



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

APRIL

- 5 Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts 12
- 7 CCFB Foundation's Ag Day at Children's Farm 6
- 9-10 CHAS Flower & Garden Show 12
- 18-22 Member Appreciation Week 12
- 30 Lincoln Park Zoo City Nature Challenge 6

MAY

- 11 Butterfly Planter Workshop 12

JUNE

- 16 Cubs vs. Padres Game 12
- 20-22 Summer Ag Institute 6

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

What is the name of the newest membership benefit offered to Cook County Farm Bureau members?

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)

March Winner is Henry Dill

Q. True or False. There is a shortage of food and agriculture teachers in Illinois schools?

Answer: "True"

SAVE THE DATE

An Evening for Ag Education Gala
Friday, July 22, 2022, 6-11 pm

See page 5 for details

www.cookcfb.org/foundation/evening-for-ag-education



Winning this year's 'Tipping the Scales' contest by more than a "box of Mac and Cheese" is the Northwest COUNTRY Financial Agency. Northwest COUNTRY Financial representatives selected and donated cash and non-perishable food donations to Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry in celebration of Food Checkout Day. Pictured left to right are: Matt Huonder, COUNTRY Financial; Kevin Gomes, COUNTRY Financial; Tim Stuenkel, CCFB Board; LaVerne Horgan, Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry; Bryan Blau, CCFB PR Team; and Diane Tom, COUNTRY Financial. 'Tipping the Scales' recognizes the COUNTRY Financial agency that donates the most non-perishable food and cash to their partner food pantry. See page 4 for more photos and information.

Cook County Farm Bureau® and Partners Raise Cash and Food Donations for Local Food Pantries

Cook County Farm Bureau® Celebrates its 22nd Annual Food Checkout Day

Together with partners, Cook County Farm Bureau® donated much needed food staples and essential non-food items to six Cook County food pantries. Donations were raised in celebration of Food Checkout Day. Food Checkout Day celebrates the healthy and nutritious food local farmers grow and raise by providing food or cash donations to people in need.

In light of the tremendous pressure created by COVID-19, in addition to launching Farm Bureau's largest community effort to date, Cook County Farm Bureau matched members' monetary donations. Over \$11,000 was donated to local Cook County pantries in celebration of Food Checkout Day this year and the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers.

The donations directly benefited the one in seven individuals in Cook County who are hungry. Partner food pantries, Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry, Schaumburg; Elk Grove Townships Food Pantry, Elk Grove Village; Elsie's Food Pantry, Palos Hills; Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry, Oak Forest; Lakeview Pantry, Chicago;

and Share Food Share Love, Brookfield were selected by local representatives from COUNTRY Financial®. Representatives were from the following COUNTRY Financial agencies Chicago North, Chicago South, Chicago Northwest, Chicago Northeast, Orland Park, and South Holland COUNTRY Financial offices.

"Cook County and Illinois farmers are committed to growing safe and nutritious food for our families and for others," said Janet McCabe, President of Cook County Farm Bureau®. "Food Checkout Day allows us to recognize the importance of healthy, nutritious food while supporting local families in need."

For 19 years, Cook County Farm Bureau has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. Through the generosity of partners for nearly two decades, Farm Bureau donated over \$145,000 and nearly 100,000 pounds of food.

In 2012 and again in 2021, Farm Bureau's food pantry efforts were named a Summit Award winner by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Summit Award recognizes

the positive impact that non-profit associations have on their community.

Thank you to the following members who donated cash:

Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry

- Mark Coon
- Janet McCabe
- Marla Miller
- Bill Schutz

Continued on Page 4

Ag Literacy Resources Available

Cook County Farm Bureau® Ag Literacy Coordinator Diane Merrion discusses the breath of ag literacy resources available at the Farm Bureau including in-school student field trips, Ag Mags, Ag Days, and teacher resources. The discussion and links for materials is available at <https://youtu.be/pPhdOJidm5s>.

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!

Volunteer Appreciation Week Nears

We want to take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to our volunteers

Cook County Farm Bureau® is a volunteer driven organization. Members and volunteers are at the heart of the organization and at the heart of every decision made by the Board of Directors. We want to take a moment to thank and honor the tremendous volunteers who serve our organization.

The many successes of the Cook County Farm Bureau, Foundation, and Political Action Committee is due to the commitment and energy of our volunteers!

Helen Dyer once said "Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud." This is so true at

the Farm Bureau! Without our volunteers our food pantry support efforts; agricultural literacy outreach; farmer and urban garden trainings; and legislative outreach would not be possible.

Established by President Richard Nixon in 1974, National Volunteer Appreciation Week celebrates the contributions, time, knowledge, and expertise of the myriads of individuals who give themselves to the advancement of the people and organizations.

We want to take a moment to say, "Thank you!" to our volunteers. Please know that we could not accomplish the mission and goals of the Farm Bureau without your involvement!

