



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. 4

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

April 2018

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

14th	New Farmer Training – Make Up Date	Page 1
21st	Make a Spring Planter @ Big John's	Page 12
25th	Essential Oil Make & Take Workshop	Page 1
26th	Farm Marketing for Today's Consumer – Call CCFB office for details –	
28th	Container Workshop at Ray's Quality	Page 12

MAY

5th	Babysitting Class for Teens/Pre-Teens	Page 10
15th & 16th	Defensive Driving Course (Must attend both classes)	Page 12
17th	Eldercare Emergency Toolkit	Page 10

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.

Question of the Month

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

☆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.

March's winner is **Ron Johnson**.

Last Month's Question:

Who can claim shopping spree bragging rights following the 2018 Food Checkout Day benefit to fill the kitchen cabinets of area Ronald McDonald Houses?

Answer: The Chicago Fire and Oaklawn Fire Departments both won the shopping sprees against their "rival" police departments.

☆Bonus☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, Corny Calvin, was hanging out in the February issue of the Co-Operator was... page 6 with Diane Merrion's Column, Ag Lit Bit.

Creating a Farm Enterprise

\$\$\$'s in Your Yard Workshop

At the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Rescheduled Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018

9:00am - Noon

Need ideas for putting your land to work for you by creating an ag enterprise? Do you have an idea and need to know what to do next? Join us for the "Creating a Farm Enterprises: \$\$\$'s in Your Yard" Workshop at the Cook County Farm Bureau in Countryside, IL.

Whether you live in the country, suburbs, or an urban area, this workshop will help you start a farm or keep it, simply by raising honey bees in your backyard. Speakers will cover topics such as: Evaluating your resources and what you need, Marketing, Regulations, Business planning tools, and Risk management. Producers who started small and are expanding their ag enterprises will share their experiences.

Registration by April 11th is required due to space limitations and material preparation. The \$20 member fee or \$30 non-member fee will cover workshop materials and refreshments. For more information or to registration call Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or e-mail membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org

Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trust and Transferring Non-Willed Property

Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 6:30-9pm.

Where: Country Financial Building
25 NW Point, Suite 850
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Cost: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members
\$10 per person for non-members

To Pre-register: Call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

Register by: **Wednesday, April 11, 2018—Limited seating!**

Speakers and Program Descriptions:

Speakers and Program Descriptions:

Estate Planning and Trust Administration
Presented by Caroline Hecht, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Ms. Hecht concentrates her practice in estate planning for high net worth clients, estate and trust administration, estate and gift taxation, guardianships, contested estates, and complex probate matters. Ms. Hecht also represents business owners with respect to the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

Presented by Robert A. Holland, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC

Mr. Holland concentrates his practice in estate planning, estate and trust administration, taxation, corporate transactional work, business planning, asset protection, residential and commercial real estate transactions and antenuptial agreements. Mr. Holland's business planning practice includes representation regarding the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, including ownership agreements, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and not-for-profit planning.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa's Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa's pocket watch, or even Grandma's pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue; deciding what you want to accomplish; deciding what the word "fair" means in your family; identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences; and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.



Essential Oil Rollerball Make & Take Workshop

- Feeling stressed and want to feel calm?
- Seasonal threats making you want to claw your eyes out?
- Elusive sleep becoming your enemy?
- Bad case of the Mondays and need to focus?
- Picked up a box and now you feel like you need to be in traction?
- Skin betray your age?
- Energy levels sinking like the Titanic?

CCFB is hosting a class on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 7-9pm to learn all about essential oils and how you can naturally help support the needs of your body. Each attendee will make 1 FREE rollerball blend based on their needs with the option of making more. Additional rollerballs are \$5 each.

Call the CCFB office to register for the event at 708-354-3276.

Address: 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside IL 60525 • Email: ccfb@cookcfb.org • Web: www.cookcfb.org

Farming for Our Future Gala Plants Seeds for Farm and Food Literacy



Many groups of friends and families gathered for the March 10 event to support the cause of farm and food literacy in Cook County! See page 4 for more photos and information. Pictured above are (left to right) Chistine Kickels, Dave Kirby, Mary Kirby, Chuck Burns, and Mark Kickels.



Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

I'm a mom and I care about what I'm feeding my kids. How do I learn more about today's farmer and the food they grow?

Answered by Amy Hansmann, urban mom and Cook County Farm Bureau® volunteer

Years ago, as a mom of a young son with another on the way, I began to wonder about the food I fed my family. We lived on the 40th floor of a downtown high-rise and walked everywhere. It was easy to shop at any number of stores, grab milk from the Starbucks and a lot of fun to go to the weekend farmer's markets. Because of the topics in the media, the playground conversation and even the labels on food, I began to worry about the choices I made—not so much about nutrition, but about food safety, environmental impact and animal welfare. In my urban landscape, far removed from where my food was produced, it seemed best to follow the trends and assume that what the media and my acquaintances were telling me was true: organic was better, conventional food is dripping with chemicals and all meat producers were suspect.

I always felt my educational achievements and current reading list kept me informed, but I began to realize that my information was coming from limited sources. Soon after moving to a new community a few miles away, I learned of the Illinois Farm Families® program and was excited because I value challenging my perspectives and learning new things. When I toured farms my first day (beef, corn,

soy and then a dairy) WOW was I challenged! As I went on more tours of Illinois farms and associated businesses, the program opened my eyes to the complexities and realities on our farms and the incredible personal investment and passion of farmers. Ideas that seemed scary in the media made more sense in context and with detail. Organic, while a perfectly fine choice, is not synonymous with clean, better or healthy. Insights from farmers on plant and animal breeding were like a fresh course in practical biology. Even a topic I still find scary, chemical fertilizer, is less so when you realize the applicators are educated, licensed and using it with precision.

Now that I know more about the realities of food production, I have been eager to share my insight and dispel misconceptions. I think it is important to counter the mainly negative media messages about farming and provide information that is factual and useful for an everyday setting. There are many areas that are not controversial, but many consumers truly don't know where their food comes from, don't have access to gardens (even fresh food) or understand that marketing labels are intended to sell food and are not an indicator of quality.

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.

Illinois Icons: State History Sparkles with Legendary Ag Innovators

By Celeste Huttes

Now in its 200th year, the Land of Lincoln's long legacy includes early innovators who lightened the load for generations of farmers and paved the way for the Industrial Age. Joining the likes of Lincoln, Illinois transplants Cyrus McCormick and John Deere became household names with their game-changing ingenuity.

The Reaper King

"The McCormicks were a very inventive family. They made all sorts of blacksmith tools and farming contraptions at their bucolic farm, Walnut Grove, under the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia," said Sargent McCormick, who shares their family tree. "Really, it was the father – Robert Hall McCormick – who originally built the reaper in 1832, and Cyrus took it to the next level in collaboration with his brothers."

Assisted by Joe Anderson, Cyrus perfected a practical horse-drawn model that promised to end centuries of harvesting by hand.

