

**Farm Bureau Schedules Education Program for Legislators and Staff**

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® for the 2018 Staff Exchange Program. The program is designed to provide attendees with an enhanced understanding of agriculture in Cook County.

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

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

Nutrient pollution occurs when there are excess nutrients. The main culprits of nutrient pollution are phosphorous and nitrogen. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (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 greenhouse and a family of eight.

Responses are needed by June 1..

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

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**ATTENDANCE RESPONSE CARD**

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_