



# CO-OPERATOR

To serve all our members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our agricultural heritage.

## Mark Your Calendar

### OCTOBER

- 12 Workshop on Preparing Wills/Trusts 12  
14 Fall & Winter Curriculum Workshop 6

### NOVEMBER

- 17 Composting For Ag Operations 12

For participation details on these programs and activities, check out the related information in this publication, go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org), or contact the office at 708-354-3276.

You can register for most programs by using the member service center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).

## Question of the Month

**On September 30th Leaders from the Cook County Farm Bureau received a National Award from the American Society of Association Executives in recognition of the organizations' efforts to support Chicago Area Food Pantries. What award was presented to your 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](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com) to enter the drawing for a \$25 gas card.

(Please include name, FB# and phone number)

September Winner is Karen Bingham

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

**Answer: "Alicia's House"**

Past issues of the Co-Operator are available online at [cookcfb.org/](http://cookcfb.org/) stay updated



Cook County Farm Bureau sponsored a Farm Crawl of farms and agricultural businesses in Cook County on September 11. Reynaldo (left) leads Paul Levin, ILFMA, and Rick Johnson, CCFB Team member, on a tour of Farm on Ogden's hydroponics farming operation in Chicago during the Crawl. For more photos and additional information regarding the crawl, go to page 11.

## USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification

Organic producers and handlers have until Nov. 1 to apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification.

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program.

Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021, including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

"USDA is here to help all producers, including those who grow our nation's organic food and fiber. Many farmers have told us that cost was a barrier to their ability to get an

organic certification," said Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), in a press release.

"By assisting with the costs, this program can help organic farmers get their certification along with the benefits that come with it."

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50% of a certified operation's allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 for each of the following categories (or "scopes"): crops, wild crops, livestock, processing/handling and state organic program fees.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency.

This funding will be complemented by an additional \$20 million for organic and transitioning producers through the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. More information on that funding will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit the OCCSP webpage, [usda.gov/organic](http://usda.gov/organic), or contact your local Will-Cook FSA Service Center, 1201 Gouger Road, New Lenox, 815-485-0062 ext 2

## Pollinator Resources Now Available on Farm Bureau Website



Pollinators, the busy bees behind the scenes, are essential for sustainability of our ecosystems and natural resources. Pollinator habitats also support bird populations, improve water quality by reducing nutrients and sediment in runoff, and provide forage for livestock. In order to help answer some of our farmer members' questions, Farm Bureau has developed several resources surrounding pollinator conservation, including a Pollinator Habitat Guide for Agricultural Landscapes, Mowing for Monarchs guide and a series of pollinator videos. All materials are available on the Farm Bureau website at <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/for-the-love-of-gardening/Profile/party-for-the-pollinators>.

## Cook County Farm Bureau Recognized for Special Award

See Page 2 for details

## 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 County Farm Bureau Wins a 2021 Summit Award

ASAE's highest honor for the association community. Volunteers were presented the award during the Summit Awards on September 30th, at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.



Throughout 2020, visits to local food pantries increased on average by more than 50% and at times up to 150% during the height of the pandemic. The Food Pantry Support Project was designed by Farm Bureau volunteers and staff to assist food insecure families and local food pantries experiencing exponential need due to the on-going pandemic and existing systematic inequalities that existed pre-pandemic. This 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 153 association volunteers and 72 community partners.



## 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...

Sarah Koukol and family for helping us prepare our fall mailings at home including stuffing mini-Ziploc bags, letters, and more!

Jim Brandau and Nathan for dropping off some wonderful sweetcorn from Brandau's Farm Stand to the CCFB.

Christine Craven for her kind note regarding the September Co-Operator.

Brooke Holleman for the kind note about her daughter's enjoyment of completing the Ag Adventures for Families Word search each month and her excitement in winning a prize last month!



Martie Wartalski, owner of Tamarack Wooden Quilt Blocks for her beautiful, custom-made barn quilt for staff Bona Heinsohn. Martie and her husband are longtime members of CCFB. A photo of the interior, smaller quilt is included.

2021 Farm Crawl member businesses for opening their doors to members and the public to see Cook County agriculture up close, with many offering freebies, tours, discounts, and more!

Farm Bureau members and public who participated in our 5th Farm Crawl on Saturday, September 11!

Volunteer Rick Johnson for going on the WGN John Landecker Show to talk about the Farm Crawl experience.



CCFB Member Mr. Louis Zielezinski (and his wife and daughter) paid a visit to the Farm Bureau on his 90th birthday and brought us gifts! After years of enjoying the Membership candy dish selection, he surprised us with gift bags of candy from a local Brookfield, IL store called Fill My Jar.

Edna Nykaza and Donna Nykaza-Jones for visiting the Farm Bureau's Centennial Legacy patio and to view their beautiful brick in memory of Ray Nykaza, former member of the Board of Directors and Board President.

Board members Dan Biernacki, Janet McCabe, Mike Rauch, and Gerry Kopping for installing the pollinator garden on the grounds of the Farm Bureau during a very hot August day.

## Co-Operator

published monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525

(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056

(e-mail) ccfb@cookcfb.org (website) www.cookcfb.org

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### Editor

Bob Rohrer

### Copy Analyst

Ashley Christensen

### Copy Development

CCFB Office Staff

### Officers & Directors

Janet McCabe, President

Michael Rauch, Vice President

Ruth Zeldenrust, Secretary-Treasurer

Dan Biernacki

James Bloomstrand

Roger Freeman

James Gutzmer

Patrick Horcher

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Cary Tate..... Insurance Agency Manager, Orland Park

David Swigart.....General Manager, Conserve FS

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# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

## “Ag Literacy Pillar 2”

Way back in June, I was sorting and tossing old files of paper and I ran across an American Farm Bureau Federation Foundation for Agriculture document entitled: *Pillars of Agricultural Literacy – Understanding the intersection between agriculture and society*. Many times, that **intersection** is at the Cook County Farm Bureau through this *Co-Operator* publication.



Understanding the intersection between agriculture and society.



Last month, I shared comments about the first pillar shown above (accessible at [cookcfb.org](http://cookcfb.org)).

### Now On to Pillar 2: The Relationship between Agriculture and Food, Fiber and Energy

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs (finally, I get to use my psychology 101 class). So simple. At our most basic level:

- Humans need food to live. Over 98% of Americans do not grow nor raise their own food to continue living.
- Humans need clothing. Fiber in the form of cotton, wool, hemp, and other forms come from agriculture.
- Humans rely on energy to stay warm and for transportation.

Agriculture provides all of these basics and beyond!

