



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

DECEMBER		
18	Young Leaders Care Package Event	11
JANUARY		
11, 18, & 25	Beginning Beekeeping	12
26	Carbon Markets/Credits for Ag Professionals	12
FEBRUARY		
1 & 8	Beginning Beekeeping	5
22	Zoom Book Club	12
MARCH		
8 & 22	Zoom Book Club	5

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

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

Question of the Month

The CCFB Board of Directors elected its leadership team for the upcoming year. Who was elected to the Executive Committee as the new Vice-President of the Board?

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

(Please include name, FB# and phone number)

October Winner is Jerry Robinson

Q. The CCFB hosted the 21st Annual Giant Pumpkin Contest on October 2. What was the weight of this year's winning pumpkin?

Answer: "854 lbs."

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

Young Leaders Group Service Project to Support Area Troops

See Page 11 for details

Planter Workshop at Horcher Farms & Country Flower Shop



Thank you Pat Horcher, owner of Horcher Farms & Country Flower Shop in Wheeling, for hosting and leading a Make a Holiday Planter & Bow Workshop for members and guests of the Cook County Farm Bureau on November 20! Participants got their creativity and festive cheer on; it was a great way to start the holiday season. See additional photos on page 3 and our Facebook page.

2022 Foundation Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation has opened the 24th Annual "Farm and Food" Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue their higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided seven scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000 each.

The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award a scholarship(s) to college students pursuing agricultural related fields of study. The Conserv FS Agriculture Career Scholarship for \$1,000 will

also be offered to individuals in Cook County involved past or present in an FFA Program or attended/took agriculture related classes in a Cook County high school. A Cook County Farm Bureau membership is not required for this scholarship.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program:

- Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 15, 2022. Late applications will not be considered. Much of the application can be submitted electronically.
- All applicants must be members or

dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year (with the exception of the Conserv FS Agriculture Career Scholarship).

- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.
- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business, or an agricultural related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food, fuel, or fiber).

Continued on Page 2

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy- Cook County Farm Bureau® Efforts

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) guides state efforts to improve water quality by reducing nutrient levels in Illinois lakes, streams, and rivers. The NLRs lays out a plan to leverage existing programs to optimize nutrient loss reduction across the state while promoting collaboration, research, and innovation across various sectors, including agriculture. The strategy outlines a comprehensive suite of best management practices for reducing nutrient loads from wastewater treatment plants and urban and agricultural runoff, as well as targeting the state's most critical watersheds.

The strategy was developed by a policy working group led by the Illinois Water Resource Center-Illinois Indiana Sea Grant, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).

Group members included representatives from state and federal agencies, agriculture, and non-profit organizations as well as scientists and wastewater treatment professionals.

Since NLRs's development in 2015, Farm Bureau has served as an active participant in working groups and other collaboration opportunities in an effort to strategize and monitor progress in the agriculture sector. Farm Bureau has expanded its work on the NLRs in four priority areas: 1) education and outreach to farmers, landowners, and the general public; 2) supporting research of best management practices to reduce nutrient loss from agricultural fields; 3) supporting farmer implementation efforts across the state; and 4) demonstrating progress toward the long-term goals of the NLRs.

In 2021, Cook County Farm Bureau®



partnered with Fulton County Farm Bureau, Illinois Farm Bureau®, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for the Rural Urban Nutrient Exchange which featured a hands-on field day, tour of MWRD treatment facilities, and a discussion about projects going forward. The 2021 project was funded in part by the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Grant program offered through Farm Bureau.

Continued on Page 9

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!

Continued from page 1

2022 Foundation Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at 708-354-3276 or access an application from our website

www.cookcfb.org/foundation.

What is an Agricultural Career? Farming, of course, but so much more! Here are a few other examples and there are so many more careers!



Forestry Management



Nutritionist



Large Animal Veterinarian

ILFB Partners Magazine Online Q & A Features Cook County Farm Bureau Pres.



Janet McCabe, Cook County Farm Bureau Pres., participated in a question-and-answer session as a part of the Illinois Farm Bureau Partners online magazine bonus features for Farm Bureau members in the state of Illinois. McCabe, who also serves as a Critical Care Nurse, discussed farming facts and fiction as well as connections between her two worlds of healthcare and farming.

The Q & A session highlights have been posted to the Partners website and will be in the ILFB Partners print edition magazine which should hit mailboxes later this month. Members interested in checking out the online version can find this special feature as well as many other great stories and articles at www.ilfbpartners.com.

5 Things Members Should Know About ...Farming and Christmas

1. The holiday table is filled with abundant, nutritious, and affordable (despite recent inflation pressures) foods thanks to farmers including the ham, turkey, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables (Grandma's green bean casserole), salads, breads, and oh so much more.
2. Those wonderful gingerbread and sugar cookies started out as fresh farm product ingredients.
3. The fresh-cut tree is a farmed "crop" grown and carefully nurtured over the years by your local tree farmer.
4. Poinsettias and other quality flowers are raised and cared for by your local greenhouse farmer.
5. Eggnog is enjoyed by farmers (but not too much) as they still have to go out and care for the livestock even through the holidays.



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...

- Ellen Phillips** for sharing her expertise and experience with our members during the November Composting Basics for Ag Operations Lunch & Learn Webinar.
- Pat Horcher** of Horcher Farms & Country Flower shop for...
 - Demonstrating how to select a pumpkin and "how to" pumpkin carving basics and demonstration for members in October.
 - Hosting the how to make a Holiday Planter & Bow Workshop to kick off the festive season.
- The **many member volunteers** that give their time, knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Action Teams that develop, plan, and execute programs and activities for the benefit of the members of this organization. Thank you for enlisting to participate for another two-year term!
- Eva Manzke** from Walker Elementary in Summit for incorporating agriculture and farm education in her classroom curriculum. Eva has been named the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Runner-up for her efforts!
- The Foundation Fundraising Committee made up of **Janet McCabe, Gerry Kopping, Mike Rauch, Ruth Zeldenrust, Tim Stuenkel, Dan Biernacki, Kim Morton, Heidi Yunker, Karen Biernacki, and Jeff Orman** for working so hard to gather information, discuss options, and develop plans for the 2022 Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation fundraising event.
- Martha Dominguez**, COUNTRY Financial Rep, for dropping off wonderful chocolates and pens for the Cook County Farm Bureau office.

Co-Operator

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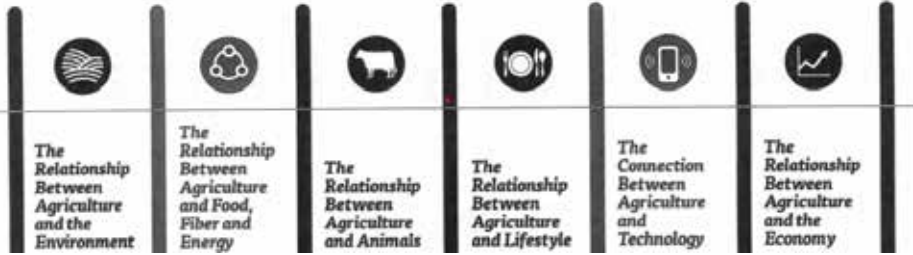
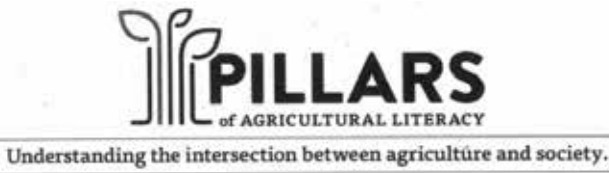


Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Ag Literacy Pillar 4”

I have been writing about the Pillars of Agricultural Literacy – Understanding the intersection between agriculture and society. The last three months, I have reviewed pillars 1, 2, and 3 as shown below (the previous columns are available on the Cook County Farm Bureau website, www.cookcfb.org).