The McCormick's remarkable reaper performed the backbreaking work of three men in a fraction of the time. Still, slave labor and uneven terrain squashed sales of the clever contraption in the breadbasket of the South.

Drawn by the Midwest's abundance and easy access to river and rail transportation, Cyrus left Virginia for Chicago in 1847. Setting up shop on Pine Street (better known today as Michigan Avenue), the McCormick brothers began mass production in 1848, with Cyrus at the helm.

Before long, McCormick Reaper Works



Visitors can connect with John Deere's past, present and future at the John Deere Pavilion in Moline

ranked among the country's largest manufacturing operations, producing nearly one-half of the world's farm machinery.

While creating a new generation of consumers, machines like the reaper helped establish Chicago as a bustling center of agriculture.

"The reaper was the base for the 19th-century revolution in cereal production that led to a complete change in the techniques of moving, storing and trading grain," McCormick said. "Chicago was at the center of this transformation, developing a grain elevator system that was the most important advancement in the history of the world's grain trade."

In 1902, thanks to J.P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, along with other Harvester Trusts, merged together to become the International Harvester Company, which remained a key player in Chicago manufacturing for more than 70 years.

As a testament to the practical design of the McCormick reaper, today's wheat-cutting equipment remains similar to the original machine that changed the world.

Continued on page 3

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...

The Voting members who answered their phones the evening of March 1st to participate in our "telephone townhall" discussion about issues and the viewpoint survey.

The Foundation Gala Planning Committee for great efforts to put together an outstanding fundraising event to benefit agriculture literacy and scholarships through the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation®. The many Gala attendees, donors, and sponsors supporting the event and for understanding the importance of teaching youth and adults where their food comes from.

Jessica Biernacki for the great video she developed on the organization's Ag Literacy efforts to show guests at the Gala (see it at cookcfb.org/foundation). Advanced Beekeeping instructors, Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton, for delivering an outstanding Beekeeping Workshop to members and guests interested in depth discussions about the care and keeping of bees!

All of the volunteers who made our Ag Day Chicago a success including the presenters, group leaders, students from CHAS and teachers who brought their classrooms for a day of learning about agriculture. Also, a shout out to **Jeff Heinsohn** for his donation of cattle feed samples to share with students and to **Denny at CalTag, Inc.** for the donation of real ear tags.

Recognition Appreciative Gratitude

Thanks Appreciative Gratitude

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

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

According to Google, there are more than 270 billion emails sent each day on this planet. Google did not report how many of those emails were spam or reply all. Sometimes I feel like most of those emails land in my inbox. Unfortunately, I can't just let all of those emails live in cyberspace. I feel the need to print emails to actually read them. If I ever go paperless, the wood and paper industry will go into recession.

One such email I received (and printed) was from the U.S. Census Field Division. Because I printed it, I was able to find it to write this column. The email was a news release that provided projected "populations" in the United States and the world for New Year's Day 2018. The main message I pulled from the Census Bureau update...

The Population in the World is exploding! Panic! (Don't panic... I added the panic part)

The world population projection in January was for 4.3 births every second with 1.8 deaths every second. And we make fun of rabbits...

Usually, China and India are "picked on" as being the main culprits of population growth and, yes, they are leading the way. But, the USA is trying to keep up with a growth rate of 5.9% since the year 2010. The US Census Bureau has a "Population Clock" at www.census.gov/popclock that simulates the real-time population growth of the United States as well as the world. Those population numbers on the clock are rolling higher very quickly!

Even while I was writing this article, the population in the U.S. grew about 300 people and the population of the world grew by 8,000...and I don't write that slowly.

So, of course, the farmers of our farm organization are trying to figure out how to feed these growing groups of hungry people. For decades, United States farmers, as the world's greatest producers of food, have accepted the responsibility to feed their own families plus their neighbors plus the people of the United States plus

people throughout the world.

We have some farmers specializing in local production while other farmers focus on regional or international production. However, each farmer plays an important role today and will play an even a greater role in the future in the feeding of people.

In today's environment of social media divisiveness and polarization, there's a tendency to jump on farming bandwagons. "Locally grown is better". "Farming organic is better". "Farming conventional is better". "Pasture raised is better". "Farming free range is better". "Farming with biotechnology is better".

It is time to be open-minded and understand that there is a place for all of these farming methods (and more) as local populations grow, regional populations grow, and global populations grow. For many of the affluent in the United States, people can afford to be highly selective in their food choices. Isn't it great that we have so many food selection options in this country that people can choose from?

However, there are also people in the United States and certainly throughout the world where the most important part of nutrition is the ability to **get some nutrition**, including access to vegetables, fruit, protein, carbohydrates, fats/rivers and the various vitamins and minerals that come with food is a necessity rather than a luxury.

I've heard that there will be nearly 10 billion people on the planet by the year 2050. That number is difficult for me to put into perspective. However, as I watch the population growth clock spin higher and higher and I visualize people jumping onto this planet, I have to ask myself "Where will the food to feed these hungry mouths come from?"

The future of the people of this world will depend on farmers of all types. Let's support them all.

Illinois Icons: State History Sparkles with Legendary Ag Innovators

Continued from page 2

John Deere's Plow

Around the time the McCormick family was perfecting its revolutionary reaper, in 1837 blacksmith John Deere proved the adage "necessity is the mother of invention."

Designed for use in the sandy soil of eastern states, the wood and cast-iron plows used by Illinois farmers at the time proved no match for the Midwest's rich, thick soil. Farmers were forced to continually stop and scrape the tool clean while they worked.

Working in his shop in Grand Detour, Deere adapted a broken saw blade to create a tool made for the Midwest.

"Deere's plow was innovative in two ways: the shape and the material. Steel was rare on the prairie, and John Deere's adaptation of a steel saw blade, properly shaped to shed the thick soil found in the Midwest, contributed to its success," said Neil Dahlstrom, manager of Corporate Archives & History at John Deere.

That ingenuity gave birth to a business, as blacksmith became manufacturer.

From its roots in agriculture, the John Deere Company branched out to become a leader in construction, forestry and consumer markets. Innovation became the common thread through the company's ever-evolving catalog of products, from tractors to lawn mowers and excavators.

"From a safety standard on newly developed riding cultivators during the 1860s, to rollover protection (ROPS™) developed and licensed to the entire agricultural equipment industry in the 1960s, to ComfortGard™ cabs in the 1970s, John Deere has introduced countless innovations throughout its history," Dahlstrom said. "Today, Deere is leading the way with integrated precision technologies that are making equipment smarter and more efficient."

The company's signature use of green and yellow and its leaping deer logo – in use since 1876 – signal quality to customers around the world. And it all began with that oh-so-pivotal plow. In fact, in 2013, Smithsonian Magazine selected John Deere's plow from 137 million artifacts for its list of "101 Objects that Made America."

The company's early 20th century advertising proclaimed that John Deere "gave to the world the steel plow." And Dahlstrom would add: "In many ways, the state of Illinois gave to the world John Deere."