Beyond the basics, we want:

- Our food to be safe, nutritious, and tasty
- Our clothing to be attractive, comfortable, and affordable
- Our energy to be inexpensive, reliable, and renewable fuel sources for home, cars, and trucks

Food in the United States is the safest in the world because:

- The care and concern of farmers
- The rules and regulations on food production
- The EPA, USDA, FDA, customs police, and government food inspectors
- Quality refrigeration and storage
- Homeowner knowledge on sanitation and food preparation

At our beck and call, today’s modern supply chain, distribution system, labeling/packaging, food preparation, and storage delivering fresh and healthy food. Food supply and food choice are a true gift in the United States thanks to the American farmer and supporting cast. Whatever your food interest is, conventional, nutritious, organic, plant-based, Keto, Atkins, or whatever, your choice is almost always available without a lot of effort. (Check out page 6 of this publication for two banners our Ag Literacy Team developed to help school lunch users gain insight on the supply chain... Good stuff!)

It is a fantastic time to be a foodie! (Are people who enjoy the finer things in food still called foodies?)

Wonderful garments and clothes start on the farm as wool, cotton, industrial hemp, and other fibers. I’m going to begin calling people who love the finer things in clothing a “clothie”.

Renewable fuels from the farm are moving my fellow Americans and me around this great country. Feel free to call me a “fuelie” (someone who loves using ethanol and biodiesel fuel). Better than calling me a “gaslie”.

Today, Americans have moved beyond self-production of food, fiber, and fuel and are instead in need of those provided by farmers and the supply chain. Always remember the care and dedication that originates on the farm that goes into food on the table, clothing on our backs, and fuel for our cars.

Farm, food, fiber, energy, and people...what a great intersection!

## 5 Things Members Should Know About Farming and Halloween...

**1.** It’s believed that Halloween’s origins lie in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain celebrated from October 31 - November 1. This marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter and included celebratory feasts in celebration of agriculture..

**2.** Candy corn and other sorts of candy would not exist without farmers producing and harvesting beans from the cocoa tree and sugar from sugar cane, sugar beets, and corn.

**3.** Caramel apples are tasty to the core with the help of farmers that own and operate orchards

**4.** Originally, in Ireland, turnips were carved and used as lanterns which has led to our modern-day tradition of pumpkin carving and jack-o'-lanterns.

**5.** Hayrides are a tradition enjoyed by many celebrating Halloween. As you may know, most “hay” rides actually use straw bales on the wagon to sit on.



## Your Orland Park Agency



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



**Bob Johnson**  
708-429-9422  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



**Dan Stumpf**  
708-614-1688  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



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



**Nora Beverly**  
708-429-7789  
17605 S Oak Park Ave.  
Tinley Park, IL



**Brian Zielinski**  
630-257-6100  
106 Stephen St  
Lemont, IL



**Nick Burke**  
708-425-1816  
3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



**Mike Thauer**  
708-425-1559  
3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



**Erica Storrs-Gray**  
708-671-1465  
12130 S Harlem Ave  
Palos Heights, IL



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



**Joe Voves**  
708-425-1527  
3923 W 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL

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



0121-511HO

### Recipe of the Month:

## Mike’s Earthy Pizza Sauce

Michael O’Brien



- 1 ½ c grated zucchini
- 1 med white onion, chopped
- 1/3 c chopped celery
- ¾ c chopped mushrooms
- Garlic cloves, several
- ¼ c olive oil
- ¼ c marsala wine
- 2 T basil
- 2 T oregano
- 1 T sea salt
- 1 t black pepper
- ½ t rosemary
- ½ t thyme
- \*cast iron skillet
- 16 oz canned tomatoes

Sauté onions, celery, mushrooms, olive oil, salt, and pepper in skillet until soft. Add marsala wine and simmer 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and continue to simmer. Add grated zucchini and return to simmer. Add basil, oregano, rosemary, and thyme and continue to simmer to a thicker consistency, about 1 ½ hours more or less. Makes enough for a 14 in pizza...the best I ever made!

# Dear Valued Member

We would like to personally thank you on behalf of the board and staff for renewing your membership in the Cook County Farm Bureau®. The past two years have been difficult for many of our members with the pandemic and members have faced challenging times.

Throughout these difficult years, your Cook County Farm Bureau has offered resources, information, and programs for necessary and essential support to you and our other members, farmers and farm owners, workers, small businesses, parents and youth, and affiliated companies.

We have seen firsthand the important role farming and agriculture plays every day in everyone's lives in the Chicagoland area. We continue the important work with area food, fiber, and fuel farm producers to help them be able to provide high-quality, farm fresh products to local consumers.

Cook County Farm Bureau membership remains the best value in town. We thank you for your membership and we do look forward to serving you!

Best wishes! *Janet McCabe, President*  
*Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Manager*

## We Seek to Serve You in So Many Ways!

**Agricultural Literacy/Ag in the Classroom** - Kids and young adults should know where their food comes from and the hard work it takes to bring it to their families. Our multilevel approach includes in-person and videoconference presentations and a host of farm-related experiences showcasing the importance of agriculture and farming to students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

**Commodity/Marketing** - A variety of programs and activities connect consumers with area farmers and members with vegetable production, greenhouses, livestock, corn/soybeans, honeybees, industrial hemp, composting, community gardens, and much more.

**Member Relations** - Members are the lifeblood of the organization, and we seek to deliver a full and comprehensive membership experience through our services, benefits, discounts, programs, and activities package.

**Public Relations** - Through in-person programs and social media, Chicagoland residents and area consumers who have a natural curiosity about farming, farming practices and agricultural topics gain answers and insight.

**Governmental Affairs** - CCFB seeks to inform, engage, and influence elected officials and leaders locally, regionally, in the state and federally for quality farm and food policy.

**Young Leaders** - Younger members ages 18 - 35 enhance leadership skills and serve area agriculture's needs in an enjoyable format.

**Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation** - This 501c(3) non-for-profit created to give members the opportunity to support, through their tax-deductible gifts, scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom programming, adult leadership training, internships and more.

**Cook County Farm Bureau® Political Action Committee** - This Political Action Committee was created to provide members with the opportunity to help positively influence the political landscape of Cook County and support the election of individuals supportive of agriculture and fiscally and ethically responsible.

**Master Gardener Resource Center** - CCFB has partnered with the University of Illinois Extension to provide members access to local Master Gardeners during the growing season to interpret soil test results, answer questions and provide expertise and assistance in the area of horticulture.

# Pollinator Garden in Progress



Farm Bureau leaders Gerry Kopping and Dan Biernacki work to install a pollinator garden at the Farm Bureau office. After killing the grass, leaders removed the sod, added topsoil, planted a variety of Midwest native pollinator seeds, and mulched the site. Seeds were provided by Conserv FS, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Farm Bureau.