Now on to Pillar 4: The Relationship between Agriculture and Lifestyle

Today, more than ever before, agriculture and everything produced from it has become part of a lifestyle for someone, me included.

People identify their lifestyle through food and what they eat. Here are just a few examples: the Locavore, the Vegetarian, the Carnivore/Meat-eater, the Vegan, the Slow Foodie, the Pollotarian, the Lacto-Ovo Vegetarian, the Clean-eater, the Gourmet, and the identify name labels just keep coming with more being invented every day...

There are the people that define their lifestyle around healthy food choices. There are those that claim food identity based on cost-effective food choices. And there is the crowd that enjoys food as nourishment, eating whatever's put in front of them. I fall into the final camp.

The definition of a habit is an acquired behavior pattern regularly followed until it almost becomes involuntary. With food, consumption can be become a lifestyle habit. Consumption based on the time of day. Consumption based on the feeling of being “full”. Consumption based on eating fast food. Consumption based on eating out. Consumption based on eating whether you need to or not.

Last month, my wife and I headed to the Daniel Boone National Forest area in Kentucky for a family wedding, one of the many Covid delayed weddings that are occurring fast and furious nowadays. The young couple's agrarian lifestyle as “almost homesteaders” was evident in the wedding reception featuring an all-vegan dinner. It wasn't the worst meal I've ever had (this coming from a hard-core meat-a-vore).

My infant grandson has many food allergies that have impacted his health. In order to avoid the allergies and provide the nutrition he needs, my daughter, while breastfeeding, adopted an agriculture food lifestyle that I would not want to wish on anyone. For the past, half-year plus, she has been eating very basic and simple foods as a part of a meager diet; organic grass-fed lamb, cassava flour (made into a tortilla), olive oil, water, and salt. Yep... That is all!

She was kind enough to “share” a bite with me so that I could evaluate it as a food choice. One bite was sufficient. I know that her tastebuds nearly burst with delight when she was able to add apples to the diet. The wonderful news is her food lifestyle has had such a positive impact on the health and well-being my grandson. What commitment and focus she has displayed.

You've heard me say it before... We have such a wonderful food plentiful country that everyone's food lifestyle identity can be fulfilled and nurtured thanks to our friends, the Farmers. Amazingly, Farmers adapt to food and lifestyle demands by consumers by producing what the consumer wants and expects.

This wide-ranging availability is something that we, as Americans, have grown accustomed to. That's why it was such a shock during the pandemic that supply chain woes, including that of the agriculture sector, popped up. Limited access, delayed supply, and increasing prices are causing consumers to ask questions. When the supply chain impacts one's lifestyle, people tend to get worked up.

In the category “Really, is that news?”, I saw a New York Times article entitled, “Does it matter if I eat the stickers on my fruits and vegetables?” I've not heard of the sticker eating lifestyle but who knows these days!

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Recipe of the Month:

Glazed Lemon Bread

Sam Hayes

- 1 ½ c flour
- 1 c sugar
- 1 T baking powder
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 t salt
- grated peel of 1 lemon
- ½ c whole milk
- ½ c melted butter or margarine



Heat oven to 350F; mix flour, salt, add sugar and lemon peel in bowl. Add milk, eggs, butter and stir until batter is well blended. Coat 9x5 inch loaf pan with cooking spray, then pour in the batter. Bake 40-50 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

- Glaze**
- juice of 1 large lemon
- ¼ to 1/3 c sugar

While bread is baking, stir the lemon juice and sugar until dissolved. Remove bread from oven and use toothpick to poke holes in the top of the bread while hot. Baste top of bread with glaze several times and allow time between basting for glaze to set, over 1 hour. Makes 8-10 servings.

2021 Recipe Collection Booklets are available!



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

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

Call the Farm Bureau at
708-354-3276

Continued from page 1

More Planter Photos from Horchers



Melissa Stressler and Elisabeth Wagner proudly show off the holiday planters they each created.



Essie Leonard and Valerie Leonard traveled from Chicago to participate in the planter workshop and create beautiful holiday décor.



16 members and guests enthusiastically created beautiful holiday planters at Horcher Farms & Country Flower Shop on November 20th with guidance and tips provided by owner/operator Pat Horcher.

Board Selects Leadership Team for Next Year, Setting Goals for 2022

At the November 10th meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau, following the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors elected its leadership team for the upcoming year. The following individuals were selected to lead the Cook County Farm Bureau in 2022.



Janet McCabe

Ms. Janet McCabe, Orland Park, was re-elected by the Board to serve as the organization's President, a position she has held since November of 2017. McCabe and her husband Joe farm in the southern Cook County area and northern Will County raising corn, soybeans, wheat, and marketing hay/straw. She has served on the Cook County Farm Bureau Board since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's Team structure since it was created in 2005. She has served in a variety of leadership roles including Secretary/Treasurer, Governmental Affairs Team, Political Action Committee, Public Relations Team, Audit Committee, and Building Committee. She has served as a director on the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation® Board. In addition to her on-farm role, Janet is a Registered Nurse and has been practicing for over 30 years.

McCabe said, "It is humbling to be re-elected to another term as President. I really look forward to continuing our work at Cook County Farm Bureau with the goal of having the importance of agriculture in everyone's daily life recognized. I look forward to working with the board to optimize our volunteer base and serve members in the organization."



Gerry Kopping

Mr. Gerald Kopping, Lemont, was elected to the Executive Committee as the new Vice-President of the Board, replacing Mike Rauch. Gerry Kopping has been a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau® Board of Directors since 2004 and has served as the Chairman of the Commodities and Marketing Team, Foundation Fundraiser Chair, Executive Finance Committee, and other leadership roles. Gerry along with his family operate Kopping Farms where they board 110 horses, farm 600-acres, custom farm 100-acres, and raise 35-head of cattle. In addition to Farm Bureau, Gerry is an active member of St. James at Sag Bridge Catholic Church in Lemont, the oldest Catholic church

in Cook County; a member of the Lemont Chamber of Commerce; a board member for the Francis Field Youth Foundation; a member of the Land of Lincoln, Illinois, and American Quarter Horse Associations; and a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois. Gerry and his wife, Linda, have three adult children.



Ruth Zeldenrust

Ms. Ruth Zeldenrust, Chicago Heights, was elected Secretary-Treasurer by the Board. She is also Chair of the Audit Committee. She has been a member of the CCFB Board of Directors since 2011 and has been a part of the organization's team structure since it was created in 2005. She currently serves as Chair of the Governmental Affairs Team and is on the Foundation Board of Directors. She owns and operates Zeldenrust Farm Market and Greenhouses, raising local fresh vegetables and flowers/bedding plants in south Cook County.

Joining these three officers on the Executive Finance Committee for the next year will be board members Mike Rauch, Tinley Park and Tim Stuenkel, Aurora. The Executive Finance Committee holds the responsibility of the budgeting, finance, personnel, and day-to-day oversight of the organization. They also joined the three officers as part of the Foundation Board of Directors.