"The company has offices and facilities in more than 30 countries, but still calls Illinois home more than 180 years after John Deere's arrival here," he said. "The company and the state have evolved together; their histories are inextricably linked."

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Helping you protect what matters most

Farming for Our Future Gala Plants Seeds for Farm and Food Literacy

Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Set to Put Funds to Use in Ag Literacy/Scholarships

The Farming for our Future Gala, “Sowing the Seeds of Greatness”, received high marks from participants of the March 10, 2018 event. The Gala, held at Ruffled Feathers Country Club in Lemont, featured elegant dining, great entertainment by the Belvederes, both a live auction and a silent auction, as well as other fundraising activities. While attendees were having a great time, the event served to achieve the goals identified by the Planning Committee...

Goals/ Objectives Achieved

- 223 people attended!
- Our fundraising goal of \$25,000 was exceeded!
- We expanded our message of the importance of knowledge about food and farming in our urban area!
- We showcased the programming efforts of the Cook County Farm Bureau

Agriculture Literacy Program and the Foundation!

- We expanded our broad-based support of our efforts with increased involvement from members, farm and food entities, influential people in the community, and affiliated leaders!

Five items were live auctioned:

- a processed pig with a deep freezer donated by Beth Christian
- a farm pond fishing experience for four donated by Roger and Sue Freeman
- a seven-day carnival cruise for two donated by P.J. Mazza, Windy City Greens
- four tickets to the Chicago Blackhawks versus Winnipeg Jets at the United Center donated by Country Financial
- A Weekend at Lake Geneva Lakehouse donated by Tony Scalzitti, Country Financial Rep



Over 220 members and friends came together for an evening of celebration and fundraising on March 10th for the Farming for our Future Gala!



Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Vice – Chairman, Mike Rauch, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Farming for our Future Gala benefit for the Foundation



The live auction was a highlight of the evening featuring Luke Benjamin as the auctioneer.



Ms. Pat Quetsch was high bidder for the weekend Lakehouse at Lake Geneva.



A Pig Eraser was the “entry symbol” for the Heads and Tails game...Everyone showed off their pig before picking their anatomy for the coin toss!



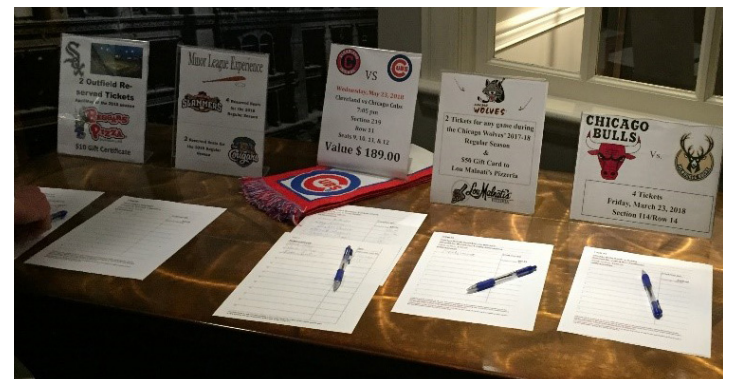
Gerry Kopping was great at winding up the crowd as 1 of the spotters.



Ruth Zeldenrust and Henry Campbell were the high bidders for the Blackhawks tickets!



Jerrod Kopping, winner of Heads and Tails, demonstrates his “heads” technique.



The silent auction featured a wide variety of eclectic, quality donated items from many generous members, volunteers, benefit providers and supporters. We think our many donors for the silent auction and live auction donations, bidding, and support.

A sincere thank you to...

The Gala Planning Committee:

- Janet McCabe, co-chair
- Heidi Yunker
- Julie Michaels
- Gerry Kopping
- Jack Smith
- Marc Rogala
- Kathy Reuter
- Josh Van Namen
- Nora Beverly
- Jim Gutzmer, co-chair

The Board of Directors for the Farm Bureau and the Foundation
The Cook County Farm Bureau Staff



The band, the Belvederes, rocked the Gala event all evening!

A heartfelt thank you for each of our Harvest and Planting Sponsors:

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PLANTING SPONSORS



AND SPECIAL THANKS TO COUNTY FINANCIAL FOR SUCH BROAD SUPPORT IN SO MANY WAYS



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We are fortunate to have a great number of wonderful supporters and donors that supported this event through silent/live auction donations, bidding for the auction items and providing monetary gifts in recognition of the purpose of the event. For the complete listing, please go to cookcfb.org/foundation.

“From the Country” Working Women With Families Have Unique Retirement Needs



Jack Smith, Country Agency Manager Chicago Northwest Agency

These days it's common to find women who balance family life with active careers. That's why it's important for working women to take an active role in planning for retirement.

Females retiring at age 65 can expect to live another 19 years (three years longer than males retiring at the same age), but only 45 percent of women participate in a retirement plan. Those statistics may make

women feel insecure about their future, but with proper planning, women can feel more confident about their retirement years.

Research options

To start the retirement planning process, do your research. Find out about the retirement plans offered by your employer and your spouse's employer. Does your employer or your spouse's employer offer a defined benefit pension plan which will provide a fixed income after retirement? If so, investigate the payout options: How much income can you expect to receive? Is there a cost-of-living adjustment on the payouts? How are payouts reduced when providing income for a surviving spouse?

Does your employer or spouse's employer offer some other type of retirement plan such as a 401(k) plan or SIMPLE IRA plan? If so, how much can you contribute to the plan? How much does the employer contribute? And finally, what are the investment options?

Next, consider what you will receive from Social Security and what you will receive from Social Security when your spouse dies. To find out what your Social Security benefits will be when you retire, contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov.

Determine goals

Having gathered your information, determine your retirement goals by estimating your living expenses at retirement. Make your short and long-term savings goals specific and achievable.

To accomplish this, first create an emergency fund to provide for your family in the event of a catastrophe. This includes a cash reserve large enough to cover three to six months of living expenses. Second, purchase life insurance to replace your income and provide for your family in the event of your death. You should also have a plan to manage your debt and to cover health care and disability expenses.

Also, consider making maximum contributions to your retirement plan with an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). There are two types, Traditional IRA and a Roth IRA. With a traditional IRA, contributions may be tax deductible and taxes are paid at retirement. With a Roth IRA, contributions are made with after-tax dollars and the payout is tax-free at retirement.

The type of IRA that you fund depends on many factors, such as your taxable income and whether you or your spouse participates in another type of retirement plan. So, be sure to consult with your financial advisor about what type of plan is right for you.

Find a trusted advisor

After you've set your financial goals, what's next? There are more choices for retirement savings today than ever before. And, with all the complex details involved with retirement planning, it's important to seek professional advice from a financial advisor or tax professional.