# Meet a "face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau

## Rick & Joy Homerding, owners of Puckerville Farms



**Puckerville Farms**  
13332 Bell Rd Lemont IL 60439  
Phone: 708-508-0906  
Hours: Mon-Sun 10am - 7pm Seasonally  
Website: <https://puckervillefarms.webs.com/>

- Puckerville Farm is a family-oriented farm including Giant Pumpkins, pumpkin sales, Beekeeping for Honey production and Christmas Tree/Wreath Sales.

- The farm area was originally owned by the Lister family and was then bought by other family members. In 1991, John Homerding, Lister family's grandson decided to make a sign and start selling pumpkins in front of their house. The business grew over the years, creating great family memories. In 2002, Rick Homerding took over the pumpkin farm. He and his fiancée, Joy, bought both the home and business in 2003. They soon expanded the business by including Christmas trees, garland, and wreath.

- Puckerville Farms are focused on providing a family friendly experience with the highest levels of customer satisfaction - they will do everything to meet their customers expectations.



**IF YOU/FAMILY WAS NOT DOING THIS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Living in Alaska, spending time with my kids and grandkids.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?**

My favorite food is fish, I love Halibut on the grill.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM RELATED MEMORY?**

My worst favorite memory is of my sister and I, hoeing out the vegetable rows on our 13-acre farm, before school!

**DO YOU HAVE A SIDE HUSTLE?**

Yes, Rick's Design & Restoration, I do antique restoration work.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?**

Fall...spring is too wet, summer is too hot, winter is too cold.

**WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL QUESTION OR REQUEST YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM A CUSTOMER?**

Do you have any camels on the farm?

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST VALUABLE PRICE OF EQUIPMENT?**

My 1950 IH Farmall M-series Tractor; I restored it.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?**

Waddle, our white Peking duck.

**WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO OR CONSIDER A MENTOR?**

Jesus



# Cook County Farm Bureau Powered by People

For 101 years the Cook County Farm Bureau has depended on its members, the people of Cook County to support its mission of serving the agricultural community in Cook County. Members have depended on the Cook County Farm Bureau to be there during times of need.

Whether it's producer or consumer education, delivering valuable member services or dealing with local, state, and federal legislative issues, the Cook County Farm Bureau has been at the forefront with timely, innovative, and unique programming which encompasses all of our members needs.

Due to continual increases in operating costs, and programs that are so vital to our members, starting November 1, 2021, dues will increase from the current \$36 to \$45. This increase, **the first since 1978**, will allow the Cook County Farm Bureau to continue to provide essential services to our membership.

**The Cook County Farm Bureau is powered by our people, and we hope that you will continue to help power this great organization into the future.**



# Nykaza Checks Out Centennial Legacy Patio

Edna Nykaza, long time member and volunteer in the Cook County Farm Bureau and spouse to former President Ray Nykaza stopped into the Farm Bureau recently with

daughter Donna Nykaza-Jones to check out the memorial paver that was installed as a part of the Centennial Legacy Patio.



Edna Nykaza (L) and Donna Nykaza-Jones find the memorial paver to Ray Nykaza.



The memorial paver in memory of Ray Nykaza.



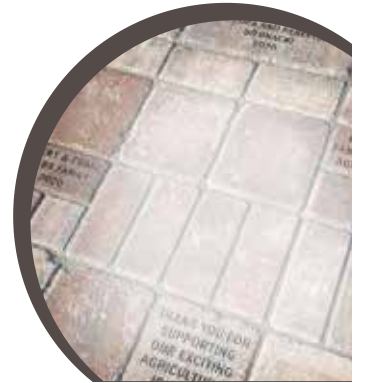
Edna and Donna point out the location of the paver in the patio.



**CENTENNIAL LEGACY PATIO CREATED TO BENEFIT FOUNDATION**

## INTERESTED IN ADDING YOUR MESSAGE TO THE CENTENNIAL PATIO?

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email [ccfb@cookcfb.org](mailto:ccfb@cookcfb.org).



## CCFB ACTION TEAMS



Signup begins for 2021-23 CCFB action teams. The CCFB has five teams made up of excited members with an interest in a strong farming presence in Cook County and a quality Farm Bureau organization. We are always seeking individuals with a passion for farming and Farm Bureau who wish to give time, energy and enthusiasm locally.

TEAMS	PRIMARY PURPOSE	PRIMARY AUDIENCE
Commodities/Marketing Team	To help farmer members succeed financially in Cook County.	Farmers
Governmental Affairs Team	To engage and influence elected local, state, and national officials.	All Members
Member Relations Team	To recruit and retain members through an increase in membership benefits/ services.	All Members
Public Relations Team	To improve the image of farmers through public outreach activities.	Consumers
Ag Literacy Team	To teach primary and middle school students and teachers about farmers and agriculture.	Students and Teachers

### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IS AN ASPECT OF EACH TEAM.

Each Team meets a minimum of 4 times annually. If interested, please go to: <https://cookcfb.org/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities>.

#### Additional Opportunities

Not interested in joining an action team, but still interested in becoming more involved? Learn more about additional volunteer opportunities, including virtual and brief engagement at <https://cookcfb.org/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities>.

We look forward to welcoming you as a volunteer!

Membership brings out great value!  
**Go to [www.cookcfb.org/membership](http://www.cookcfb.org/membership)**  
 to access great savings and discounts.

**Like us on Facebook**  
**Follow us on Twitter**  
**Follow us on Instagram**



Diane Merrion,  
CCFB Director of  
Ag Literacy

## Ag Lit Bit

### Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall

Just when the sweet corn is addictive and the tomatoes are bountiful it's time to say goodbye to the bounty of my garden. A new favorite I planted this summer was the Mexican Midget Tomato and let me tell you, the description stating they are "prolific" was spot on! For the second year in a row my impulse to add just a few more plants to my garden resulted in a dense forest of tomatoes that were difficult to even reach. These midgets were the star of the garden.

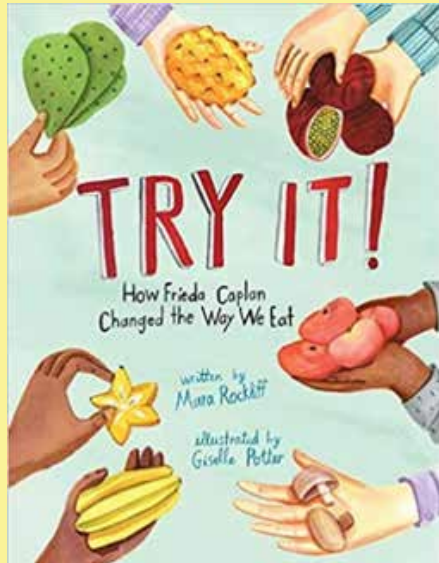
While up in northern Wisconsin last month I discovered a new item I can't wait to grow next year: ground cherries. They are close relatives of tomatillos and considered a type of "husk tomato." They are similar in size to a small cherry tomato, yellow when ripe and very intriguing to me. As I walked through the local farmers' market, I spotted the unusual fruit and had no clue what they were until the man next to me said, "Just boil them up with a bit of sugar and water and they make a wonderful jam." Wow, he was right.