CCFB Foundation Scholar Winners Announced

The Board of Directors of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation have selected six individuals as recipients of the 2022-2023 Scholarship Program. Jessica Biernacki of Tinley Park was awarded the Howard Paarlberg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship. Receiving general farm and food scholarships were Andrew Smits of Sauk Village; Katherine Manika of North Riverside; Jennifer Miller of Justice; Elijah Floerke of Orland Park; and Matthew Smits

of Sauk Village. A total of \$15,500 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 16 years. The recipient carries the prestige of being the top-rated applicant and a greater financial reward for the individual.



Jessica Biernacki, Grand Canyon University



Andrew Smits, Purdue University



Katherine Manika, University of Illinois



Jennifer Miller, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor



Elijah Fiorke, Illinois State University



Matthew Smits, Purdue University

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.



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...

Raoul Adamchak, author of Tomorrow's Table and Book Club participants for participating in a conversation about the future of food and farming.

All volunteers and donors who made this year's Food Checkout Day a tremendous success.

Board members Roger Freeman and Mike Rauch who went out of their way to help with clean up and develop a repair plan of the wind damaged enclosure for the building chiller and garbage. (see photo)

Young Leader chair, Blake Lanphier, for planning a strategy for the Young Leaders Team moving forward in involvement and growth.

The Foundation scholarship applicants that are pursuing agriculturally related career aspirations.

The Board of Directors that met for most of the day on February 22 to plan for the future of the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Country Financial South Holland career agent, Mike Cerf, kindly picked up pounds of CCFB member pop-tops and delivered to the Oak Lawn Ronald McDonald House on our behalf. (See photo)

The various volunteers of the Cook County Farm Bureau that attended meetings, hosted programs, provided time and lent the organization their skills this past month for the benefit of members and society.

Teacher and Ag Literacy Committee member, Ms. Julie Reynolds and her students at the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences for volunteering to prepare 500 activity packets for our Lincoln Park Zoo Ag Literacy family activity table at the end of April.

Tony Palumbo, Orland Park Country Financial Rep, for his 38 years of service to members and the Farm Bureau organization. Congratulations on your retirement!



The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation is part of the AmazonSmile program which allows for a percentage of purchases to be donated to the Foundation. It's as simple as going to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), select Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation as your charitable organization and shop as normal.

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation was established to carry out charitable, literary and educational work in Agriculture including the Agricultural Scholarship Program, Adult Ag Education, Ag Day, Ag Leadership, Summer Ag Institute and Farm Shadows Program.



Growing for the future: Planting seeds of Agricultural literacy in Cook County.



Co-Operator

published monthly

Cook County Farm Bureau

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Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Where Was the Vanilla?”

Throughout the year, there are many National “Months” and National “Days” designed to bring special focus on something or some group. Just recently, March included National Women’s History Month, Irish-American History Month, National Celery Month, National Pig Day, National Snack Day, and many more.

March was also “National Nutrition Month.” This year’s theme was “Celebrate a World of Flavors.” The dairy industry jumped on National Nutrition Month by promoting a wide variety of milk and dairy foods that provide endless options to meet an individual’s personal needs, tastes, and preferences within a variety of cultures.

I accidentally “backed” into the celebration of National Nutrition Month through a recent family dinner...

The family gathered in a restaurant a few weeks ago, celebrating my mother-in-law’s 88th birthday. I had just polished off half of a 14-inch-deep dish pizza when my brother-in-law announced that we would go back to the house for dessert. Dessert, in addition to chocolate cake, would consist of seven different ice cream options.

Hearing this exciting news, I suggested to my twenty-something stepson that he should try all seven flavors of the ice cream.

He responded, “He would if I would.” One would think at my extended age, I would know better. I accepted and the “Seven-Scoop Challenge”. Nope, peer pressure doesn’t influence me.

The following ice creams were facing us...

- Double chocolate raspberry
- Mint chocolate chip
- Rocky road
- Butter pecan
- Chocolate and fudge swirl
- Fruity, white chocolate
- Chocolate chip

My mind said, “Where was the plain old vanilla”? Note the presence of a lot of chocolate option ice cream flavors. Despite the lack of my favorite ice cream, vanilla, I bravely pushed through... scoop after scoop of ice cream flavors disappearing thanks to my mighty spoon (I nicknamed it “The Creaminator”).

My self-proportioned serving sizes grew gradually smaller but somehow, I pushed on. I noticed other family members also participating in the challenge which aided my motivation (again with the peer pressure). Finally, after slogging through my seventh scoop, I called “uncle.” I figured that I had “won” the challenge after my son-in-law stopped at six scoops, turning his nose up at the butter pecan.

But no...what was this?

The Birthday Girl had quietly entered the competition, working her way through each flavor! Ultimately, my mother-in-law dominated the competition with seven scoops, a reasonable slice of chocolate cake and then, for the victory, finishing off some of the ice cream tub bottom scapings! What an ice cream warrior. She earned the golden ice cream scoop award!

I did review the Dairy Council’s marketing of dairy products related to National Nutrition Month and could find no recommendation of seven scoops of ice cream for a nutritious and well-balanced meal. Simply an oversight, I am sure.

Reflecting, what a wonderful way to observe National Nutrition Month...extra calcium for strong teeth and bones. I can’t wait until the next birthday and June’s National Dairy Month!