These professionals should be knowledgeable, experienced and able to thoroughly analyze your needs and risk tolerance. Advisors should take the time to listen to you so they can understand your objectives and concerns before offering strategies. Be certain your advisors are thorough in explaining policies, coverages, investment options and costs

Take action

The most important step in planning for your retirement is to put your plan into action immediately. Remember, even a little bit of savings can add up in a big way. Share your goals with your family, and review them often. If things don't happen as you originally planned, then refine your goals and action plan, and continue moving forward.

Today's women have a lot of responsibilities balancing work and family life. But they can't let that overshadow the need for retirement planning. By researching options, determining goals, finding trusted advisors and taking action, women can look forward to retirement knowing that their financial future is secure.

To contact Jack Smith, email him at jack.smith@countryfinancial.com

¹ Social Security Administration, *Life Expectancy for Social Security*, 2013; U.S. Department of Labor, *Women and Retirement Saving*, 2009.

Tree and Pond Stocking Sale

The Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the spring Tree and Fish Sale. Order forms are available on the District Website (<https://will-scookswcd.org>) and can be picked up at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District office during business hours. U.S. Mail, email and fax copies can also be requested by calling 815-462-3106 x 3.

The District has a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees available this fall. Stock ranges in size from 8 inches to 6-foot linear stock, and one, two and three-gallon potted stock.

Fish varieties for sale include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear, Hybrid Sunfish, Fathead Minnows, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Triploid

Grass Carp and Albino Catfish (new).

Grass Carp must be ordered by April 12th. All other orders must be received by Monday, April 23rd. Orders are pre-paid only.

Tree orders will be available for pickup on Friday, April 27th, 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 28th, 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 am at the Will-South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox.

Fish stock will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 28th, 7 a.m. only, at the above location.

For more information on the sale or to register for the Workshop, call 815-462-3106 ext. 3 or email info@will-scookswcd.org.



Cook County Farm Bureau® volunteers Tim Stuenkel, Kim Morton, and Jeff Heinsohn met with consumers at the Chicago Ridge Public Library to discuss modern food growing techniques and methods. Members discussed the science and testing of genetically modified organisms, conservation techniques available to today's farmers; and the organic certification process.

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



Mark Wright
708-403-2416
7601 W. 191st St
Tinley Park, IL



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



Dean Reszel
708-478-3136
11056 W 179th St
Orland Park, IL



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



Tony Palumbo
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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
12130 S Harlem Ave
Palos Heights, 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



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708-425-1527
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Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: Time is Flying

By Diane Merrion



Time seems to fly by year after year and only after looking back at some of the inventions

from the past do I really sense how fast things are changing. It's crazy to think of how long ago some things were invented and their continued impact today or their quick demise being replaced by another product. These inventions all occurred in April of different years:

April 21, 1782 - German educator Friedrich W.A. Froebel invented kindergarten

April 21, 1828 - Noah Webster published the first American dictionary

April 7, 1860 - Will Keith Kellogg was the founder of the Kellogg Company and invented a process of making flaked cereal--corn flakes--for use as a healthy breakfast cereal

April 26, 1892 - Sarah Boone patented an ironing board

April 21, 1899 - Alfred Moser Butts invented the game "Scrabble"

April 24, 1914 - Justin Wilson invented Wise Potato Chips

I am sure each of these and all past inventions seemed so life-changing. That is until you step into a classroom today and see how technology is changing things at a speed that is hard to comprehend.

We do still have kindergarten, but it has certainly changed drastically just over the past five years. Dictionaries. I am so glad I lived in an era where you got to "look up the words" as you often learned others that were

on the same page.

As I was presenting at a junior high and high school last month, I witnessed the drastic way technology has changed teaching. "Take out your iPhones or iPads," was the directive versus open your books. Though I used technology with my presentation, I was happy to see students focused and interested in learning about agriculture by passing real examples of crops and by-products around the room.

Yes, I had my technology via a PowerPoint, but they were truly engaged in learning about what these odd-looking crops were, and more importantly the career opportunities this strange world of agriculture held for them. They were unfamiliar with what a sugar beet looked like but could easily google a photo of it if they wanted. They all ate popcorn, but many had no clue it grew on a cob.

As one teacher noted, he's trying to make a difference by teaching his students about the origins of their food as many don't know one vegetable or fruit from another, yet they can identify team logos easily. How is it we became so disconnected? Thank goodness for teachers like him who see the importance of understanding agriculture.

And, thanks to all the past and future inventors for making a difference in our lives. I certainly need potato chips and even use that ironing board when absolutely necessary.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/today-in-history-april-calendar-1992500>

Ag Day – Chicago

We began our celebration of Ag Day by holding our first event on March 22nd at the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences. The National Ag Day Program was started in 1973 by The Agriculture Council of America who felt every American should:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

We welcomed over 450 third grade students and their teachers to our program

where morning and afternoon sessions covered a wide range of topics designed to introduce agricultural concepts to all. Learning stations included hydroponics, plants, soil, corn, pigs, soybeans, dairy cows, the barn/animals, and pork. Teachers left the program with resources and materials to reinforce learning that took place during Ag Day and students left with a better understanding of the importance of farming to our county and country. Our thanks to all volunteers and presenters, as well as The Chicago High School for Ag Sciences for hosting the event. The program would not have been possible without the support of their staff and students.



Students at the Dairy Station learned about the process of getting milk from the cow to the table from our Culver's presenters at our Ag Day South Program.



From Elephant leaves to spearmint leaves, students learned that leaves come in all sizes, shapes and scents at the Plant Station taught by Ag Literacy Committee member, Greg Stack.

Ag Careers Tour

"This trip offered a great opportunity to learn about the logistics of hydroponics. I will use this in our greenhouse at school," commented teacher Brad Henning from East Leyden High School in Franklin Park, IL. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation hosted an ag careers field trip for students in Food Chemistry classes at the school to expose them to food businesses right here in Chicago.

The first tour was at Windy City Greens where owner P.J. Mazza walked students through the process of germinating and growing greens and explained the distribution model used to get their greens to customers. A taste test followed the tour where one student stated, "I didn't think herbs grown using hydroponics would taste this good!"

The day continued with a stop at Gourmet Gorilla, a provider of healthy



Students were provided with a variety of greens grown indoors to taste during their Windy City Greens tour.

lunches to schools in and around Chicago. Teacher Barb Bylinski enjoyed this tour and stated, "This is a great experience for my students. I had just finished talking about the importance of fresh food supplying nutrients and their importance in school lunches." The event was part of our Entrepreneurship Grant funding from Compeer Financial.