As fall arrives, new favorites will replace the local summer harvest including cranberries (I was a bit too early to catch them being harvested in Wisconsin), squash (a new favorite we discovered last fall was the delicata squash that is delicious and doesn't require peeling), and finally fresh apples and pie pumpkins to name a few. What a great time of year to try different fruits and veggies!

A new book that is part of the IL Ag In the

Classroom Teacher grant offering is titled, Try It by Mara Rockliff. The book tells the story of Frieda Caplan, the first woman in the U.S. to start her own produce company. When she started selling produce, supermarkets carried about 65 kinds of fruits/vegetables compared with over 700 now, many that were introduced by Frieda. Some unique items she encouraged others to try included black radishes, Asian pears, blood oranges, red bananas, lychee, and much more.

So, try to be like Frieda as you explore farmers' markets this fall and "try it". You never know what new delicacy farmers will be bringing your way.



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

## Beeing Our Best Selves

Using a classroom grant provided by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation®, 150 students (grades pre-K through 8th) at Ancona School, Chicago participated in a unit of study called, "Beeing Our Best Selves" which taught students about the importance of bees including their role as food pollinators.

Educator Christopher Weber had several goals for the project including raising the profile of bees through classroom activities and providing enhancements to the school garden. He also aimed to improve students' abilities to

identify types of bees vs. other flying insects and to address myths leading to student fears about bees.

Students assembled bee bots, built a new bee house, and learned how bees collect nectar as part of the program. The funding for this mini grant was provided through our partnership with Compeer Financial. Additional agriculture related grant opportunities are now available through IL AITC by visiting <https://bit.ly/projectGrant>.

### Warm up your Fall and Winter Curriculum with Agriculture

Earn 1 free PDCH

IT'S HARVEST TIME WITH THE BOUNTY OF APPLES, PUMPKINS, READING AND STEM. THIS WORKSHOP WILL TAKE YOU BEYOND GRAPHING APPLES AND COUNTING SEEDS IN A PUMPKIN. LEARN HOW TO INCORPORATE GEOGRAPHY, MATH, SCIENCE AND ALL SUBJECT AREAS IN THIS FAST-PACED ONE-HOUR WORKSHOP FULL OF ACTIVITIES TO BRING RIGHT TO YOUR STUDENTS.

Date: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

Time: 4:00-5:00PM

Location: VIRTUALLY

REGISTRATION: CALL JILL OR DIANE AT 708.354.3276 OR EMAIL [aitc2@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc2@cookcfb.org)



## Midwet Dairy Hosts Presenters



Ag Educators (shown here CCFB AITC presenters Kathy Lesser and Linda Schaeffer) food bank representatives, school superintendents, and were invited to a special viewing suite at Halas Hall to learn about The Midwest Dairy programs including Adopt-a-Cow, Fuel Up to Play 60 and the NZI initiative. There was also a round-robin for guests to share their youth focused programs they are promoting this fall. Guests then enjoyed going down to the sidelines to watch the Bears in one of their final practices.

## New Laws Add Ag Science Option for Students

Under Public Act 102-0404 Illinois students now have additional opportunities to fulfill the three-year science credit requirement for admission to Illinois public universities. The Act adds agricultural science to the list of accepted science courses.

Governor J.B. Pritzker says Illinois should support young learners who want to bring their agricultural backgrounds to higher education and into their careers.

"This is simply an effort to highlight the importance of agricultural science," said Senator

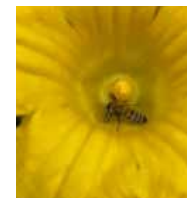
Doris Turner (D-Springfield). "It is my hope that students are encouraged to work and study in the field now that we've expanded our current curricula to include specialized sciences." FFA members joined teachers and other students to advocate for the change earlier this year.

"Students should feel confident and passionate about their career choice when choosing to study multidisciplinary sciences," said Turner. "This is a great way to get high school students interested in agricultural sciences before entering a state university."

## Update From Summer Intern Emily

Pumpkins and gourds are continuing to grow big in my garden before they are harvested in early October for us to decorate, carve and enjoy! You can see where I started

in spring with a blossom forming and getting pollinated, the pumpkin starting to grow and then ready for picking. I grew many varieties of pumpkins and gourds.



Pumpkin Pollination Bee

Successful Pollination; Fruit Developing

Pumpkin Ready for Picking

## COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION AG IN THE CLASSROOM 2021-2022 FOOD SCIENCE GRANT



apply at  
<https://bit.ly/Foodscience>

This grant offers \$300-\$500 for teachers in Grades 6-12 to purchase dairy, meat, fruit and/or vegetable products for their classroom to educate students about the importance of a well-balanced diet, teach the farm to table process and promote locally grown foods/ingredients. Ideal for Culinary Arts and Science units or cross curricular projects within middle or high school classes.

Contact Diane at  
[AITC@COOKCFB.ORG](mailto:AITC@COOKCFB.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

APPLICATION  
DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 15, 2021



# 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.



## 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/>

# 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 hollow 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>



## 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	
I	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	
I	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.

# Grain Bins a Harvest Sweet Spot



At nearly 4 years old, our son's Christmas wish list included grain storage bins and a "wiggle tractor." (His description for a tractor that articulates in the middle). He found toy versions of both under the tree.

For most of the 60 days leading up to forming this list, our toddler watched my family hard at harvest. We transferred crops from combine to a wiggle tractor pulling a grain cart. That tractor with cart then unloaded onto a truck, which hauled the crop to corrugated steel storage bins. The cycle repeated field by field until we completed the corn and soybean harvest. In the process, he identified two primary hubs of activity: the field at harvest and the grain storage bins where we haul the crop. He wanted part of each for Christmas.

Generally, grain bins garner less attention than combines and tractors, but he knew this necessary component holds the harvest. Farmers either own the steel storage structures themselves or pay for space at a nearby elevator in the grain storage business. Many store in a combination of both. Our toddler saw the value in owning his own bins without understanding

anything about shrink or carry in the market. My husband screwed those toy bins to a piece of plywood. Our son quickly filled them with handfuls of corn to later sell and deliver to ethanol plants and river terminals with 1/64th-scale trucks.