Recipe of the Month:

Spring Greens Mixed Berry Salad with Garlic Vinaigrette

Jodie Shields, Partners Spring 2022

Garlic Vinaigrette:

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper























Salad:

- 6 cups mixed spring greens (about 6 ounces)
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup fresh blackberries
- 6 tablespoons slivered almonds



In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper. Set aside. Place all spring greens into a large bowl. Add the vinaigrette and toss to coat. Divide the salad between 6 salad plates and top each with an equal amount of strawberries, blueberries and blackberries. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of almonds over each salad before serving. Tips: For a smoky flavor, toast the almonds in a preheated oven at 325 degrees for 10 minutes before topping the salad. Don’t like blackberries? Feel free to toss in your favorite mixed berries.

Helping you protect what matters most

 Jeff Maxson, Manager Chicago South Agency Countryside (708)352-5555	 Ed Beavers Chicago (312)588-1404	 Silver Castillo Chicago (773)284-5953	 David De Santiago Chicago (773)254-5938	 Martha Dominguez Chicago (773)254-5891	 Kirk Gregory Sr. Chicago (773)239-7872
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“COUNTRY Financial” is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, “COUNTRY”), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois. 1220-509HC_23908-3/10/2022



The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation is part of the AmazonSmile program which allows for a percentage of purchases to be donated to the Foundation. It’s as simple as going to smile.amazon.com, select Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation as your charitable organization and shop as normal.

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Growing for the future: Planting seeds of Agricultural literacy in Cook County.



HOW FARM BUREAU SERVED YOU IN MARCH

- ▶ **Engaged with 10 Cook County legislators including Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Illinois Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton.**
- ▶ **Awarded six \$350 grants to Cook County urban gardens and farmers for the purchase of materials and supplies from area agri-businesses.**
- ▶ **Provided over \$11,000 in support to Cook County food pantries in celebration of the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers. Donations were given as part of Farm Bureau’s 22nd annual Food Checkout Day.**
- ▶ **Educated 90 classrooms through Farm Bureau’s Agriculture in the Classroom program while also engaging with 26 high school students through Farm Bureau’s Farm Shadows program.**



Continued from Page 1

Cook County Farm Bureau® and Partners Raise Cash and Food Donations for Local Food Pantries

Elk Grove Township Food Pantry

Pamela and Ned Bruns
Robert Curatti
Janet McCabe

Elsie's Pantry

Jim Andresen
Nic Burke
Laura Elkins
Tom Geraghty
Tim Hartnell
Candace Jablonski
Bob Johnson
Karen Knapp
Terry LaMastus
Tony Palumbo
George Parthemore
Bob and Jayne Rohrer
Mike Spadoni
Erica Storrs
Cary Tate
Mike Thauer
Same Tuman Zengri

Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry

Bobbie Dantzer
Annie Hill
Dorothy Jones
Ron & Joan Orman
Rhonda Perkins
Michael Schumer

Lakeview Pantry

Omar Ariza
Robert Barron
Jerome Brown
Malgorzata Jura
Roberto Martinez
Natasha Neskovic
Iilir Numani
Vicki Nygren
Leonardo Rojas
Ciria Serrano

Share Food Share Love

Yubana Alvarez
Joanna Kapica
Patricia O'Connor
Hilario Salto
Mike Sheaha
Vic Waheed
Glynis Wheeler

Thank you to all the members, supporters, and Country Financial representatives who donated non-perishable food items.

Donations matched by the Farm Bureau to local food pantries that were not partner pantries:

George Boyle, Bethany Lutheran Church Open Pantry
Mike Rauch, St. Cletus Food Pantry

Mike Rauch, Together We Cope

Food Checkout Day is possible only through the efforts of volunteers, including Farm Bureau leadership and committee members and Chicago North, Northeast, Northwest, Orland Park, and South Holland Country Financial representatives and staff members. Volunteers were integral to the success of the shopping spree portion of Food Checkout Day.

Volunteers

Farm Bureau:

Dan Biernacki
Bryan Blau
Roger Freeman
Gerry Kopping
Linda Kopping
Janet McCabe
Kim Morton
Mike Rauch
Tim Stuenkel

COUNTRY Financial Agencies within Cook County:

Jim Andresen,
COUNTRY Financial Orland Park Agency
Jerome Brown,
COUNTRY Financial Chicago North Agency
Laura Elkins,
COUNTRY Financial Orland Park Agency
Kim Erkenwick,
COUNTRY Financial Northeast Agency
Kevin Gomes,
COUNTRY Financial Northwest Agency
Kyle Huppe,
COUNTRY Financial Orland Park Agency
Matt Huonder,
COUNTRY Financial Northwest Agency
Liana Mierendorf,
COUNTRY Financial Orland Park Agency
Jeff Orman,
COUNTRY Financial South Holland Agency
Sharon Stemke,
COUNTRY Financial Northeast Agency
Diane Tom,
COUNTRY Financial Northwest Agency
Lisa Ziellinski,
COUNTRY Financial Orland Park Agency

As the county's largest general farm organization, Cook County Farm Bureau® is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers and urban consumers. Through education programs targeting youth and their parents and programs designed to connect farmers with potential consumers, Farm Bureau members are actively engaging in conversations about food and the shared values between farmers and consumers.