Garden Grants Distributed



Congratulations to the following schools who were selected as the recipients of our Ag in the Classroom Garden Grants. Schools received \$300 to assist them in starting a school garden or enhancing an existing site at their school. Most of the gardens will be used to teach nutrition, plant/soil science and environmental related lessons to

students throughout the school. Many include the use of both parent and community volunteers to maintain the gardens during summer. Good luck teachers! We are anxious to see the results of your efforts next fall.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Veterans Memorial Middle School | Blue Island |
| Flossmoor Hills Elementary School | Flossmoor |
| Wilkins Junior High | Justice |
| Reavis Elementary School | Lansing |
| Dawes Elementary School | Chicago |

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, \$200 extra for 2 graduate credits through St. Francis University
- Registration open until May 1 or class filled; call or email Diane or Jill @ 708-354-3276 aitc@cookcfd.org



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION®
6438 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
aitc@cookcfd.org
July 10-13
2 overnights included

Tour 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

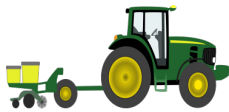


April is the time of year when all the hard work that farmers have done over the winter becomes very important as they begin the process of planting their fields. What work you might ask? During the winter season farmers are busy making key decisions on what seeds to plant, what nutrients and pest control will be purchased, what equipment and machinery should be fixed or acquired, and the list goes on. Illinois is proud to be the home of many inventors who revolutionized the agriculture industry and this month we will examine some of those key people.

Ag Inventors from Illinois

John Deere

In 1837 in Grand Detour, Illinois, blacksmith John Deere was aware of farmers' concerns that their plows, designed for the sandy soil of the eastern United States, weren't shedding the thick prairie soil of Illinois. In response, Deere made a highly polished steel mold board from a broken sawblade. John Deere, blacksmith, evolves into John Deere, manufacturer. Later he remembers building 10 plows in 1839, 75 in 1841, and 100 in 1842. After ten years in Grand Detour, John Deere formed a new partnership and moved to Moline, situated on the Mississippi River with water power and transportation options. His new state-of-the-art plow factory doubles production the next year. The rest is history.

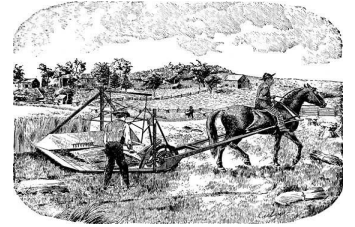


Source: www.deere.com

Cyrus McCormick

Cyrus McCormick - In 1824 by the age of 15, Cyrus McCormick was already working on agriculture inventions and invented a cradle for harvesting grain. His father had been working on a horse drawn reaper and turned the project over to his son, Cyrus. Cyrus designed the first mechanical reaper in 1834 and within a few years, farmers embraced this amazing machine. By 1847 Cyrus moved his business from his family in Chicago. Sales boomed to over 23,000 by the mid 1850's but

his factory was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire and had to be re-built in SW Chicago.



Fred Hatch

Fred Hatch finished college at the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign (now the University of Illinois) and returned to his father's dairy farm in Spring Grove, IL in 1873. He was a member of the university's second graduating class, and was eager to demonstrate what he'd learned at college including a concept he learned from his

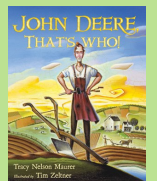
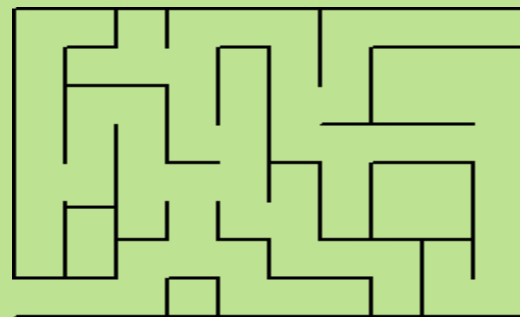


professor about the formation of silage from sugar beet pulp and maize. He and his father built a structure inside their barn to hold silage. They dug a 10x16 rectangular hole, eight feet deep, and lined it with rocks and mortar and extended the walls 16 ft. above the ground. That fall, they loaded the new silo with green corn fodder. Almost immediately, their cows stayed fatter and gave more milk than they ever had before.

In 1876, the Hatches built two more silos, again inside the barn. They were identical to the original one, except that their foundations were made of concrete instead of loose stone. Those three silos were used until 1919, when the farm changed hands, and the barn and silos were all demolished. Nearby, however, in the Spring Grove park, remains a permanent marker honoring Fred Hatch, builder of America's first upright silo.

Source: <https://www.farmcollector.com/farm-life/fred-hatches-american-silo>

Help Calvin find his lost John Deere Book!



Written By: Tracy Nelson Mauer

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 2018 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...



Janet Lence

Congratulations!!

April Word Search

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

DEERE
 EQUIPMENT
 FACTORY
 FIELDS
 HATCH
 GRAINS
 ILLINOIS
 INVENTOR

MACHINE
 MCCORMICK
 PLANTING
 PLOW
 REAPER
 SEEDS
 SOIL
 STEEL

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.



Field, Farmhouse Fix-Ups Provide Lasting Lessons

From his bed one night, our son verbally mapped the new design plan for his bedroom. “We just need to take out that wall and open up this space,” he said as he motioned toward the south wall. Our son wants a bigger room, but his demolition plan would eliminate the stairwell to reach his sister’s dwelling. We then realized the influence of the Fixer Upper TV show and its infamous “demo day.”

The home improvement show buys old homes, knocks out walls, opens living spaces, and mixes old and new décor with a farm-style vibe. The show inspires my morning treadmill commitment these days and entered our lives over the winter, when we succumbed to more than antenna TV and began streaming a few channels over our new fiber optic lines (kudos to the rural communications cooperative!).

Fixer Upper makes me look at homes differently. The show makes me realize the vision that some people come by naturally and encourages the rest of us to see the potential for new life in something outdated or neglected. It reminds me of my parents, who embody a 40-year fixer-upper story.

About the time I turned a teenager, my parents bought a farm that eventually transitioned into today’s “Home Farm” when the eldest generation retired. My brother and I remember touring the farmstead’s old house before they bought it. We called it the “haunted house” and said we’d never live in it. We soon learned this decision wasn’t made by dependent children.

Our parents bought this mediocre house on a scenic and productive piece of farmland that came with a couple small grain bins and a few farm buildings. They knocked out house walls and took the upstairs bedrooms down to the studs. Dad hung drywall and plumbed sinks. My brother and I pulled nails from old woodwork, and Mom stripped layers of paint to expose the wood’s original beauty. We spent lots of evenings and weekends in that shell of a house when our family wasn’t planting corn or harvesting soybeans. It transformed into a lovely home with farmhouse charm, priceless memories and a pleasing view of the small river valley from the wrap-around front porch.

Likewise, they took their fixer upper mindset to the old shop building, then to the barn, and always to the fields. Sunday was and remains family day, whether work or play, and I remember when we spent afternoons in the fields picking up rocks together and cleaning overgrown fencerows on that farm. Still today, our family and employees remove weed trees encroaching on fields, add waterways to protect soils, and plant grassy field borders to improve crop production, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Meanwhile, today’s modern technology and research give us better tools than before to finetune soil health and nutrient management. Those results may provide less visual impact, but secures a solid foundation, as needed for any fixer upper of a house.

About the author: Joanie Stiers works in the office for her family’s farm, which grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle in West-Central Illinois.

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 ...