Mike Rauch



Tim Stuenkel

From the Board of Directors, the following leaders will head up programming committees of the organization: Mike Rauch, Public Relations Team; Gerry Kopping, Commodities/Marketing Team; Jim Bloomstrand, Member Relations Team; Tim Stuenkel, Ag Literacy Team; and Ruth Zeldenrust, Governmental Affairs Team.

During the board meeting, Board of Directors began development of their 2022 Goals and Objectives for Cook County Farm Bureau which will be finalized at the December Board meeting and shared with the membership in the January Co-Operator.

CCFB holds 101st Annual Meeting of Organization



Janet McCabe, President, flanked by Tim Stuenkel (L), Chairman of the Cook County Farm Bureau Credentials Committee and the Nominating Committee and Ruth Zeldenrust (R), Secretary-Treasurer, led the 101st Annual Meeting of the Cook County Farm Bureau held November 10.

Cook County Farm Bureau Pres., Janet McCabe chaired the meeting to address the business of the organization including receiving an audited financial report, election of directors (James Bloomstrand, James Gutzmer, Janet

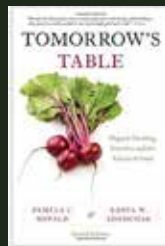
McCabe, Michael Rauch, Mark Yunker, and Ruth Zeldenrust were reelected), approval of acts and deeds of the board for the past year, and approval of delegates to the IAA annual meeting.

President McCabe recognized the board, staff, and teams for a great year of programs and membership service and commended the board, staff, and members for working and adjusting through very difficult circumstances throughout the year.

Zoom Book Club

Want to learn more about how your food is grown?

In *Tomorrow's Table* authors Pamela Ronald, a University of California geneticist and her husband Raoul Adamchak, an organic farmer argue that blend of organic farming and genetic engineering is key to helping feed the world's growing population.



Dates: February 22, March 8 and 22

Time: 6:30 pm

Cost: Free to Cook CFB members, \$10 for non-members

Sign up link: <https://bit.ly/3t6x01z>

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**



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.



We Welcome New Members to the Next Level!

The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors welcomes the following Cook County Farm Bureau members who joined the organization or reclassified their membership recently to "Regular or Professional" Status:

Daniel Bertsche
Erin Normoyle
Old Folks Cann – Farm
Rebecca Kopping
Somula Schoeppe
Chicago Title and Trust Company
Susan Kern, MD
Antoinette Lewis
New Way Holding Company
Ranjit Handa
Michael Lask
Robert Nadler
Lori Harris
Stephen Taft

Regular and Professional member status is important in the support of the Cook County Farm Bureau's efforts at advocacy, education and public relations.

FarmWeek, the largest weekly agricultural newspaper in the state of Illinois, will provide great up-to-date information about agriculture issues, production, and news.

Voting rights and leadership opportunities come as a part of the membership.

We also thank the many new Associate members that joined the organization to access our membership benefits and services over the past few months. We look forward to serving you as well!

*A Cook County Farm Bureau regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional membership status is available to all those employed in agriculture related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in this Level membership and the benefits it carries, please contact see CFB at 708-354-3276 or go to www.cookcfb.org

IAA Foundation Offers Scholarships To Support Agriculture, Illinois Farm Bureau Families

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 82 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$159,500 for the 2022-23 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our growing scholarship program," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each

receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2022, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Alvin Eigenrauch Memorial Scholarship and Steve Willits Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, three new Fellowships have been added to support students pursuing advanced degrees.

All applicants must be current high school seniors, or students already enrolled, at an accredited college or university. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance,

leadership experiences, involvement in activities and community service. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. The application opens January 1, 2022 and must be completed online by February 15, 2022.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ifb.org.

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

Illinois Farm families: Our farms, Our stories Help or Hindrance: How Daylight Saving Time Impacts the Farm



Contrary to popular belief, farmers are not responsible for the daylight saving time we've come to enjoy (or dread, depending on your perspective) twice each year. While many believe it was meant to help them by giving them more hours in the field, many farmers were actually against it.

Why? Because as hard as it is for humans to adjust to new wake times and schedules, it can be even harder for animals. Think of how your pets at home rely their own consistent routines to be fed or even walked at the same time every day. It's similar for farm animals. For instance, a dairy cow with her own internal clock that is used to being milked promptly at 5 a.m. each morning doesn't easily understand (or adjust) to pushing that milking back an hour. A group of Northern Illinois University dietetic intern students heard firsthand how farmers prioritize keeping a schedule at the Mitchell farm and shared this:

"The farm also has a timely system for milking the cows; the cows are milked three

separate times throughout the day. It is important to stick to this schedule – if they were to stop milking them, the cows would become engorged, which can lead to infection or diminished milk production."

For some dairy farmers who use robotic milkers, cows can determine on their own when to be milked. Farmers still monitor the cows, and tracking tags connected to a computer show when each cow was milked, how much milk she gave, and a quick check-in of overall health.

For beef farmers who have cattle who calve (give birth) in early spring, they're on a whole other schedule, or lack thereof. Mother Nature dictates when calves are born, at all hours of the day and night. Read more from Megan Dwyer on how their farming choices work for their family.

Rest assured, as long as daylight saving time is or isn't around, farmers will continue doing their best to care for their animals – every hour of the day.

Illinois Farm Families is a partnership of farmers from agricultural organizations in Illinois.

Meanwhile, we're here to talk about what's on your table. If you have questions about us and our Illinois family farms, just ask at www.watchusgrow.org

SAVE THE DATE

Evening For Ag Education

A benefit for farm and food literacy in Cook County.

FRIDAY | JULY 22, 2022

Crystal Grand Banquets
Lemont, Illinois

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

Ag Lit Bit

My Magic Mix Cauldron

I missed early holiday shopping so no one on my list will be getting a Magic Cauldron or any magic as far as I can see. I'm not sure if the supply of them is stuck on a container, a truck, a factory, or if they are back in stock. As I read the description of this "must have" item I had a vision of my kids (20+ years ago) inviting their friends over to create this magic spilling out. Of course, with my boys, their magic would have involved adding some additional items to the potions that provided even more explosive exciting magic. Rather like making obleck for the first time, dying it green, and realizing it does bond well with carpeting.

If I cannot have a cauldron, I sometimes wish I could be Ms. Frizzle and borrow her Magic School Bus to transport each and every student in Cook County to the farm. While we do an outstanding job of bringing agriculture to the classroom, imagine the possibilities of a Magic Bus. The book and episode called Robot Farm does just that. The students ride a drone, see a vertical farm, watch a robot weeding a field and picking berries, and learn about

soil health from Dr. Tillage. I am wondering if we should give a more creative name to our amazing presenters! The closest we've come to that is "Farmer Jim".

With 2021 coming to a close this month, I am certain we all wish we had some magical powers this past year. While we all would have different views on what our cauldron would create, it would have been well used.

My hopes for this coming year include continued progress on the battle against COVID and other health challenges many face. I wish for continued sharing of memories of those we lost and healing for those left behind. I also hope for the ability to keep an open discussion with others about any topic as everyone has a place at the table.

I hope we can magically reach the educators, students, and families of Cook County with our educational resources in 2022. We are just an email or phone call away and glad to bring agriculture to you. For those of you who have hosted or program, we do include a little magic! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Diane can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.

