around their front door or the hay on a hayride are not hay at all!!

Most of these bales are made from straw, not hay. The next obvious question – what is the difference between hay and straw?

Straw refers to the plant material that is left over after grains like wheat and barley are harvested. The stems left behind become straw.



Hay is a grass that has been cut, dried, and stored and is most commonly used for animal feed.

Source: <https://sustainable-secure-food-blog.com/whats-the-difference-between-hay-and-straw/>

Corn Maze

Left. Right. And left again. Can you find your way out of the corn maze? Corn is a major crop grown in Illinois. Some of the acres planted are field corn, which is used for over 4,000 products. And it grows tall enough to make a great maze!



To create the corn maze design, it is first made up on a computer. The field is then measured and the design is entered into a GPS system that is attached to a mower which cuts the corn. It's similar to cutting a lawn. The mower makes very precise cuts that are needed to create the maze. Once it's created, people of all ages are then able to drift through the complex designs. Some are easy to get through and some are designed to challenge even the sharpest navigators.

Source: <https://tabletop.texasfarmbureau.org/2019/10/halloween-starts-farm/>

Halloween Costumes

Ghosts, goblins, and monsters. Or cheerleaders, football players and witches. Cotton is used to make many of those costumes.



All of the cotton plant is used, there is no waste.

The fiber is the primary reason for growing cotton. But the seeds

are used for animal feed and human use including cottonseed oil.



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..

Rosalinda Castello

September Word Search

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

Candle

Corn

Costume

Cotton

Halloween

Hay

Maze

Pumpkin

Ride

Scare

Straw

Sugar

Sweet

Tradition

Treat

Trick

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.