Dan Biernacki



- Dan Biernacki has been a CCFB Board of Director since 2008. He’s currently the Building Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Commodities/ Marketing Team and a member of the Executive Finance Committee.
- Owner of Ted’s Greenhouse in Tinley Park, a 2nd generation family greenhouse established in 1948
- Celebrated 25th wedding anniversary recently with wife Karen
- Enjoys gardening- just can’t get enough of growing
- Enjoys relaxing on the water and spending time with family, 2 daughters; Jessica and Rebecca

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
I love food in general, but left to choose, I would say fresh Vegetables.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?
Making homemade pizza with my Mom after church. She was an incredible cook.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?
Freshly sterilized soil. It is one of those smells that a few people know but instantly recognizable.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?
Cook County Farm Bureau works to advocate for ALL types of Farmers in our county to both its residents as well as elected officials. I enjoy doing what I can to increase those efforts.

IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?
I am living the dream. Being a greenhouse grower and giving life to a seed, nurturing it, and watching it grow to its maturity is definitely rewarding.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?
Building “forts” in the stacks of Peat Moss bales. I am still unsure how we managed to move them around when they weighed 3 times more than us.

Farm and Food Bytes

Hemp Opportunity (*Herald & Review*) – A bill in the Illinois Senate would let local farmers grow industrial hemp, a less-potent form of marijuana, on a regulated basis. If approved, supporters say it could provide a boost for agriculture in the state and allow farmers to diversify.

We’re # 2 (*Illinois News Network*) – Financial site WalletHub reports Illinois’ property taxes are second-highest in the nation. The company says owners of an average home paid an effective real estate tax of more than \$4,200.

Black Vultures hunting livestock (*Herald & Review News Service*) – Cattle farmers in southern Illinois are facing a threat from the skies. Vultures that swoop down and prey on young calves are raiding a growing number of farms.

Meat Demand Sizzling (*FarmWeekNow.com*) – USDA projects record production of red meat and poultry this year, and beef and pork exports are also expected to rise. While the spikes could pressure livestock markets, the effect may be minimized by growing demand.

Bagging Bobcats (*Herald & Review*) – Illinois hunters harvested more than 300 bobcats during the hunting and trapping season that ended in mid-February. That’s more than double the number harvested the previous year, which was also the first year of legal bobcat hunting.

Right-of-way bill (*FarmWeekNow.com*) – A bill sponsored by Sen. Michael Hastings (D-Tinley Park) requires Illinois utilities to obtain easements from rural landowners who own road rights-of-way. Illinois Farm Bureau supports the bill to protect landowners’ rights.

Farmland Values (*Illinois News Network*) – A slight uptick in commodity prices is causing Illinois farmland values to level off after years of falling prices. Soy Capital Ag Services’ vice president says 2018 should be a stable year for farmland values in the state.

Top Illinois Businesses (*State Journal Register*) - Archer Daniels Midland Co., Deere & Co., and Caterpillar Inc. were recently named the top businesses in Illinois history. One thing they all have in common - deep agricultural roots. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is running “Illinois Best” lists connected to Illinois history to coincide with the state’s bicentennial celebration.

Prairie Farmer names a new Honorary Master Farmer – Max Armstrong. Armstrong has originated broadcasts from 30 countries and every state in the U.S. for WGN, “This Week in Agribusiness” and Farm Progress. He is the first Honorary Master Farmer to be named since 2010. Only 15 Honorary Master Farmers have been named by the magazine.

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Farm Bureau Members Meet with State Legislators



Farm Bureau members met with Senator Tom Rooney (pictured center) in Springfield. Sen. Rooney was appointed to fill a vacant seat in the northwest suburbs. During the Statewide Legislative Reception Sen. Rooney had the opportunity to meet with several of his constituents who were also Cook County Farm Bureau Board members.



Senators Michael Hastings (pictured close right) and Bill Cunningham (pictured far right) met with Cook County Farm Bureau® Board members during this year's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference. Members discussed Senate Bill 3005 which would enable any party rather than just those directly impacted to suit a state agency. Farm Bureau is opposed to Senate Bill 3005.

Farm Bureau Members Participate in Policy Discussion

In March, farmer members discussed pertinent policy issues including an Arizona program aimed at limiting fraud and illegal trafficking in Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit (EBT) cards. Under Arizona's program, the state can contact SNAP recipients who request a replacement EBT card more than twice in a 12-month period. Current rules stipulate that contact can only be made after four requests for a replacement card in a 12-month period.

A second topic discussed by farmer members was the need for standard and consistent meanings for terms like "sell by," "use by," and "best before." Taking the conversation a step further, members also discussed the need for clarification and standardization of ingredient

labels on processed foods. To ensure that consumers are getting what they pay for, Farm Bureau is communicating U.S. Department of Agriculture organic certification rules to farmers markets. Last summer, individuals complained to farmers markets and the Farm Bureau that farmers were selling produce incorrectly labeled as organic. The communication clarified the standards that certified organic produce must meet as well as the certification process and the use of the USDA organic seal. The letter also reiterated that "private" organic certification doesn't exist.

Members with any additional questions or comments about pending or pertinent policy issues are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.

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.

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 (MWRD) 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.

Additional tour sites will be confirmed in the near future.

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: _____



By Bona Heinsohn

This weekend after a fundraiser, my aunt presented my three-year-old with a beautiful centerpiece complete with tinsel, ribbons, and foil. It's lovely... for a one-dollar centerpiece. Defying all logic, my loud big-little boy named it "my precious" and carries it around. It sheds leaves at will. His cat, "Xanadau," eats the leaves and pukes. Then I walk in the puke.

This is the same little boy who visits a pet store and after petting the bunnies is more interested in the water filtration system on the aquariums and the wheels on the hamster cages than seeing the cats, ferrets, or gerbils. This, of course, is done all while wearing one of four

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

John Deere sweatshirts with his tape measure on his belt. (Fortunately, he's not allowed to take his screwdrivers in public.)

His sister on the other hand still spends hours at pet stores. Hours. Despite her love of all things fuzzy she usually spends most of her time with the amphibians and reptiles. As her mother, the very thought of geckos and snakes crawling around my house makes me start hearing scratching in my vents. Our pet store visits always end at the fish. Fish have no fur.

Unlike her brother, she has one John Deere sweatshirt. I'm pretty sure its pink with a horse and a rainbow on it. She typically wears it when she's at the stable. It matches her pink boots. Her purple gloves. Her rainbow reins. And when she's riding

"Jolie," the horse on it matches "Jolie." Unfortunately for my blue-eyed girl, "Jolie" is a little too well-behaved and doesn't make my blue-eyed girl work for her trail ride.

Conversely, our big-little boy hides from the horses. Behind my legs. And squeals if one dares to look at him. During his sister's lessons, he scoops poop. Digs in the arena with his skidloader. And raids the kitchen. When she returns from her trail ride, he hides again. And screams. Then giggles. Loudly.