Leadership Academy Opens Senses



Students enjoyed walking through rows of herbs while identifying some familiar and unfamiliar scents.



The students enjoyed learning about field and sweet corn, including the pollination process and role of the tassel and silk as explained by farmer/owner, Carl Smits.

Nineteen students and two teachers from the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences visited Smits Farms in Chicago Heights as part of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation 2021 Ag Leadership Academy. The program provides an opportunity for students to learn about career opportunities in the field of agriculture. This year's program featured the topic of urban ag and entrepreneurship. Students rotated through the farm's specialty crop rows during the morning and herb rows in the afternoon, stopping regularly to taste, smell, and identify each plant.

One of the highlights of the day was walking through the farm row by row and stopping to identify, touch, smell, and taste anything. Students really enjoyed making the connection between foods they ate and plants that were growing such as mint, cilantro, and basil. Teacher Julie Reynolds had students examine the mint and basil to find the unique feature of the mint family of plants, square stems.

In addition, the experience included doing an Ag in the Classroom activity from the Insect mAGic Learning Kit (available to all teachers through us) and hearing from Kayla Smits about

the marketing and distribution of Smits Farm products at farmers' markets in and around the city of Chicago including what specialty crops and herbs to grow on the farm, the pricing structure, and how to plan the harvest cycles to match supply and demand.

Despite cold temperatures for the outdoor experience, student feedback was incredibly positive:

- It was helpful to learn about the different career options within ag. I was surprised to learn how many different plants there are.
- I learned you must provide things that people want to have a successful business.
- It was helpful to me because it helped me understand the ag industry better and showed me a lot of the hard work to farm and grow crops.
- Learning the farmer must grow crops to meet the consumer's needs.

Our thanks to Carl and Kayla Smits for opening Smits Farms to our program and sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with these future leaders.

Walker School Teacher Surprised by Award



After the surprise assembly, Diane Merrion (CCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator), Eva Manzke (Teacher of Year Runner-up), and Kevin Daugherty (IL AITC Education Director) spent some time discussing how agriculture was a part of classroom teaching during the school year and summer school.

As the assembly began at Walker Elementary School in Bedford Park, students and one teacher were surprised to learn from Principal Amanda Venegonia that they were there to honor Ms. Eva Manzke who has been selected as the 2022 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Runner-up. Manzke uses agriculture across her curriculum with her third-grade students and others she works with in the district. From urban agriculture and hydroponics to livestock and crop production, Manzke finds unique opportunities to include agriculture. As the Runner-up, she will be the Illinois nominee for the 2022 American Farm Bureau Foundation

for Agriculture White-Reinhardt Scholarship.

The Cook County Farm Bureau is proud to have worked with Manzke on many ag literacy efforts over the past years by having her classrooms attend our Ag Day events, partnering with our Young Leaders to be their Adopted Classroom, by her attending the National AITC Conference in Little Rock, and through her regular use of ag literacy resources such as books, grants, Ag Mags, and being a partner with our new Lunch & Library Grant Program. Congratulations to Ms. Manzke and to Walker Elementary School.

We Love Our Teachers

Thank you to local teacher Michele Govea from Cardenas School located in Little Village, for bringing a bit of extra agriculture to her students last month by creating an Agriculture Day on November 23 as a culmination of lessons taught to her seventh grade students. Ms. Govea used a variety of AITC materials to supplement her lessons including Ag Mags and videos, Cook County Farm Bureau corn and soybeans (thanks to local farmers Tim Stuenkel and Mike Rauch) along with her own presentations and activities.

As she stated, "We have learned a lot from the Ag Mags and the students were super excited to see the soybean and corn in person." Their math calculations showed that two-thirds of the students had never tasted or smelled pumpkin pie, a statistic that changed as she and several other teachers purchased pies, while students brought in apples and popcorn. Thank you to yet another teacher who supplemented her curriculum with agriculture!

Teacher Grants Awarded

The following local schools have received funding through the grant programs of IL AITC and the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation. Congratulations to all for supporting ag literacy in your classrooms. We can't wait to see the results of your efforts.

Illinois Ag in the Classroom Book & Project Grants

- Unity West School, Cicero
- McAuliffe Elementary, Chicago
- Toni School, Chicago
- St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick Catholic School, Lemont

- Proviso West High School, Hillside
- St. Patricia, Hickory Hills

CCFB Foundation Food Science Grants

- Eisenhower Cooperative, Crestwood
- Heritage Middle School, Summit

CCFB Foundation Lunch & Library Grants

- St. Germaine, Oak Lawn
- Meadow Ridge, Orland Park
- Haugan, Chicago
- Rufino Tamayo Charter School, Chicago
- Walker School, Bedford Park



Students at Walker Elementary School take time to read a book that goes along with several banners as part of the Lunch & Library Grant Program. Schools received four banners and a collection of books to provide students with a better understanding of how the food on their lunch tray gets through the supply chain from farm to school. Our thanks to Compeer Financial® for providing funding for this outreach effort.

Membership brings out great value!
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 to access great savings and discounts.

Agriculture Adventures for Families



December makes us think of sweet treats that are available due to farmers across the USA and the world. It's truly an "Ag Adventure" to consider how our farmers grow the sugar, flour, chocolate, peppermint and all the things we've explored in 2021. We hope you've enjoyed this year's adventures and look forward to having along for the ride in 2022!



Hot Chocolate

Homemade hot chocolate is infinitely better than boxed mix. And our recipe is extra decadent, thanks to the cup of actual chocolate (not just cocoa powder). For a perfect cup of cocoa every time, here's what to remember.

Whole milk is preferable. When you're drinking hot cocoa, you're most likely trying to be festive and cozy, not healthy. Go all out with whole milk. Remember, fat = flavor. If you only have skim or low-fat, don't worry. This recipe will still totally work.



Watch the milk! If you walk away as it's coming to a simmer on the stovetop, it will likely boil over. Trust us, this has happened to us too many times to count.



Use your favorite kind of chocolate. We're partial to semi-sweet (60% cocoa) or bittersweet (70%). But if you like your cocoa a little bit sweeter and creamier, feel free to use milk chocolate. We usually use chocolate chips because they're always in our pantry. But if you want to splurge on a nice bar of chocolate, go for it. It'll be worth it!

Have fun with the toppings. Homemade whipped cream is classic and always a good idea. But ice cream (to make hot cocoa floats!) is really amazing too.



For ingredients and directions, visit: <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a50303/best-hot-chocolate-recipe/>



Cookie Cutters

Cookie cutters are also known as "biscuit cutters"; while molds, rather than cutters, were used from 2000 BC for shaping dough, and these were used by Ancient Egyptians and later adopted by people in Greece, Rome, and Western Europe. In the 1500s, the Germans started baking molds with intricate designs, out of which emerged oodles of gingerbread people, houses, trees, mountains, and whatnot. By the 1800s, American tinsmiths had built cookie cutters and introduced them into the market for sale. There are cookie cutter museums, collectors and clubs throughout the world. Some of the most popular shapes include gingerbread men, hearts, letters, numbers, and dog bones.



Source: <https://www.gourmet-cookie-bouquets.com/design/most-popular-cookie-cutter-shapes/>

Peppermint

A holiday tradition, candy canes have been around for more than 350 years. The popular peppermint flavor of the candy is made possible by the farmers that work year-round to produce the mint oil. Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Indiana, California and Wisconsin are the top peppermint producing states while Washington, Oregon, Indiana, Idaho and Michigan are the top spearmint producing states.