Food Pantry Support



Farm Bureau volunteers along with Jerome Brown (second from left), Vicki Nygren (second from right), and Ciria Serrano (pictured right) of COUNTRY Financial presented Lakeview Pantry in Chicago with over 500 pounds of food donations and \$700 in cash donations as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Lakeview Pantry is Chicago's largest and longest-operating food pantry and is on track to provide five million meals in Chicago this year.



COUNTRY Financial representatives and Farm Bureau volunteers shopped for and presented Elk Grove Township with non-perishable food donations as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Pictured left to right are Bob Rohrer, Cook County Farm Bureau; Kim Erkenwick, COUNTRY Financial; Sharon Stemke, COUNTRY Financial; Tim Stuenkel, Cook County Farm Bureau; Kailee Tomasic, Elk Grove Township Food Pantry; and Bryan Blau, Cook County Farm Bureau. In addition to providing cash donations, COUNTRY Financial representatives from Chicago Northeast provided numerous cash donations.



Orland Park COUNTRY Financial representatives and staff generously donated over \$1,200 to Elsie's Food Pantry in Palos Hills in celebration of this year's Food Checkout Day. Food Checkout Day celebrates the healthy and nutritious food grown and raised by local farmers.



Share Food Share Love Food Pantry Manager John Dumas (pictured center) accepts Food Checkout Day donations. Pictured left to right is Roger Freeman, Dumas, Kim Morton, and Janet McCabe. Share Food Share Love in Brookfield provides food assistance to residents of 15 villages in western Cook County. Like many other pantries, Share Food Share Love experienced exponential growth in need during the COVID-19 pandemic and that need continues to linger, especially as the pantry's service area continues to expand



Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial representatives spent the week of March 7 shopping for non-perishable food items, household items, produce, and dairy products as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Volunteers shopped for nearly \$7,000 worth of food and household items for partner food pantries



Representatives from Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry in Oak Forest take a moment to snap a picture with Farm Bureau volunteers and COUNTRY Financial leadership as part of this year's Food Checkout Day. Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry serves south suburban Cook County. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and its lasting effects on food insecurity, the pantry served between 50 and 60 families per week; in 2020 that number grew to over 90 families. Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry was selected by South Holland COUNTRY Financial representatives.

ShopLocal this Spring

Prep & Planting is happening! Visit Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses, Garden Centers, and Farms for all your outdoor needs this spring! Their vegetable and flower plantings, trees, shrubs, lawn, landscape materials, grills, and garden décor await you!

For a complete listing of member businesses and producers in the Cook County area, please visit: <https://cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local/online-directory>

Member businesses offering additional discounts to CCFB members include Goebbert's Farm and Garden Center in South Barrington, Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park, and Zeldenrust Farm Market & Greenhouse in Chicago Heights. Check our website for details and restrictions at:

<https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits/profile/home-business-and-agriculture>



Live LOCAL SHOP LOCAL GROW. BUY. EAT.

Cookcfb.org/discover-local/shop-local

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

Five questions for Deb Voltz, Director of Membership/CM Team

What is your favorite job within the Cook County Farm Bureau?

This is a hard question because I have several, but my favorite is working with members and assisting COUNTRY Financial staff, both in person and over the phone. We truly have the BEST members around – kind, appreciative, inquisitive, and so interesting. I am amazed how many Associate members grew up on a farm or have family farming connections.

When you are not working on Farm Bureau business, what is something you like to spend time doing?

Besides spending time with my family and friends enjoying sports, games, and exploring local craft beer, I enjoy working out, especially yoga, hiking, and cycling (when I am injury free).

What is your favorite farm or food memory?

I grew up in Chicago, so my farm memories have come since working at the CCFB! One that stands out is when the CM Team was on a local farm tour

visiting Smits Farms in Sauk Village. Carl Smits had us go out into his sweet corn field and shuck a piece of corn fresh off the stalk and eat it right there! I was so surprised by how absolutely delicious, tender, and juicy the uncooked corn was.

What did you want to be growing up?

I wanted to be a Physical Therapist since my fifth grade science human anatomy unit. I was and am still fascinated by how the human body works. I was also heavily influenced by seeing PTs in action at RIC (now Shirley Ryan Ability Lab), challenging my quadriplegic brother, who now lives a rewarding, full, and independent life. Unfortunately, my C in Physics III put an end to that.

What is your favorite Cook County Farm Bureau benefit?

There are so many to choose from, but my favorite that I have used for the past 13 years are the Rental Car discounts, I've rented vans to move kids to and from college, and cars on favorite vacation destinations.



Deb Voltz

Board of Directors Develops Implementation Strategy To Meet Goals, Objectives



The Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, during their March board meeting, approved actions from the February board strategic planning day including the activation of a new Volunteer Management System. The plan will be similar to a human resources approach to recruiting, onboarding, training, engaging, recognizing and rewarding, and providing feedback for volunteers. The plan recognizes that there are various levels of engagement by members serving as volunteers and all are in important part of the organization's effort and progress.

The board reviewed its Goals and Objectives for the organization. Action items for each of the listed goals and objectives were identified and approved to help the organization achieve each.