In the full-size world, those bins come with the responsibility to keep grain in quality condition, a task aided by observation and modern technology. Sensors measure the moisture content of a crop to determine the amount of mechanical drying needed before storage. Temperature cables alert of hot spots in stored grain to prevent spoilage. Smartphones and tablets can monitor and even control these activities remotely.

This fall, our daughter will keep FFA records on her time and experiences weighing trucks, taking grain moisture samples and creating delivery tickets to track inventory at our farm's grain storage facility. Between loads, she manages homework from inside the scale house, a building with the scale's digital display. Occasionally, the truckers step inside for drinks and snacks, which may include her home-baked cupcakes or cookies from her cottage food business The Bakery Bin, another of her FFA projects. Her bakery logo depicts three grain bins topped with frosting, denoting a harvest-time sweet spot in more ways than one.

*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.*

## 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 publication 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**

# Family Farm and Food Bytes

**FDA WARNS AGAINST LIVESTOCK MEDICATION AS COVID TREATMENT** – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration posted on its Twitter account Saturday cautioning people from using Ivermectin, an anti-parasitic medication for livestock, to treat COVID. The FDA's warning came a day after Mississippi's Department of Health said on its website that it "has received an increasing number of calls from individuals with potential ivermectin exposure taken to treat or prevent COVID-19 infection." (Voice of America)

**IF STEPPED-UP BASIS GOES AWAY** – A recent survey showed 95% of farmers are concerned that changes in tax policy will make it harder to pass their farms to the next generation. Here's what everyone's doing about it — and what you can do to help. (Farm Progress)

**ANALYSIS-HIGHER U.S. FOOD BENEFITS GIVE LEGS TO DOLLAR STORES' FRESH FOOD PUSH** – U.S. dollar stores including Dollar General and Family Dollar are likely to see a sales and earnings boost from the Biden administration's plan to hike food stamp benefits, an added payoff for the chains' strategy to tap the \$274 billion fresh food market. (Reuters)

**ILLINOIS HOME-BASED FOOD PRODUCTS CAN BE SOLD DIRECTLY TO CUSTOMERS IN 2022 UNDER NEW LAW** – Soon farmers markets won't be the only place to find home-based food products in Illinois. Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Home-to-Market Act (SB2007) into law, effectively opening the door for small farms and home bakers to sell their products directly to customers through fairs and festivals, home sales, pickup, delivery and shipping. (State Journal-Register)

**AFBF WELCOMES BIDEN'S PICK FOR CHIEF AG TRADE NEGOTIATOR.** American Farm Bureau Federation is encouraged by President Joe Biden's selection of Elaine Trevino for chief agriculture negotiator. Trevino is president of the Almond Alliance of California.

"Her strong roots in agriculture and her experience in America's largest exporting state have prepared her for the challenges of representing the nation on trade issues," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said in a press release. "Opportunities to create new trade agreements with the European Union and Great Britain as well as expanding the China Phase 1 agreement make filling this position with the most qualified person extremely important,"

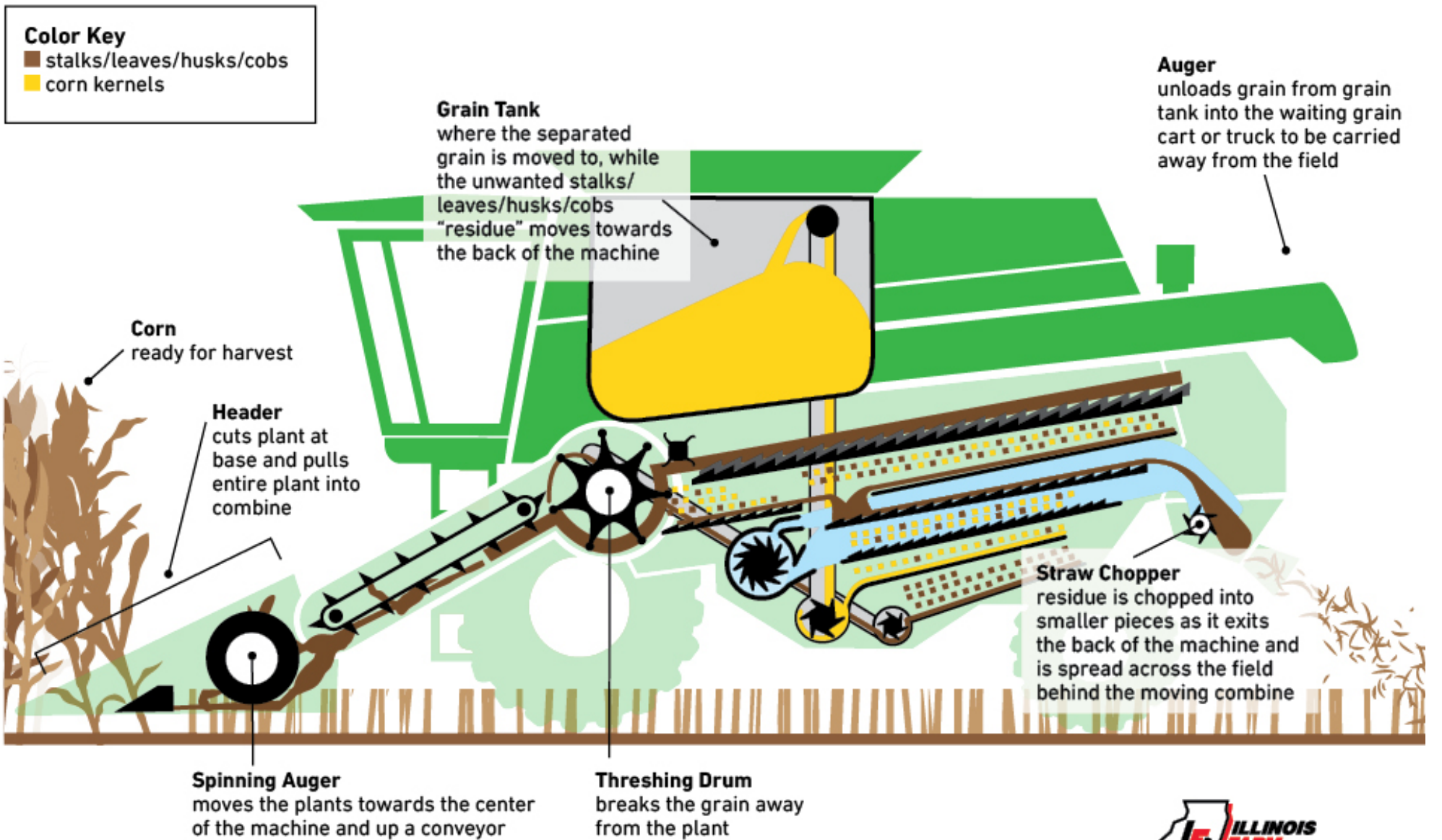
As the leader of an organization that advocates for California's leading agricultural export, Trevino understands tariff and nontariff barriers to trade and the importance of maintaining America's strong trade agreements and global positioning, the White House said in a press release. She served as a deputy secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture for former Govs. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gray Davis.