Source: <https://blog.ghires.com/u-s-produces-70-worlds-mint/>



Q. How do you make a gingerbread man's bed?



A. With a cookie sheet!



Attention

Cook County Teachers...

If you are a Cook County teacher looking for a virtual presentation for your primary classroom on Keeping Warm, visit <https://bit.ly/Agbooking> to inquire.



December Word Search

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

- Baking**
- Chocolate**
- Classic**
- Cocoa**
- Cookie**
- Cozy**
- Cutter**
- Dough**

- Gingerbread**
- Holiday**
- Homemade**
- Milk**
- Peppermint**
- Recipe**
- Shape**
- Sugar**

Name: _____
 Phone #: _____
 Membership #: _____
 (Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:
 ___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix
 (If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey .

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau
 Ag Adventures Word Search
 6438 Joliet Rd
 Countryside, IL 60525
 Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2021 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.

Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is..

Miran Albrecht

Memories Trim the Tree



The first test of our marriage arrived with our first Christmas tree. I wanted the picture-perfect experience: Newlyweds strolling through the local tree farm. Big, falling snowflakes. Lots of laughter while wearing a cute stocking hat with matching mittens. You know, just in case someone would snap our photo for a magazine cover.

In reality, I cannot remember anything about that first tree-hunting experience except the trials of getting the tree to stand upright in the living room.

For years following that first Christmas, my husband told relatives, friends and any newly married man of when he had to cut a board from the garage wall to strengthen the "cheap tree stand" I had purchased. (An important note: His family celebrated with artificial trees.) I reasoned that my family had used the same style of tree stand in my childhood for fresh-cut trees. But telling your new husband how his father-in-law does the job likely ranks a top 10 no-no in the book of happily ever after.

During that post-Christmas sale, I bought a heavy-duty, steel stand on discount. Here

we are 20 years later, still married, using that stand and visiting local tree farms that give us the enjoyment of a fresh fir in the living room. Illinois claims home to 272 Christmas tree farms growing more than 3,700 acres of trees that deliver holiday cheer, according to 2017 Census of Agriculture, the most current data available. The Illinois Christmas Tree Association reports that 98% of fresh-cut trees grow renewably on farms, as opposed to harvested from the wild.

Our teenage kids love the fresh-cut tradition, and we can relate to those tree farm families in the thick of a harvest season that just ended for us. While growing a different Illinois crop, we share the same connection to the land and aspirations for the next generation. I hope those tree farm owners also find satisfaction in the life-lasting memories they create for families like ours.

Twenty years ago, guests placed gifts under a fresh Christmas tree at our late summer wedding. We called it the "wedding tree," a 12-foot scotch pine with silver ribbon, heart ornaments and glass balls containing childhood photos. The local tree farm gifted us the tree, which married my enjoyment of Christmas trees with the traditional gift table. My groom had suspicions at "I do" what he was getting into.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens. She loves the Christmas season and listens to holiday music in the tractor radio during harvest.

Family Farm and Food Bytes

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBER COMPETES ON "TOUGH AS NAILS" - Piatt County Farm Bureau member Kelsy Reynolds is owner/operator of a helicopter aerial application business, plows snow, pours concrete and helps farm harvest for a neighbor. She also chops wood, is a welder and enjoys electrical work and recently obtained her funeral directors license. She recently competed in season 3 of CBS' Tough as Nails TV series. (FarmWeekNow)

AMERICAN CHEESE IS BEING DEVoured IN ASIA, EXPORT DATA SHOW - U.S. exports of American cheese -- including the processed staple coveted for melty grilled cheese sandwiches -- are surging as buyers in Asia devour the stuff. (Bloomberg)

IDOA TO START COVER CROP PROGRAM SIGN UP DEC. 15 - The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Fall Covers for Spring Savings Cover Crop Premium Discount Program will start at 8 a.m. Dec. 15, according to Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. The 2022 acreage limit was doubled to 100,000 acres compared to the 50,000-acre cap for 2021. Eligible acres will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis and receive premium discount of \$5 per acre on the following year's crop insurance invoice for every enrolled, certified cover crop acre.

U.S.-EU DEAL WILL BRING SOME RELIEF TO STEEL AND ALUMINUM PRICES, AND EU TARIFFS - Agricultural and business groups on Sunday largely stated their support for a deal struck by President Joe Biden's administration and the European Union to dial back tariffs on EU steel and aluminum while also dropping EU's retaliatory tariffs against U.S. goods such as motorcycles and whiskey. (DTN)

SUPERMARKETS PLAY SUPPLY-CHAIN 'WHACK-A-MOLE' TO KEEP PRODUCTS ON SHELVES - Supermarket chains are revamping

their operations to navigate persistent product shortages, expanding storage space and curbing discounts to make sure they don't run out. (Wall Street Journal)

GROWING AGRITOURISM IN ILLINOIS - Agritourism isn't just pumpkin patches and corn mazes. From a pick-your-own-flowers tour in Spring to Christmas tree and reindeer farms in late fall, over the last twenty years the sector has become nearly a year-round industry in Illinois. (WTAX)

WHY 1 MILLION MUSHROOMS ARE GETTING DESTROYED EVERY WEEK - 60% of America's mushrooms come from one small Pennsylvania town: Kennett Square. But because of strict immigration laws and high turnover, there aren't enough mushroom pickers. It's forced farmers across Kennett Square to kill off mushrooms they can't pick in time, causing millions of dollars in losses. (Business Insider)

USDA INCREASES FORECAST FOR CORN USE IN ETHANOL - The USDA increased its forecast for 2021-'22 corn use in ethanol in its latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, released Nov. 9. The agency is also predicting a record corn yield of 177 bushels per acre. (Ethanol Producer Magazine)

US CONSUMER PRICES SOARED 6.2% IN PAST YEAR, MOST SINCE 1990 - Prices for U.S. consumers jumped 6.2% in October compared with a year earlier as surging costs for food, gas and housing left Americans grappling with the highest inflation rate since 1990. (NBC Chicago)

KFC LAUNCHING ORDER-AHEAD QUICK PICK-UP SERVICE AS DRIVE-THRU WAIT TIMES INCREASE TO MORE THAN 6 MINUTES - KFC announced the launch of its Quick Pick-up service on Tuesday, which will allow customers to order ahead and quickly grab their food upon arrival at a KFC location. (Market Watch)

CHRISTMAS TREE FACTS

- In 2012, U.S. farmers planted 46 million Christmas tree seedlings.
- 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms, while only 2 percent are cut from the wild.
- More than 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre.
- Almost all trees require shearing, or trimming, during their growth to attain the desired Christmas tree shape.
- Most Christmas trees take six to ten years to reach maturity.
- The most popular Christmas tree varieties are Scotch pine, Douglas fir, noble fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir, Virginia pine, and white pine.
- Christmas trees are grown and harvested in all 50 states.
- There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms in any given year.

Sources: University of Illinois Extension, National Christmas Tree Association, USDA Census of Agriculture

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QUESTIONS?
 Contact Rodney Knittel at 309-557-3662 or rknittel@ilfb.org

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure



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

My big-little boy is learning to read. Together we trudge through *I Can Read Books*. We laugh our way through graphic novels. And he studiously follows along with his audiobooks.