- Recruit and retain all types of voting (M & PM) and associate members to reverse the net-loss trend of membership within the organization through regular contact, engagement, enhanced communications, broadened appeal, and delivery of membership benefits/services.
- Increase farm income opportunities for all farmers and farm related businesses, traditional and specialty, in the Cook County area.
- Represent the farmer and farmland

owner interests through Farm Bureau policy at the local, regional, state, and national government level and communicate policies and issues to members.

- Seek to build trust and knowledge with consumers, educators, and students through farm and food facts, information, public relations activities, charitable support, and ag literacy educational efforts.
- Renew and maintain relationship building efforts with county and other local elected officials and offices.

Internal Board action items were also developed related to evaluating the effectiveness in achieving mission, goals, and objectives, review of the organization's investment policy/strategy to ensure future financial stability, evaluation of the organization's technology for effective Farm Bureau communications, programming, and delivery of services, increase involvement within the organization through implementation of the Volunteer Management System and review leadership succession plan.

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved an organizational Diversity and Inclusion statement: "At Our Table, All Are Welcome."

COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION "EVENING FOR AG EDUCATION" GALA FUN'RAISER

Friday, July 22, 2022

6:00-11:00 PM

Crystal Grand Banquets
12416 S. Archer Ave
Lemont, IL

An evening of dining, drinks, live music, games, and fun'raising opportunities!

Features include plated dinner, 4-hour beverage package, live band (Libido Funk Circus), live auction, truth or hogwash game, photo booth, and split-the-pot raffle!

Gala Dinner Tickets:

\$100	Individual ticket	early bird special though 7/15/2022
\$125	Individual ticket	7/16/2022 and after
\$1,000	Table of 10	through event date

Only 250 tickets available

Foundation Gala Dinner and Split the Pot Raffle tickets for the July 22, 2022, Gala can be purchased by:

1. Check, money order, or cash
 - Make checks/MO out to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation
 - Mail to: CCFB 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or stop by office
2. Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or debit card)
 - Call CCFB at 708-354-3276,
 - Pay via Chase Paytech system available M-F 8a-4:30pm
 - If after hours, leave voicemail with name/phone and we will contact for payment

Advanced raffle sales

Split the Pot Raffle tickets: \$10 each | 6 for \$50 | 15 for \$100 – winner need not be present (must have raffle ticket stub for inclusion in the drawing)

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501c(3) not-for-profit. Your gala ticket donation is partially deductible for federal income tax purposes equal to the total ticket price minus \$50 value for meal, beverage, and entertainment.

Gala Sponsorship Opportunities:

for sponsorship descriptions and info, visit www.cookcfb.org/foundation/evening-for-ag-education

The Farm "Presenting" Sponsors \$2,500: "Celebrating the lifestyle and values of farm families"
The Harvest Rewards Sponsors \$1,000: "Reaping the bounty of agricultural dreams"
The Planting "Dreams" Sponsors \$500: "With spring planting, the hopes and dreams of farm bounty take root"
The Equipment "Support Team" Sponsors \$250: "A successful operation requires great support"

Event and raffle rules/guidelines can be found at: www.cookcfb.org/foundation/evening-for-ag-education

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



Diane Merrion, CCFB Director of Ag Literacy

Wheel of Generation Gap

It was all over the news. How could 'another feather in your cap' become the talk of the internet? As the challenging puzzle stumped the contestants, it made me think back to my family's Christmas Eve game, Millennials vs. Boomers. The object of the game was the Baby Boomers had to answer Millennial questions and vice versa.

My husband and I (the "hip" Boomers) had to answer questions such as, "What does 'lit' mean?" "If someone has to 'bounce', what do they have to do?" and a few others that cannot be mentioned here. We didn't do so well. Our kids had to answer questions such as, "Who was Mr. Ed?" and "What did the pocket calculator replace in the mid-70s?". We might call it a generation gap or just an awareness gap.

Would my kids be able to recognize quotes from fairy tales that were quite prominent in the past like, hey diddle diddle, the cat, and the fiddle, _____? I'm quite certain they'd ask for the deep meaning of that,

Ag Lit Bit

and I'd tell them to google it. There are plenty of others to ponder such as Jack Sprat, Ring around the Rosie, and the list goes on.

The last few years have introduced all generations to a whole new set of terms and expressions that may someday appear on Jeopardy, but most likely not Wheel of Fortune. We find some gaps when using "farm" terminology with students and hope our programming gives them some exposure to and curiosity to learn more about agriculture. The letters we receive from kids show just how much they gleaned from us which will make them stronger contestants on future games featuring ag facts.

We will have our spinning wheel out and ready for all generations on April 30 at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Questions will pertain to the important role of pollination and agriculture and are geared to not totally stumping our visitors such as, "People and Pollinators are part of the same food web. True or False?"

Stop by to learn some fun facts. Who knows, you may be on a game show someday!

Diane can be reached at aitc@cookcfb.org.



JUNE 20-22, 2022

Our three-day summer program will allow you behind the scenes access to local and rural producers as we visit farms & agribusinesses. Tours and speakers will demonstrate how to incorporate agriculture into your curriculum by explaining the relationship between agriculture, science, technology, natural resources, the environment, and food production.