Elaine Trevino (Photo courtesy of Almond Alliance)

# How A Combine Works

During harvest season, combine harvesters can be found all over Illinois fields. This machine has changed the farming industry by combining several steps in the harvesting process – reaping, threshing, and winnowing – into one revolutionary machine. But how do they work?





## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

For anyone keeping track, the big red dragon and his kid brother have graced another fair, this time in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. In front of a crowd of 4,000, the big red dragon raced around a pen. Rolled back on command.

Ran in sweeps. Pinwheeled. Barrel turned. And completed two drills. He still didn't like the corner between the grandstand and the bucking chute, but he left the funny business at home. He'll visit his final fair this year, the Central Wisconsin State Fair, before this column goes to print.

As the big red dragon and his kid brother have been racing at fairs, home life has marched on. Both kids returned to school. Home improvements started again. Plumbing is nearly done. Lights have been marked out. The contractor for the kitchen cabinets has us on his list. And the yard is finally getting much needed attention.



Our new-to-us farmhouse's prior owners had a green thumb. I do not. At our prior home I faked it. Perennials were planted. Trimmed. And cleaned up every fall. In spring, flowerbeds were cleaned and mulched. Much of the changes and additions were made before the blue-eyed girl and big-little boy arrived on the scene. As my blue-eyed girl will tell you, by July I'm bored with watering plants and ready for fall. Without her, the flowerpots would go dry.

Rather than pushing our luck at the new-to-us farmhouse, we opted to transition most of the flowerbeds to native plantings and pollinator gardens. Our big-little boy doesn't exactly love this but even he's tolerating the bees.

In the Midwest, pollinators are predominately bees, butterflies, moths,



beetles, flies, and birds. Bats are also pollinators in the south. Pollinators really need three things to live: pollen, nectar, and vegetation. They're a keystone group meaning that the survival of many other plants and animal species are dependent on them. We're dependent on them. Approximately a third of the food we eat and drink is dependent on pollinators.

Unfortunately, pollinator habitat is declining, being degraded, and fragmenting. It's also being impacted by the use of insecticides and pesticides. Air and light pollution. Diseases and parasites. Climate change. And invasive species. Like so many people before us, we opted to do just a small part to restore pollinator habitat.

We transitioned a portion of our flower beds into a pollinator garden. With any luck by next year, it will contain plants that provide nectar or pollen for a range of pollinating insects. Even those pesky bees that so bother the big-little boy.

We opted for variety in seeds. Some pollinators are generalists and will visit many plants. Some are specialists and prefer only one type of plant. We went with some common plants. Butterfly Milkweed. Black-Eyed Susan. Cornflower. New England Aster. Purple Cornflower. We went with some of my favorites. Lupin (for my grandma who loved Lupins). Gaillardia Aristata. And Milkweed Orange. With any luck our pollinator garden will look like the pollinator gardens surrounding the cranberry marshes at DuBay Cranberry Company near Steven's Point, Wisconsin.

On the note of pollinator gardens, a tremendous thank you to everyone who help plant the pollinator garden at the Farm Bureau office! We're looking forward to watching it grow and flourish.

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

## Farm Bureau Voices Concerns Regarding Energy Legislation

The legislature met in September to approve Senate Bill 2408, the controversial and sweeping clean energy legislation. Senate Bill 2408 calls for the elimination of Illinois carbon emissions by 2050, while allowing two coal-fired plants to stay open until 2045 with the caveat that they cut emissions by nearly half by 2038.

On the nuclear front, the bill included subsidies to keep some of the state's oldest nuclear power plants operational. The bill also provided incentives for renewable energy projects, while phasing out coal and natural gas power generation facilities. Additionally, the bill

created new ethics rules for the utility industry, and a host of other related energy items.

Farm Bureau opposed Senate Bill 2408 largely due to the language granting the Grain Belt Express transmission line eminent domain powers. Core to Farm Bureau is the protection of private property rights, and the portion of Senate Bill 2408 address the Grain Belt Express transmission line is detrimental to private property rights.

Farm Bureau will continue voicing the importance of private property rights.

## Farm Bureau Members Respond to Action Requests

The following Cook County Farm Bureau® members responded to 100 percent of the organization's action requests on priority Farm Bureau issues:

Mark Yunker  
Cindy Gustafson  
Bona Heinsohn  
Bob Rohrer

Pat Horcher  
Janet McCabe  
Tim Stunkel  
Ruth Zeldenrust  
Kim Morton

The following members responded to over 75 percent of the organization's action requests:

Jim Bloomstrand  
Roger Freeman  
Jim Gutzmer

Action requests were issued on President Biden's infrastructure funding proposal, continued Atrazine use, and the Illinois Clean Energy proposal among others. Members interested in learning more about Farm Bureau's priority issues and the action request process are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org).



Farm Bureau leader Cindy Gustafson inspects 'Excellent Quality' compost during the Rural Urban Exchange program at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). The Rural Urban Exchange program was hosted jointly by Cook County Farm Bureau and MWRD in an effort to expand leaders' awareness of nutrient reduction avenues.

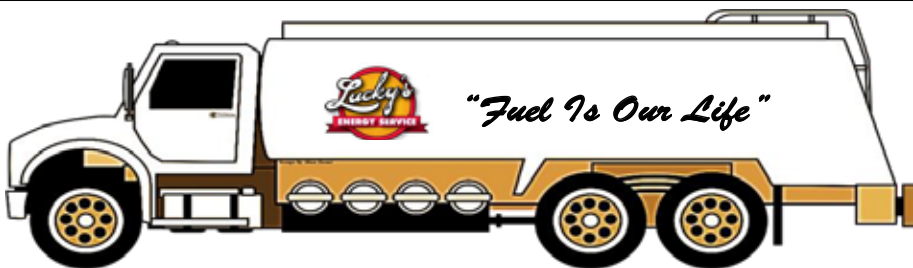


Cook County, Fulton County, and Illinois Farm Bureau leaders inspect the McCook Reservoir phase I basin during a recent visit to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Leaders explored the Ostara phosphorus removal process, composting, and biosolids during the Rural Urban Exchange program. The program was funded through the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Grant.



Cook and Will County Farm Bureau leaders met with Congresswoman Newman. Newman's priorities include infrastructure enhancements, mental health care, and career training. Members discussed a variety of issues including 1031 Exchanges, the renewable fuels standard, and farm and general labor. Newman also expressed interest in a farm visit and continuing routine visits going forward with Farm Bureau.