Unlike his older sister he will read the *Magic Treehouse* series, but he doesn't openly enjoy it. But once he starts, he loves listening to the adventures of Jack and Annie. He followed Balto's journey in *Balto of the Blue Dawn*. And, like Annie, he worried about the future of the narwhal in *Narwhal on a Sunny Night*. He does love the *Dog Man* series. I'm trying very hard to like it. Tolerate it. Okay. I'm trying very hard not to throw it out the window.

My big-little boy's reading journey reminds me of our governmental affairs process. He's learned his letters. Letter sounds. Letter blends. Popcorn words. You might call 'popcorn words' sight words in your house. Essentially, he's working on the foundation of reading.

In Farm Bureau, the foundation of governmental affairs is the policy process.

Our policy begins with members. Regardless of the topic. It doesn't matter if it's state and local finance, transportation, or market access. Policy begins with members. Members identify a problem or issue and then discuss the issue and chose whether or not to submit it as a policy submittal.

In Cook County Farm Bureau, a policy idea or issue is forwarded to the Governmental Affairs Committee. Committee members investigate. Research the issue. Review existing

policy. And in some cases, prepare a policy submittal for the Board of Directors to review.

Board members are tasked with deciding if a submittal should be sent forward to the state Resolutions Committee. Resolution Committee members determine if a policy submittal should be researched more. Amended. Not included. Forwarded to delegates. Cook County Farm Bureau's most recent policy submittal, Urban Agriculture, was forwarded on to Farm Bureau delegates for their consideration.

Delegates are farmer members selected by County Farm Bureaus to represent their county during the annual meeting in December. Delegates review the submissions. Discuss the submission. Debate the submission. And may or may not approve the submittal. If approved, the policy submittal becomes part of the policy book.

Governmental Affairs Committee members, board members, Resolution Committee members, and delegates are all active Farm Bureau members. Policy generation begins and ends with Farm Bureau members. Members are the foundation of policy generation.

Once policy submittals are approved, they become the policy book for the Farm Bureau. These policies guide Farm Bureau's engagement in legislative and regulatory issues. They also provide the framework for how Farm Bureaus interact with members. Educators. Elected officials. Affiliates.

As my big-little boy continues to learn the foundations of reading, Farm Bureau members continue to be the foundation of policy generation.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org

Farm Bureau Board Approves Opposition to California Prop 12

Illinois Farm Bureau® Board of Directors recently approved joining the North Carolina Farm Bureau's amicus brief in support of the American Farm Bureau Federation®/National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) case opposing Prop 12. An amicus brief is a legal brief filed by someone who is not party to a case assists the court by offering information, expertise, or insight that has a bearing on the issues of the case.

The brief, also supported by the Illinois Pork Producers Association, argues why the Supreme Court should hear the appeal.

"We're asking the Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of one state imposing regulations that reach far outside its borders and stifle interstate and international commerce," said Jen Sorenson, NPPC president.

Prop 12 will prohibit the sale of pork from hogs whose mothers were raised anywhere in the world in pens that do not comply with California's animal housing standards. The regulations are set to take effect at the first of the year.

"It sure sets up a very challenging situation from the production sector to comply with those

regulations and for packers to segregate (animals that comply with Prop 12)," Brian Duncan, Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President, recently told the RFD Radio Network.

"Those rules are not consistent with what we know good animal husbandry practices are," noted Duncan, an Ogle County hog farmer who serves on AFBF's Livestock Working Group. "And, they are high-cost models, which would make us uncompetitive in the export market. It seems like a real misuse of the ballot initiative."

The appeal to the high court comes after a lower court upheld the case.

Generally, the Commerce Clause grants Congress the power to regulate trade among states and restricts states from regulating commerce outside its borders, except for matters related to public safety and health. Prop 12 addresses neither of those issues.

"Supporters of Proposition 12 claimed it would improve animal welfare and food safety. The law fails to address either of those issues," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "This law takes away the flexibility to ensure hogs are raised in a safe environment while driving up the cost of providing food for America's families."

Farm Bureau Engages in Joliet Water Commission Legislation

Cook County Farm Bureau® coordinated with Illinois Farm Bureau® regarding the Joliet Water Commission legislation. This legislation authorizes certain municipalities to form a water commission which could potentially impact local Cook County communities and landowners.

In advance of the legislation, Farm Bureau had the opportunity to review the proposed maps and water lines to ensure that they would rely on existing roadways. Farm Bureau

requested language regarding the municipalities that can create a water commission, an agricultural mitigation agreement, and a tightening of the eminent domain and quick take language.

Legislation was approved during Veto Session and many of the concessions that Farm Bureau requested were addressed. Farm Bureau will continue to monitor the issue as the commission forms.

Continued
from page 1

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy- Cook County Farm Bureau® Efforts

In 2022, Cook County Farm Bureau is expanding its efforts in the area of nutrient loss to expand the Rural Urban Exchange program with Fulton County Farm Bureau as well as the inclusion of a presentation on the research at the Fulton County site as part of the 2022 Sustainability Summit. For the past nine years, MWRD has hosted a 'Sustainability Summit' featuring presentations on a variety of topics focused on best management practices, nutrient reuse, and biosolids. Summit attendees include county and municipal leadership and staff as well as urban gardeners and community members. The outward facing aspects of this program will be partially funded through a grant from Compeer Financial®.

A second new addition to this partnership is the promotion of MWRD's EQ Biosolid and EQ Compost programs. EQ Biosolids are a product of wastewater treatment that supplies organic matter and improves the structure and porosity of soils, which allows plants to utilize nutrients more effectively. EQ Compost is a sustainable and environmentally beneficial product derived

from the water reclamation process.



The final addition is research into the use of struvite on Cook County farms as it relates to specialty and row crops. Through advancements in technology, MWRD is able to recover phosphorus and nitrogen and product struvite a high value fertilizer. Throughout the 2022 growing season, farmers and researchers will test the agronomic and yield benefits of using struvite on farms. Farmers interested in participating in the research are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at bona@cookcfb.org for additional information.

Farm Bureau Concerned About Guaranteed Basic Income Proposals

Cook County Farm Bureau® remains concerned about the financial implications of the guaranteed basic income proposals being discussed within local government circles. In general, guaranteed basic income provides monthly payments.

Proponents of the program say that the positive potential outcomes of guaranteed income may include: less income volatility, more mental stability, and the ability to find full-time employment. Whereas critics of the program argue that guaranteed basic income programs disincentive people to work.

While the details of Cook County's and

Chicago's programs have not been released, existing Guaranteed Basic Income programs vary greatly. In Los Angeles, California the L.A. Economic Assistance Program (BIG: LEAP) will provide 3,000 city residents with a guaranteed income of \$1,000/month for one year. Similarly, Saint Paul, Minnesota provides at least 150 families with \$500 per month for up to 18 months.

Farm Bureau leadership and staff are investigating proposals and preparing to introduce policy regarding the issue. Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 regarding this issue.

Farm Bureau Delegates Consider Cook County Farm Bureau Policy Submittal

Through a grassroots process, Farm Bureau members submitted the following resolution to delegates at the 2021 Illinois Agricultural Association® annual meeting.