This professional development opportunity will provide the opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals, explore lessons plans and leave with resources for use in your K-12 classroom.

Day One:
Board bus in Countryside. Tours include wheat farm & mill, family dairy farmstead, lunch, Ag in the Classroom Presentation- Bloomington,

Day Two:
Agriculture tours as we head back to Countryside

Day Three:
Urban ag tours

\$125 includes 24 PDCH, bus transportation, lodging, 3 lunches, one dinner, lessons, resources and speakers/tours. Nightly assignments/reflections.

Registration open until May 1 or class filled; call or email Diane or Jill @ 708-354-3276 aitc@cookcfb.org



Teachers Enjoy Workshop



Participants Winnie Ho and Julie Masen from Everett STEM Academy, Chicago

We hosted our final teacher workshop of this school year last month via Zoom. Teachers received a box of materials ahead of time and really enjoyed learning new ways to incorporate soil, water, and butterflies into their curriculum. Their feedback showed the value of offering ag literacy outreach to classroom and home school educators.

"Thank you so much for all the wonderful nature and Earth Day activities!"

"PD was way more than I expected, in a good way!"

"Thank you so much for the resources and information in this session! It was wonderful!"

We'd also like to extend our thanks to author Lori Harris for joining us for the program and sharing her amazing work with butterflies through her Salt Creek Butterfly Farm.

Our next professional development opportunity will be during our Summer Ag Institute in June (see information on this page). Registration now open.

Stop by our family ag literacy table

We are excited to be at Lincoln Park Zoo on April 30th from 11-2 as part of their City Nature Challenge BioBlitz. Find us at the Nature Boardwalk area.



LINCOLN PARK ZOO.
FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU® FOUNDATION 2022 BOOKMARK CONTEST "AGRICULTURE IS..."

Design a bookmark showing what agriculture means to you. Maybe it's eating food pollinated by a bee, enjoying dairy milk from a cow, eating locally grown popcorn, planting a seed, coloring with a soy-based crayon, wearing clothes made from cotton, eating bagels made from wheat or taking a bus fueled with biodiesel, we want YOU to show us how farmers impact our lives.

Open to students up to age 12.

A first-place winner and three runners-up will be selected. The first-place winner will receive a \$35 Amazon gift card, runners-up will each receive a \$15 Amazon gift card.

The winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution this summer at local libraries and park district events hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau®.

Mail entries to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Bookmark Contest, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525
Email entries to: aitc@cookcfb.org - Subject: Bookmark Contest

Participant's Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____
School: _____ Guardian's Name: _____

*Please print carefully

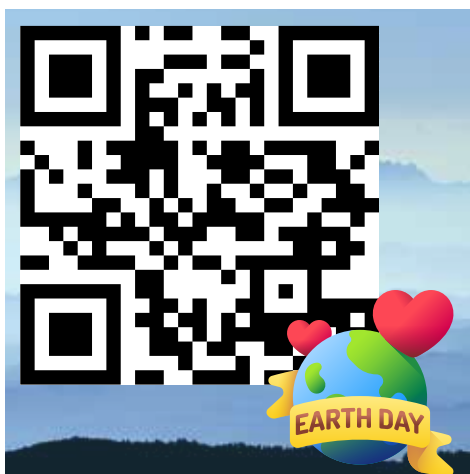
*By submitting your bookmark artwork to this contest, you give the CCFB the right to reprint and distribute your bookmark design at local events hosted by the CCFB.

Use the template below or use the same measurements on a white sheet of paper: Size is 7 1/2" x 2 1/2"



Entries must be received by 5/1/2022 via email or mail. Judging will be completed by 5/15/2022

April 2022 Cooperator QR Earth Day



Earth Day Books



Our Ag Literacy Department has books, lessons and Ag Mags to accompany your Earth Day lessons. Teachers can email us at aitc2@cookcfb.org to request information or some materials can be found online at <http://bit.ly/36k11uj>.

Agriculture Adventures for Families



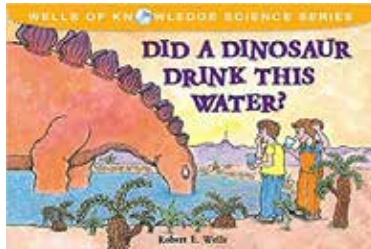
With Earth Day this month on April 22nd we wanted to take a look at how important water is to all of us, including our farmers. The subject of water is not a new topic, as you'll see below.



Water is one of earth's most valuable resources, and one of its most scarce. Out of the earth's total supply of water, 97% is salt water and only 3% is fresh water.

Furthermore, the amount of fresh water trapped in glaciers and icecaps is 2.2%, leaving only .08% of the earth's total water available for everyday human use.

Water is a finite resource that continues to move through its natural cycle, meaning that we are drinking the same water that dinosaurs did millions of years ago!



Did You Know?

Water is the only substance on earth that occurs naturally in solid, liquid, and gas forms.

Solid



Liquid



Gas



Water

Farmers' livelihood and depends on their ability to use the land. Farmers use technology and common sense to help conserve water and preserve water quality. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/wateragmag>.