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 Signature: Robert A. Rohrer, Manager  
 Date: 9-16-2021

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

# 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.



**Matt Whitsett**  
 Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager  
 Matt Whitsett has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. His office is located at 4306 N. Lincoln Ave., #2 F., in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-267-1584. Matt has been a Financial Representative since November 2009.



**\*Robert Baron**  
 Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager  
 Robert Baron has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. His office is located at 1701 W. Belmont Ave., Unit 1, in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-248-1741. Robert has been a Financial Representative since October 2016.



**\*Ray Massie Sr.**  
 Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager  
 Ray Massie Sr. has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste C., in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-991-0765. Ray has been a Financial Representative since February 1999.



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



**Mark Coon**  
 Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager  
 Mark Coon has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. His office is located at 23042 N. Main St., Prairie View IL. His phone number is 847-415-2666. Mark has been a Financial Representative since September 1981.



**\*Renata Bondarowicz**  
 Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager  
 Renata Bondarowicz has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. Her office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste.930 in Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-6388. Renata has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



**Ed Beavers**  
 Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager  
 Ed Beavers has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for August 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 October 2020.



**Kirk Gregory Jr.**  
 Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager  
 Kirk Gregory Jr. has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for August 2021. His office is located at 1401 S. State St., #150 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-619-0649. Kirk has been a Financial Representative since February 2018.



**Bill Thompson**  
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager  
 Bill Thompson has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for August 2021. His office is located at 106 Stephen St., Ste 102A in Lemont, IL. His phone number is 708-361-1304. Bill has been a Financial Representative since August 2000.



**Nadia Abueid**  
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager  
 Nadia Abueid has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for August 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.



**\*Mike Cerf**  
 South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager  
 Mike Cerf has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for August 2021. His office is located at 4845 167th St., Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. His phone number is 708-560-9077. Mike has been a Financial Representative since April 2002.



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

\*Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by Financial Representatives from Country Financial with the Cook County Farm Bureau organization.

## Membership Benefit



**IAACU Offers**

- No annual fee VISA cards at a low interest rate
- Savings, checking, and money market accounts
- IRA accounts
- Certificates of Deposit
- Christmas and Vacation Clubs
- First mortgages
- Home equity loans
- Automobile loans and more!



Visit <https://www.iaacu.org/> to learn more.

# 2021 Farm Crawl Cook County Farm Bureau®

Guided tours, farm fresh produce, eggs, honey, fresh flowers, fall plants, pumpkins, farm animals and feed, freebies, farm specials, and refreshments were enjoyed by Crawlers during our 5th Farm Crawl on a beautiful, sunny Saturday in September! Thank you to our Crawlers for venturing out to see agriculture in action! We also thank our 23 businesses that welcomed Passport Crawlers, and offering them a chance to get to know you a little bit better during the 2021 Farm Crawl:

**Big John's Farm Market, Brandau's Farmstand, Bultema's Farmstand & Greenhouse, Clarke's Garden Center & Stone Depot, Crete Garden Center & Nursery, Deer Creek Farm, Demonstration Farm-II Ext Local Foods Cook County, Horcher Farms & Flower Shop, Just Picked Farmstand, Kopping Farms & Equestrian Center, Ludwig's Feed Store, M&D Farms, McCarthy Farm Stand, Melka Landscape & Garden Center, Puckerville**

**Farms, Schroeder's Garden Center & Landscaping, Smits Farms, Ted's Greenhouse, The Feed Store, VanderGriens Farm Market, Historic Wagner Farms Heritage Center, Windy City Harvest-Farm on Ogden, and Zeldenrust Farm Market.**



JoAnn Shultz, owner of Deer Creek Farm, helped Crawlers create beautiful bouquets from fresh cut flowers grown on the farm and providing tours of her goats!



(right to left) New to the Crawl, the Demonstration Farm's Sarah Batka, Local Foods Small Farms Program Coordinator, U of I Extension, along with farm volunteer, Stephanie Stephens, shy Kennedy welcomed CCFB Farm Crawlers. Gotham Greens provided free basil plantings to all who came – thank you!



We ran into CCFB member crawlers along the way: Barbara and George Clark picked up some fresh produce, while Galena Krueger cut her own fresh sunflowers, a freebie offered to crawlers at Zeldenrust Farms.



## 2022 Farmland Questionnaire

2022 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit for farmland status in Cook County have been sent. The filing deadline date is January 31, 2022, and the forms must be notarized. Additional copies of the 2022 Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit can be obtained at <https://www.cookcountyassessor.com/farms>

and sent to:  
Cook County Assessor's Office  
Incentive Department  
Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit  
118 N Clark Street Room 301  
Chicago, IL 60602

## Attention Voting Members

The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors will be conducting a business only Annual Meeting on November 10, for the Voting Members of the Cook County Farm Bureau. Voting members may attend the Annual Meeting or may "date" and "sign" the proxy printed below and return it by November 5 to the office. Printed below is the Official Notice and a copy of the agenda.. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Bob Rohrer, Manager, CCFB at 708-354-3276.

- James Bloomstrand
- James Gutzmer
- Janet McCabe
- Michael Rauch
- Mark Yunker
- Ruth Zeldenrust

Proxies were sent to voting members and we encourage return to the office by November 5, 2021.

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 101st Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau will be held on Wednesday, November 10th, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL. The purpose of this meeting is for the election of directors, submitting of annual reports, election of voting delegates and for the transaction of such other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Signed,

Secretary/Treasurer  
Cook County Farm Bureau

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following slate of directors for election of a two-year term:

## Classifieds

All ads that we receive for The Co-Operator are also listed on our website at [cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds](http://cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds). If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad.

Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to [fbcooperator@gmail.com](mailto:fbcooperator@gmail.com). Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following 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

Reznor 100 btu hanging heaters \$25 each. Industrial Air hose reels \$15 each. T-8 Fluorescent 4bulb fixtures \$5 each. Call Dan 312-969-4831.

For sale - Longaberger collectibles baskets, liners, pottery, negotiable. Call Mary 847-297-6807.

Custom, love seat, pillow back, made by John M Smits like new. Make offer. Call Mary 847-297-6807.

Wood wall panels 8-ft x 24-ft x 6-in, Bridge timbers 9-in x 16-in x 14-ft, Railroad ties 8ft. long, rubber pads 4-ft x 4ft x 9-in. Delivery available, Call Bill 708-415-4716.

Chicago for sale 3 units 2720 w. Summerdale 2-3 bedrooms each unit. New kitchens, new roof, windows, and plumbing. Private parking. Low taxes, and expense. Fully rented, \$539,000 call Louie owner 847-361-9292.