Urban Agriculture

This new policy section lays out Farm Bureau's support for urban agriculture. Policy points include:

1. Recognizing the importance of urban agriculture and its contribution to the agricultural economy.
2. Urban agriculture providing safe, attractive, and welcoming spaces for neighbors to gather and foster a sense of community.
3. County Farm Bureaus working with units of government to develop agriculture-friendly zoning policies.
4. Using land management tools such as land banks, land trusts, conservation easements, and long-term leases on public and private lands so urban agriculture can flourish.
5. Advocating for new developments to include opportunities for agriculture, including rooftop and home gardens, community gardens, and urban farms,

where appropriate.

6. Community programs providing services including trash collection, composting, water, and storage opportunities to alleviate costs and barriers to entry.
7. Ensuring that urban agricultural sites have access to affordable clean water sources.
8. Diverting organic waste into compost.
9. Using raised beds or hydroponics to address soil-quality concerns.
10. Using season extension tools such as indoor facilities and high tunnels.
11. The keeping of bees and beehives in urban settings providing that best management practices are followed.
12. Urban agriculture sites gaining access to agricultural markets.
13. Developing infrastructure to transport and store food for market.
14. Providing job training and skills development to beginning farmers and garden managers.

The policy submittal will be considered by the full Illinois Farm Bureau® delegation in December.

Go to www.cookcfb.org for info about upcoming workshops relating to Farmers Markets 101.

Membership Travel Discounts

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Cook County Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by COUNTRY Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2021. 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 Financial Representative since February 2005.



Elizabeth Harper

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Elizabeth Harper has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2021. Her office is located at 5750 Old Orchard Rd., Ste. 550 in Skokie, IL. Her phone number is 847-563-9993. Elizabeth has been a Financial Representative since November 2019.



Tim Mehrtens

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Tim Mehrtens has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for October 2021. His office is located at 21 Howard Ave., Roselle IL. His phone number is 630-582-3300. Tim has been a Financial Representative since October 2001.



***Faustino Ramirez**

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for October 2021. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste.930, Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



***Jim Andresen**

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Jim Andresen has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for October 2021. His office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park Ave., Ste C&D in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is 708-633-6490. Jim has been a Financial Representative since January 2003.



Nadia Abueid

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

Nadia Abueid has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for September 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.



Andy Erler

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Andy Erler has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for October 2021. His office is located at 21195 S La Grange Rd., Ste 1E in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is 815-464-3260. Andy has been a Financial Representative since June 2000.

**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.*

"Tough to buy" for relative or friend on your shopping list?

CONSIDER PURCHASING A COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP AND CHECK THE BOX!

A membership features:

- Agricultural fun
- Farming information
- Agriculture literacy and school connections
- Great discounts, benefits and services
- Virtual and in person programs and activities and much more!

All for the low price of \$20 (Associate member) and \$45 for the farmer/agriculture professional

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or go to the member center at www.cookcfb.org

Teachers Join the Farm Bureau!

All teachers who join the Farm Bureau by December 15 will be entered into a drawing to win a bag of goodies including one book for their classroom, CCFB mug, and extras. Your \$20/year membership provides educational materials/support, member discounts including hotel/car rental discounts, member publications, and access to special events. We value our teachers and want to extend our membership services to you. Call membership at 708-354-3276 or join online at <https://cookcfb.org/>.



*Under "occupation or employer," please type teacher, not the name of your school.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CCFB AiTC PRESENTERS



We are now taking bookings for 2022 classroom visits. Email aitc2@cookcfb.org to reserve a date



Beginning Beekeeping

Are You Interested In:

- Keeping bees to connect with nature?
- Improving your health with raw honey, bees wax, pollen, antibacterial propolis, and bee venom?
- Pollinating your flower and vegetable gardens?
- Growing the right type of plants to maintain native pollinators and honey bees in balance?

Or, You May Be:

Already a beekeeper and have experienced some losses thus far? We'll share our understanding of how bees overcome challenges. And you'll learn techniques that leverage their natural abilities to adapt and thrive. This program will guide you season by season into keeping bees sustainably.

Location: Live in-person at the Cook County Farm Bureau 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or Via Zoom
Date: Tuesdays Jan 11th, 18th, 25th, February 1st, and 8th
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Cost: \$50 for Cook County Farm Bureau or CookDupage Beekeepers Association members. \$75 for non-members; ask how to join!

Registration Details: Register by calling the CCFB office at (708) 354-3276; members can register at the Member Center Online. For additional information, email [Debbie Voltz at membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:Debbie.Voltz@cookcfb.org).

We'll Cover:

- ✓ Honey Bee Behavior, Biology, and Fascinating Features;
- ✓ Evolution of Hive Designs and their Management Techniques;
- ✓ Tools and Equipment You Must Have and How Much You Should Expect to Budget;
- ✓ Practical Ways to Obtain High Quality Bees to Get Started;
- ✓ What Happens Inside the Colony from Day 1 thru Winter and into Second Season Spring;
- ✓ Case Studies on What You May Find While Inspecting Your Colony;
- ✓ Best practices on How and When to Harvest Honey and Other Hive Products.

Sessions are led by **Kim Kulton**, President, *Bee All About It*. Kim operates a commercial beekeeping business producing local honey, breeding Queens, and rescuing bees. And, **Pete Soltész**, President of CookDupage Beekeepers Association, one of the largest bee clubs in the Midwest. With the goal that their bees thrive in a chem-free environment; produce an abundant, great-tasting, honey crop; and survive over winter, Pete and Kim challenge modern conventional beekeeping wisdom, and share their extensive experience in what works locally in our Chicago area counties.



The CCFB Young Leaders Group is hosting a Care Packaging Event for USO to show support and appreciation for our troops. From now and until December 10th, they will be collecting non-perishable foods, snacks, drink mixes, toiletries, and related items. Items can be brought directly to the Cook County Farm Bureau office (6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525) or Wagner Farms (1510 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025).

The Young Leaders will then host a packaging event at the CCFB building in Countryside using these items from 10am-noon on Saturday, December 18th followed by pizza afterwards. Please contact Tom Poole (tpoole2@illinois.edu) if you are interested in joining them for this event.



More information about the program they are working with and the items they desire can be found here:

<https://www.uso.org/stories/1549-how-to-make-the-perfect-care-package-for-troops>

I'd like to donate I'd like to assemble packages

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.

For your comprehensive access to membership discounts & offers,
Go to www.cookcfb.org/membership

Classifieds

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

Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to fbcooperator@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted after the 17th will appear in the following months. *Co-Operator* Members may run up to four non-commercial classified ads annually for free. Any ads submitted after the fourth, will be charged.

If mailing your ad, please mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attention: Classified Ads, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056.

For Sale

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.

New Window Pella- One piece (2 double hangs) 74"x 35" \$175. One piece Fanlight (Half Circle) 33"x69" \$150. One Triangle 71" x 28" ht. \$100. One solid Oak French door 32" \$150. One solid pine door 32" w/window \$75. Call Louie 847-361-9292.

For sale Porter cable generator rated surge watts 5250/6500, 120/240 Volts 60Hz. Briggs & Stratton 10.0 H.P. Engine tuned up 9/18/21. Replaced new carb, oil, gas, air filters & spark plug. Asking \$575 or offer. Contact Ron Leave message @ E-mail gripper@yahoo.com.

New Shower Buddy Tubby buddy transfer system for standard bathtub SB2T. Bath transfer chair that goes over the bathtub. Chair tilts with head and footrest. Weight capacity is 300lbs. \$3,000. Contact Pat 404-414-6933.