Speaking of skidloaders, the big-little boy howls at the sight of one. Like his dad he scales the ladder with finesse. He demands gloves when he's riding in the sprayer. And he's notorious for liking speed. His sister, though, will happily ride in a tractor

but would rather spend time with the calves or walk the cows. Like her uncle, she reports on their health and behavior. She's even been known to chase an escapee. We have video of it.

Her brother could care less about the cows. Except when its time to feed them. Or scoop poop. Feeding cattle involves tractors. Loaders. And a totally mixed ration also known as a TMR. Scooping poop involves a skidloader, tractor, and manure spreader. My blue-eyed girl will scoop her bunny's litter box with some complaint, but she doesn't enjoy it.

Our children's love of the farm makes our heart swell. Like their dad and grandpa before them, we hope they want nothing more than to milk a cow. Drive a tractor. Farm.

MEMBER RELATIONS



CCFB and U of I Extension co-host babysitting class for pre-teen/teens

When: Saturday, May 5, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Please bring a lunch, CCFB will provide drinks.*
Where: Cook County Farm Bureau Building in Countryside
Cost: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

Goal: To successfully train pre-teens and teens to be qualified babysitters.
Inputs: University of Illinois Extension Educator

Outputs:
 The curriculum will provide participants with the tools necessary to understand the expectations involved and be equipped for the challenges of babysitting. The following lessons will be presented:

- Lesson 1 – Babysitting Responsibilities
- Lesson 2 – The Business of Babysitting
- Lesson 3 – Understanding Children
- Lesson 4 – Nutrition
- Lesson 5 – Fun with Children
- Lesson 6 – Sitting Safely
- Lesson 7 – Sharing Tool Kits and Portfolios

Participation in this workshop is open to any pre-teen/teen with the interest in creating a babysitting business. **Attendees will receive certification after completion of class.**

Deadline to Register: April 25, 2018

Call the CCFB to register for this important class at 708-354-3276!

Outcomes/Impact:

Short-term: Participants will attend the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop to learn how to be qualified babysitters.

Medium-term: Participants will begin to identify themselves as qualified babysitters as they prepare to develop their businesses.

Long-term: Participants will have successful babysitting businesses.

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU GAMES WITH THE CHICAGO WOLVES

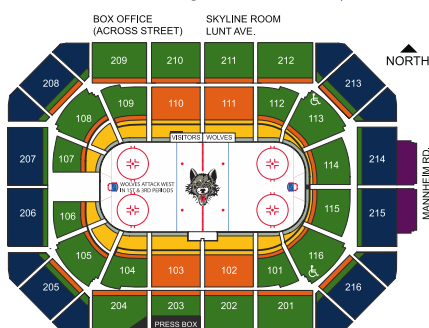
SATURDAY, APRIL 7
 SATURDAY, APRIL 14
 SUNDAY, APRIL 15



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT STEFANIE EVANS AT:

847-832-1939 SKEVANS@CHICAGOWOLVES.COM

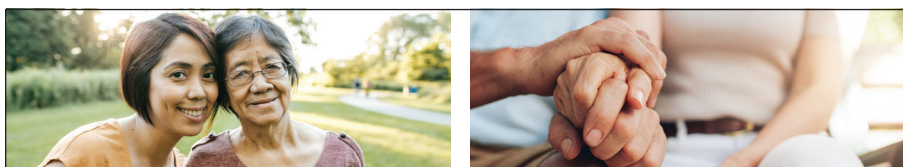
FOR TICKETS, VISIT <https://fevo.me/CookCountyFarmBureau>



Tickets are \$16.50 each.

There is a \$2.50 service fee per ticket.

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Get the tools you need for eldercare

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

Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m.
 Cook County Farm Bureau
 6438 Joliet Road
 Countryside, IL 60525

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 Neiburger 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

Register today at 708-354-3276.



GENERATION LAW
 Protecting your family's future
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Cook County Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month.



Ilir Numani
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Ilir Numani has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2018. His office is located at 6650 N. Northwest Hwy #200 Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-631-2909. Ilir has been a Financial Representative since April 2005.



Kamila Rosinska
Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Kamila Rosinska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 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 Stenke, Agency Manager
 Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 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.



Faustino Ramirez
Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stenke, Agency Manager
 Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2018. Faustino's office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd, Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



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.



Nick Zegar
Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Nick Zegar has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2018. His office is located at 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL. His phone number is 708-352-5560. Nick has been a Career Financial Representative since July 1998.



Alonzo Nevarez
Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Alonzo Nevarez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2018. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-284-5539. Alonzo has been a Financial Representative since November 2013.



Dan Stumpf
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Dan Stumpf has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for February 2018. His office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park Ave. Ste. C & D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is 708-614-1688. Dan has been a Financial Rep since September 1979.



Kevin Gardner
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for February 2018. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is 708-425-2251. Kevin has been an Employee Financial Representative since July 2016.



Nick Burke
Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Nick Burke has been a named Career Financial Rep of the Month for February 2018. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is 708-425-1816. Nick has been a Career Financial Representative Since September 2005.



Jim Parthemore
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Jim Parthemore has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for February 2018. His office is located at 9432 W.143rd St in Orland Park, IL. His phone number is 708-745-5151. Jim has been a Career Financial Representative since April 2000.



Tim Winters
South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Tim Winters has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for February 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

2007 Tahoe 4wd LT 7 Passenger cloth interior. One owner. 98,000 miles \$13,000. Call 847-224-2105

2002 Coleman Cheyenne Camper used one year & stored in pole Barn since. A/C, Canopy, Yakima bike racks. Asking \$5000 Call Rick 708-557-5214

Sales/Rentals

Like new Bow Flex Extreme 2 SE Home Gym. Interactive training fitness cd, owners guide, manual and misc. accessories. Delivery not included. \$900 or best offer. Email lyn-rogers@att.net.

2006 Yamaha Roadliner 1900cc mint condition 8k miles. Call for pictures \$5500 or Best offer. Call 708-602-3350.

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

3 Section oak lighted wall unit. Excellent condition. \$300.00 Ask for Joe at 708-927-2545

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.

WANTED

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

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

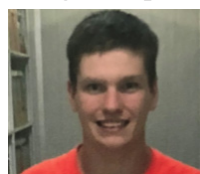
Honest prices paid for your old gold, silver, diamonds new or broken, coins, watches, etc. and marbles Call 708-602-3350

CCFB Foundation Scholar Winners Announced

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation has selected 8 individuals as recipients of the 2018-2019 Scholarship Program. Jonathon Poole of Chicago was awarded the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship and the Conserv FS FFA scholarship. Receiving general farm and food scholarships were Aidan Walton of Westchester; Olivia Lake of Orland Park; Xavier Morgan of Joliet; Thomas Poole of Chicago; Katie Manika of North Riverside; Caitlin Bondarowicz of Schaumburg and Natalie Daniel of Hoffman Estates. A total of \$16,000 of scholarship funds were distributed.