The Water Cycle

Condensation

Water vapor in the air becomes cold and changes into liquid, forming clouds.

Evaporation

The sun heats up rivers, lakes, and oceans, turning the water into vapor or steam. The water vapor rises into the air.



Precipitation

So much water collects in the air that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls as rain, sleet, or snow.

Collection

The water from rain, sleet, and snow falls back into the rivers, lakes and oceans. This allows the cycle to begin again.

Source :IL Ag in the Classroom

Illinois Water

There are more than 91,000 freshwater lakes and ponds in Illinois.

There are over 119,000 miles of streams within Illinois' borders.

The Great Lakes Basin includes forests, wetlands, and dunes, all of which serve as a home for more than 3,500 species of plants and animals.

The Great Lakes contain nearly 20% of Earth's fresh water, making it the largest freshwater system in the world!!

April Word Search

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

Air
Clouds
Conserve
Cycle
Earth
Fresh
Gas
Lakes

Liquid
Preserve
Ponds
Rain
Salt
Solid
Sun
Water

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 2022 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..

Dawn Anderson

Dusty Truth

Roads (gravel ones included) key part of food supply chain



A West Coast cousin is guaranteed to call out “rush hour,” when more than one car passes the farmyard during our annual game of wiffle ball. Since childhood, we have played a ball game every year that our city cousins visit the farm. Now adults, they still poke fun at the traffic pattern of primarily the mailman and some neighbors who wave as they pass.

Back home in the city, my cousins travel well-lit residential streets and expressways. Out here in the heart of farm country, few roads are lined. Certain stretches of our rural roads may become impassable in winter. Road curves can measure nearly 90 degrees, and some intersections of narrow gravel roads lack stop signs, relatively common in Illinois’ most rural, low-traffic settings. That’s just a fact of living in rural, more remote areas.

Urban and rural alike, Illinoisians try to get from point A to point B for jobs, school, business and social events. Road infrastructure proves important to all Illinois businesses with goods

to move, families with places to go, and workers with jobs to complete. In an urban setting, people most commonly travel lined asphalt or concrete highways. In rural areas, unstriped blacktops and dusty gravel road connect us to destinations, including the fields that produce food, feed, and biofuels.

The primary difference is that rural roads, generally, are made of less durable materials than urban or high-traffic county roads. And that reduced durability can limit activity. In the late winter and spring when the frost exits the subsoil, rural roads begin to soften and weight restrictions impact the movement of commodities from the farm to market. In the summer heat, oil-and-chipped roads can bleed, demanding more roadchips, or small rocks, to protect the surface.

About a mile south and a bit east of our wiffle ball game, the one-lane bridge sits crooked to the road. The Laura Blacktop near town has a crumbling shoulder. And you’ll want to avoid my road in the thaw of March unless you desire the unofficial title of “most deserving” in the car wash line. While in high school, I wrote well wishes in the gravel grime on my car for our state-bound basketball team. I’m not sure that I made my city cousins jealous.

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, backyard chickens and farmkids.

Entrepreneurs Wanted: Apply by April 29 for Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, is seeking entrepreneurs to apply online for the 2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. Now in its ninth year, this national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies developing innovative solutions to challenges faced by America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Farm Bureau is offering \$165,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition, which will culminate in the top 10 semi-finalists competing in a live pitch competition in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives at the AFBF Convention in January 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“Innovation is at the heart of everything farmers and ranchers do,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “The Ag Innovation Challenge is an outstanding avenue for identifying and supporting startup businesses striving to solve the problems facing rural America. I look forward to seeing the innovative, resourceful and creative solutions that Challenge applicants submit.”

Applications remain open through April 29, and the 10 semi-finalist teams will be announced Sept. 13. Each of the semi-finalist teams will be awarded \$10,000 and a chance to compete to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 each. The final four teams will compete to win:

- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, for a total of \$20,000
- People’s Choice Team selected by public vote, for an additional \$5,000 (all 10 semi-finalist teams compete for this honor)

Prior to the live pitch competition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business faculty, and network with representatives from the Agriculture Department’s Rural Business Investment Companies.

Recent winners of the Ag Innovation Challenge include Grain Weevil Corporation, a grain bin safety and management robot that improves farmer well-being by controlling risks and costs (2022 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner) and Harvust, a software platform that helps farmers successfully hire, train and communicate with employees (2021 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner). Other examples of successful Ag Innovation Challenge participants, as well as detailed eligibility guidelines and the competition timeline can be found at fb.org/challenge.

Entrepreneurs must be members of a county or parish Farm Bureau within their state of residence to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit <https://www.fb.org/about/join> to learn about becoming a member.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 29, 2022.

- Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner, for a total of \$50,000



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RULES FOR THE ROAD

2022 Rules of the Road now available at: <https://bit.ly/37zoRqX>

A recording of the recent Rules of the Road seminar presented by Rodney Knittel, Illinois Farm Bureau Assistant Director of Transportation and Infrastructure is available at:

<https://vimeo.com/680966731/0170e2d71b>



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

My blue-eyed girl is in civics this semester. Along with half of her seventh-grade class, she'll learn about American government. Explore Illinois government. And take a peek at local government. I'm ecstatic. She's unimpressed.