2016 Used Black Pride Mobility Quantum Q6 edge power chair that tilts and reclines with leg and seat lift. Battery charger included. Weight capacity is 300lbs. \$4,500. Contact Pat 404-414-6933.

Polart large wing back armchair, red leather, with scrolled top, back, sides and bottom. Minor paint chips on painted wood, touch up with red paint will be all that is needed. Chair is custom hand made. This is a beautiful

unique wing back armchair a great Santa Claus or home use chair. Very nice (new like condition). W39' Depth 34' Height 46 1/2 tall. Cost over 1,000. Sell for \$250 or better offer. Contact Jim 708-361-8230.

FAO Schwarz Mercedes Benz SLR McLaren R 199 child's battery-operated electric car with remote control. Color red. Excellent condition very good looking with owner's manual. Cost \$1000. Asking for \$300. Call 708-361-8230.

Sears 12ft Aluminum fishing boat, includes oars, 2 anchors and a Stearns life vest, good condition \$250. Call Ron 773-229-9123.

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

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

The Nominating Committee of the Will-South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking nominees interested in serving on the Board of the District. Three Directors will be elected from the process during a ballot process at the Feb 16th annual meeting of the district. Persons that own or occupy land within the boundaries of the district and are of legal voting age are eligible to run. The term is two years. District Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Responsibilities include program management, financial management, personnel management, legislation, and serving on District committees. For more information, call the District office at 815-462-3106 Ext.3.

Open enrollment for consumers purchasing individual health insurance has been extended by a month opening November 1 and closing January 15. Farmers and other members buying individual health insurance, whether at Healthcare.gov or off-exchange must enroll during that window to secure coverage for

2022. To further explain open enrollment and how COUNTRY Financial can assist members, members are encouraged to contact their COUNTRY Financial representative who can work with the brokerage department quote and how to submit the application appropriately to obtain coverages.

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

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

Thank You Volunteers!

FOR YOUR TIME. YOUR ENERGY. AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR VALUES VOLUNTEER TIME AT OVER \$28 AN HOUR? OUR 2021 SUMMIT AWARD WINNING PROGRAM. FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT RELIED ON 153 VOLUNTEERS IF EVERY VOLUNTEER GAVE A SINGLE HOUR. THEN THOSE VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED OVER \$4,000 IN TIME ALONE!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SO WILLINGLY GIVEN THEIR TIME! IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO GIVE AN HOUR OR TWO TO REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER:
[HTTPS://COOKCFB.ORG/CONTACT-US/VOLUNTEER-OPPORTUNITIES.](https://cookcfb.org/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities)



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. Scan our QR for our Events Calendar.



Young Leaders Care Packaging Event for USO
The CCFB Young Leaders Group is hosting a Care Packaging Event for USO to show support and appreciation for our troops. From now and until December 10th, they will be collecting non-perishable foods, snacks, drink mixes, toiletries, and related items. They will then host a packaging event using these items Saturday, December 18th followed by a social afterwards.
Date: Saturday, December 18, 2021, 10am to Noon
Location: CCFB office (6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525) or Wagner Farms (1510 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025)

Registration: Contact Tom Poole (tpoole2@illinois.edu) if you are interested in joining them for this event. More information about the program they are working with and the items they desire can be found at: <https://www.uso.org/stories/1549-how-to-make-the-perfect-care-package-for-troops>

2022 Beginning Beekeeping Course



A seasonal approach to the craft of keeping bees. A comprehensive look at the various types of hives and methods, with emphasis on what you will need to know to keep your bees strong and healthy here locally.
Dates: Five (5) consecutive Tuesdays - January 11, 18, & 25, February 1 & 8
Time: 6-8 PM
Location: CCFB Meeting Room, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or live via Zoom
Price: \$50 for full course for CCFB & CDBA Members; \$70 for other
Registration: Register and pay by calling the CCFB office at 708-354-3276; Members can register at the

Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

Carbon Markets, Carbon Credits for Ag Professionals Lunch & Learn Webinar



Learn what carbon credits are and how farmers/Ag professionals can qualify?
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Time: 12 pm
Location: Webinar: zoom link will be emailed the day before
Fee: Free
Registration: Email Debbie at: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.



"Tomorrow's Table" Zoom Book Club
"Tomorrow's Table" is for anyone who wishes to know more about how the food they eat is grown. It is for every shopper, policy decision maker, farmer, or anyone who has at one time or another wondered what labels such as "organic" or "GMO" truly mean for the health of the population and the future of our planet.
Dates: Tuesdays – February 22, March 8 and 22
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Live via Zoom
Price: Free to CCFB Members, \$10 for non-members
Registration: Register at <https://bit.ly/3t6xO1z>.

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



DON'T FORGET YOUR STOCKING STUFFERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Home Run Inn Gift Cards
\$25 gift cards sell for \$20
\$10 gift cards sell for \$8
(20% savings)



Delta Sonic Car Wash Tickets
• Super Kiss \$11.50 • Deluxe \$8
• Super Interior (larger vehicles) \$16.00
• Super Interior (smaller vehicles) \$14.50

AMC Theatres
Yellow Tickets \$9.50 each

Valid any day/time for new releases. Not valid in: CA, NY, and NJ



Regal Theatres
Premiere Movie Tickets \$9.50 each

Valid any day/time for new releases. Not valid for special events, private screenings, or online ticket purchases.

Marcus Theatres
Silver Tickets \$7 each

Void on films listed as an Extra Special Attraction (marked with an 'X' - the first 14 days of select features)*, Not valid for VIP Seating, when valid, 3D and D-Box, surcharges apply

Platinum Tickets \$8 each

Valid for any movie, anytime at all Marcus Theatres locations! NOT valid for VIP Seating, 3D or SuperScreen DLX. Extra charge will apply if going to see a movie in 3D or SuperScreen DLX.



Tickets/gift cards can be purchased directly from our office located at 6438 Joliet Rd in Countryside, IL or you can order tickets over the phone using a Visa, MasterCard, or discover credit card and tickets will be mailed out to you free of charge.

DECK *your* HALLS

this holiday season with fresh trees, garland, wreaths, poinsettias, greens and décor!

Purchase from a Farm Bureau Member Business. To locate one near you, visit our ShopLocal online directory at:
<https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>

MEMBER BUSINESS	OPENING DAY
Big John's Farm Market	Chicago Hts. Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, decor
Clarke's Garden Center	Chicago Hts. Wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
Gorman Tree Farm	Monee Trees, wreaths, garland
Horcher's Farm	Wheeling Trees, handmade wreaths, greens, flowers
Kolze's Corner Garden	Woodstock Trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, decor
McCarthy's Farm Stand	Orland Park Trees, wreaths, garland, greens
Melka's Garden Center	Mokena Trees, wreaths, garland, greens, poinsettias, decor
Puckerville Farms	Lemont Trees, wreaths, garland, decor
Smits Farms	Sauk Village Trees, wreaths, greens
Ted's Greenhouse	Tinley Park Poinsettias, greens, handmade bows
Wagner Farm	Glenview Trees, wreaths, roping, garland, greens
West End Garden Ctr	Evanston Trees, wreaths, greens, flowers, plants, decor

1920-2020
FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

HAPPY
Holidays!

From our family to yours the Cook County Farm Bureau would like to wish you a warm and safe Holiday!