Home for sale- Waterfront, 97ft on St. Joseph River, in St. Joseph Michigan. 3-4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, cozy gas fireplace, customized mantel. Remodeled kitchen & appliances, multiple decking, 2 car garage. Gas heat, Air, boat dock with trailer. 75 Acre. \$329,900. Call Sibyl Kish 269-325-2943.

Coleman 4-gallon air compressor \$35. Five vintage Northlake wooden hockey sticks \$50. Antique wooden rocking chair \$45. Two pool sticks with cases \$20. Two 75' craftsman heavy-duty black hoses on hose reel \$75.

Folding portable workbench \$100. Photos available upon request. Call Diana 630-908-0142.

4 used white banquet tables 8ft. long, legs can lock in place for stability, also legs fold flat for storage. \$35 each. 40 used metal black chairs, \$10 each. In very good condition. Call Pat 404-414-6933.

## Wanted

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

Wanted LP Rock & Roll Album Records, call John 708-860-9562. Pre 1971 Baseball cards, call Gary 708-363-4559.

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](mailto:juanita@cookcfb.org). Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum

## School Lunch Library Partnership



Our Ag Literacy team is excited to partner with local Cook County schools with a new outreach program called Lunch & Library. Four banners (two shown here) will be provided for use in local school lunchrooms to show common items on the school menu and how they went from the farm to school. We hope students will be able to describe the general process involved to produce an agricultural product by showing them the path from farm to lunch tray. Additionally, each school will receive 12 books for their school library where students can go to learn more about agriculture, as well as supplementary resource materials. Every banner also has a QR code leading them to an IL AITC Ag Mag about one commodity featured in each display. We are excited about this outreach effort made possible through the support of Compeer Financial® and the Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation. Teachers looking for information about the Lunch & Library program should contact Diane at [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).

**Go to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) for info about upcoming workshops relating to Farmers Markets 101.**

# Programs, Workshops, and Webinars

For Members, Farmers, Teachers, Landowners, Foodies, Business owners, and those that want new experiences and to have a great time!

Register today for the following great programs by calling the office at 708-354-3276 or at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)



### 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.



### 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](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org); online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation 2020-2021 Annual Report is now available on our website under Cook CFB Foundation at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org). Below is a portion of the report...

**LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING**  
Filled up! Quickly

Our Ag in the Classroom programming was presented to over

## 12,000 STUDENTS

in classrooms throughout Cook County through four custom virtual live presentation options. Our calendars filled quickly for the four AITC school presentations as teachers chose between our Agriculture in Illinois, There's Ag on My Plate, Fall Apples & Pumpkins and Keeping Worm with Ag presentations for their students.

**AN ADDITIONAL 1000 STUDENTS** ATTENDED OUR FIRST VIRTUAL AG DAY

through our partnership with The Children's Farm, complete with lessons for educators and take-home materials for children to continue learning well after the event.

**7 SCHOLARSHIP MEMBER RECIPIENTS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$16,000** in scholarship funds to aid in their pursuit of a farm & food related career.

**A MESSAGE FROM JANET MCCABE, PRESIDENT OF THE CCFB FOUNDATION**

Dear Friends and Neighbors –

The years 2020 and 2021 will always be remembered by those of us that have lived through them. The pandemic, economic concerns and various personal and professional circumstances have made these years difficult for many. Obviously, with schools in remote and hybrid situations in the Chicago and area, the Cook County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy program was impacted immediately. Fortunately, the value of agriculture made available through our storytelling presentations on farming and agriculture proved highly effective in Google classrooms, zoom lessons and other virtual medium. Most importantly, teachers and students greatly appreciated our skilled presenters in their virtual and hybrid classrooms in a format that was interactive, fun and enlightening.

While our virtual presentations have been highly effective, we truly look forward to the opportunity to return to some "in-person" classroom lessons this school year.

We were very excited to kick off the Foundation sponsored Farm Shadows program this past year, which gives students valuable insight into potential agriculture careers. Members working within the ag industry provide high school students with an understanding of how their school coursework connects to the variety of jobs in our field, so they will come away with a better understanding of the skills needed to be successful.

We continue to support the next generation of agricultural producers and professionals through our scholarship program for members and dependents pursuing agricultural careers through higher education. We want our area's enthusiastic, bright minds to seek agricultural careers. Members frequently ask, "how can I help?" Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation, volunteer for an AITC activity, or mentor students through the Farm Shadows program.

I want to personally thank our many wonderful supporters, donors, partners and foundation friends. Through these difficult times, your generous and broad support has continued to provide us the opportunity to impart the future of individual lives connected to farming, food, fiber and fuel.

*Janet B. McCabe*  
Janet McCabe, President, CCFB Foundation

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit created by the Cook County Farm Bureau to support the purpose of providing agricultural related scholarships to members and dependents, enhance agriculture through its schools and its assigned agricultural knowledge and understanding throughout the County.

The CCFB Young Leaders Group has organized a service project with the mission to send local military service men and women care packages.

★ ★ ★

The packaging event will take place during the holiday season. They are seeking your help to do so.

If you know of a local military service men and women who would benefit from receiving a care package, or would like to learn more about how you can contribute via donation or assembling packages, please contact Tom Poole ([tpoole2@illinois.edu](mailto:tpoole2@illinois.edu)) or the CCFB office at 708-354-3276 for more information.

I'd like to donate       I'd like to assemble package

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CCFB AND MAIL TO:  
KATIE SMITH - DIR. OF MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU 6438 JOLIET RD., COUNTRYSIDE, IL 60525

To pay by credit card, call the CCFB office at 708-354-3276.

Fall is here and it's the time for fall items like pumpkins, gourds, popcorn, fall flowers, hay straw, or fresh harvest vegetables, and the time is ripe to experience a classic fall outing to a local pumpkin patch, go apple picking, or trail riding!

The Cook County Farm Bureau wants to help by making it easier for you to shop local and support businesses in and around your community with ShopLocal.

This directory is a **MUST-HAVE** resource where you will find diverse local food and agriculture businesses in Cook County, Local Farmers Markets, and more to help with fall purchases, local food, and fall fun experiences!

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



**Member Benefit**

# 302,000 BENEFITS

[ilfb.abenity.com](http://ilfb.abenity.com)

**ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU**  
Farm. Family. Food.™

## Want a Free Movie Ticket?

Want a free movie ticket? Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to join the Cook County Farm Bureau as an associate, farmer, or professional member. If they join, you will receive a free movie ticket! Call our office at 708-354-3276 to let us know that you referred a member.

Individuals can join the Cook County Farm Bureau by going to [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.

Affiliated COUNTRY Financial reps or staff members do not qualify. Valid only 10/1/2021 through 12/31/21.