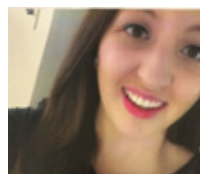
Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship

This scholarship is designed to honor Mr. Howard Paarlberg, the first President of the Foundation and President of the Farm Bureau for 17 years. The recipient carries the prestige of being the top rated applicant and a greater financial reward for the individual.



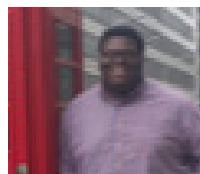
Jonathon Poole

Poole attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Food Science and Technology. He has been a member of the FFA Program. Jonathon is the son of Thomas and Susan Poole of Chicago.



Katherine Manika

Katherine attends St Xavier University with a major on Biology and Pre Health. Manika completed an internship at Springbrook Animal Care Center in Naperville where she benefited hands-on experiences. Katherine is the daughter of Colleen Manika of North Riverside.



Xavier Morgan

Morgan attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Ag Communications and Advertising. Xavier has goals to be a productive citizen and contribute and give back as much that has been given to him. Xavier is the son of Vera Flournoy of Chicago.



Thomas Poole

Poole attends the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with a major in Crop Sciences. He has been a member of the FFA Program and an active member of the CHSAS Horticulture Greenhouse Team. Thomas is the son of Thomas and Susan Poole of Chicago.



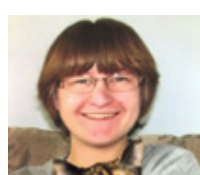
Aidan Walton

Aidan attends Illinois State University with a major in Agribusiness and a Spanish minor. Walton's goal is to work for an Agribusiness that helps people across the nation and possibly the world. Aidan is the son of Leah Walton of Westchester.



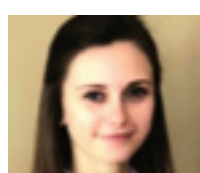
Caitlin Bondarowicz

Caitlin plans to attend Harper College in Palatine with a major in Science. She has a passion for animals and her goal is to eventually work in veterinary medicine. Caitlin is the daughter of Mario and Renata Bondarowicz of Schaumburg.



Natalie Daniel

Natalie plans to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a major in Zoology. She has a passion for cats and loves volunteering at the local cat shelter. Natalie is the daughter of David and Sarah Daniel of Hoffman Estates.



Olivia Lake

Olivia attends Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana with a major in Agronomic Business. She was selected as the Agronomy Ambassador which lead her to enhance her leadership skills and future Agronomy students. Olivia is the daughter of Chris Lake of Orland Park.

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

Janet McCabe, President of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation, says, "We commend each of the scholarship winners for the quality applications submitted. We congratulate these young agricultural leaders of tomorrow and we wish them the best in their academic studies and in their pursuit of ag-related careers."

Cookfresh® 2018 Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Commodities & Marketing Team announced the Cookfresh® 2018 Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients!

• **Roots Community Garden** located in Palatine: The garden is a collaboration among many community schools, businesses, churches, agencies and volunteers providing food for the underserved in Palatine while providing educational opportunities and hands-on activities for all volunteers. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plantings, flowers and gardening supplies to be used in the garden.

• **Growing Solutions Farm** located in Chicago's Near West Side neighborhood, is an urban ag and vocational learning site that is specifically designed for young adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is a 1.2-acre farm with over 100 raised beds, fruit trees, cooling and hoop house with classroom space. Grant funds will be used to purchase seedlings and mulch for the garden's beds.

• **SRB Community Spirit Garden** located in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood is a volunteer community organization where members work in the garden. The garden's harvests are then shared with a local church food pantry. Grant funds will be used to purchase plantings, garden tools, soil, compost and irrigation materials for the garden.

• **Roots and Rays Community Garden** located in Chicago's Lower West Side neighborhood, is a neighborhood garden looking to create a garden area specifically for children. The garden will help children learn about and grow their own food. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plantings and garden equipment, as well as supplies for the children's area.

• **Sauk Village Community Garden** is located in Sauk Village. This community garden will join families to learn about gardening, healthy eating and cooking, planting to harvesting fresh vegetables, herbs and fruits while learning horticulture techniques. The garden looks to add more beds to extend their vegetable production. Grant funds will be used to purchase fresh soil, tomato cages, mulch and garden tools.

Cookfresh® is an assistance program designed for Community Gardens in Cook County to beautify their "places and palates." The Cookfresh Community Urban Garden Grant program offered five \$300.00 grants to support urban agriculturists seeking assistance with a community garden. The community gardens will receive \$300 in the form of Cook County Farm Bureau "Cookfresh Funds".

2018 Cook County Farm Bureau Bookmark Contest: "Agriculture in Your Day"

Design a bookmark illustrating how agriculture affects our lives each day. Whether it's enjoying a glass of milk from a cow, eating apples from a local grower, wearing clothes made from cotton, eating cereal made with wheat or reading a newspaper printed using soy ink. Show us how farmers impact our lives.

Enter our bookmark contest (up to age 12) and children everywhere will be using it in libraries and classrooms throughout Cook County.

A first-Place winner and three runner-up will be selected. The first-place winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card; runner up winners will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. The winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution this summer at local libraries and park district events in Cook County. Entries must be received by 5/1/18 via email or mail. Judging will be completed by 5/15/18.

For an entry form, please visit: <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy/kids-activities/book-mark-contest>

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.

Prices: One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members), Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members). Lead testing is also available: \$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 opens April 16th and are available in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL **on Mondays and Thursdays beginning April 16th through November 8th** during the office hours of **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!

The Cook County Farm Bureau® Commodities/Marketing Team Sponsored Events that Promoted Livestock in Cook County, Including Bees and Chickens!



Flock Talk brought 34 members and guests together to learn the ins and outs of caring for Backyard Chickens.



Gina Modica of Purina Animal Nutrition and Jeff Ludwig of Ludwig's Feed led the talk and sponsored fun door prizes too!




28 bee enthusiasts took either a Beginning or Advanced Beekeeping class at the CCFB. Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton of the Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association lead the informative classes.

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

Defensive Driving Course

Spots are limited!



The Cook County Farm Bureau® and Country Financial will be hosting 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.

New Planter Workshops Offered this April at Cook County Farm Bureau® Member Greenhouses!



Spring Planter Workshop
 Make a spring planter with other Farm Bureau members to display on your porch. For CCFB members and guests. Class size limited to 20.
 AT: [Big John's Farm Market & Greenhouses](#)
 1754 E. Joe Orr Road, Chicago Heights, IL
 ON: Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 10am
 FEE: \$30.00.



Summer Entertaining Container Workshop
 Choose from 3 themed containers using decorative flowers & plantings used in recipes for summer entertaining. For CCFB members and guests. Class size limited to 12.
 AT: [Ray's Quality Greenhouse](#):
 117 231st St, Steger, IL
 ON: Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 4pm
 FEE: \$25.00.

Pre-registration is required for members and their guests by calling the CCFB office at 708-354-3276. Members may also register online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org. Check out the Events calendar online for additional details.

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>