I loved civics. Memorizing the Constitutional amendments. Differentiating between the powers of the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches. Explaining the concept of checks and balances. The elastic clause. Interstate commerce.

Just last week she asked which Constitutional amendments I thought were most important. I thought maybe we were connecting. Maybe she was interested. Nope. Come to find out her question was less "get to know your mom" and more "I don't want to do my homework." I reminded her that I was not a pre-teen girl and asked her which amendments were most important to her. Apparently, the ones that start with an exaggerated sigh.

I did find out after the fact that one of the amendments she listed was the repeal of prohibition. And her reason why, so her mother and father could be happy and not so mean. Cue my eye roll.

Once she finishes her light dive into American government, she moves on to Illinois government. In sheer anticipation I offered her my copy of the 1970 Illinois Constitution annotated for legislators (recognizing that it's no longer the most current version of the Constitution but is still annotated and in perfectly well used condition). Her eye roll was rather fierce. It was even more fierce when I told her that it had to be returned in the condition

in which it was lent out. I don't think she gives annotated the respect that it is due.

After Illinois government, she'll explore the government that most impacts individuals' everyday lives. Local government. Cities. Counties. Townships. And special districts. My blue-eyed girl was unimpressed when I politely reminded her that I served nearly two terms as Aldermen for the City of Harvard. I even moonlighted as the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Ordinance Committee. And I served nearly a full term as a McHenry County Conservation District Trustee including two terms as President. Again, cue the eye roll. And dramatic sigh. I was honestly waiting for the classic "you just don't understand" but fortunately (for her) it wasn't uttered.

Civics has also taught our blue-eyed girl about political parties. One evening she asked my farmer and I which political party we vote for. We've never hid our political leanings. We also don't broadcast them. Like many farmers, my farmer is cheap. So cheap he squeaks. Politically he prefers candidates who also squeak. I believe in the value of government, but I don't want it everywhere. When it comes to government, "limited" is my favorite word.

Something we've never hid from our blue-eyed girl or big-little boy is the importance of respect. Our preferred candidate might lose. And lose big. But you respect the office. The title. And the person who won. Even if you don't want to. Good politicians will tell you that after election night you put political parties aside and move on to the art of governing. Perhaps if more people did this we could simply move beyond campaigning and on to the great experiment called democracy.

Bona can be reached at Bona@cookcfb.org

General and Special Purpose Units of Government Add up in Illinois

Understanding the different types of government might help frame the question, "how much is too much?" In Illinois we have general-purpose and special-purpose units of government. Our general-purpose units are counties, townships and municipalities. As a general-purpose unit, they are responsible for providing multiple services, including transportation, protection, entertainment, and public health and welfare services.

To the contrary, special-purpose units are created to perform a single service or combination of related services. Examples include library, park and recreation, fire protection and even school districts whose primary service is to provide education. Of our 6,918 units of government, special-purpose districts make up 3,204.

In most cases, general-purpose units of government can provide the same services offered by special-purpose units. Does that make special-purpose government redundant, confusing and costly to taxpayers? Often, the answer is "yes." However, in some situations, that local-level unit can perform services more efficiently, with less cost and a closer relationship to the residents.

General Purpose Unit of Government	Number	Examples of the Roles of General-Purpose Units of Government <i>The primary purpose of local government is to serve as a subunit of the state.</i>
County	102	Regulatory: local ordinances, law enforcement, police powers Services: utilities, roads, animal control, fire and police protection Geo-political: conduct elections, establish voting districts, maintain judicial system
Township	1,429	General Assistance: emergency food, shelter and assistance Property Assessment: value property for the purpose of taxation Road Maintenance: via township road district
Municipality (Cities, Villages, Towns)	1,297	Meet the needs of citizens: utilities, police, fire, streets, curbs, sidewalks, garbage pickup

Examples of Special Purpose Units of Government

- Airport
- Housing
- Soil & water
- Cemetery
- Library
- Solid waste
- Civic center
- Mosquito abatement
- Street lighting
- Conservation
- Museum
- Surface water protection
- Drainage
- Park
- Tuberculosis districts
- Electrical & gas
- Port
- Transit
- Exposition
- Public building
- Water supply
- Fire protection
- Rescue squad
- Zoo
- Historical museum
- River conservancy
- Hospital
- Sanitary

Number of Special Purpose Units in Illinois:
3,204



The Member Relations Team sponsors 2 shred days annual, North Cook & South Cook, as another benefit for our members.

2022 ELECTIONS

ILLINOIS LOSES ONE CONGRESSIONAL SEAT.

The primary election will take place three months later than normal.

ELECTION CALENDAR

ILLINOIS PRIMARY

MARCH 30-JUNE 23

Vote by mail applications accepted

JUNE 27

Last day for early voting

MAY 19

Early voting begins, vote by mail ballots mailed

JUNE 28

Primary Election Day

U.S. GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 8

General Election Day

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NEW CONGRESSIONAL, STATE SENATE, & STATE HOUSE MAPS HERE:

on.ilfb.org/ILDistrict

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IT'S Spring AND WE ALL NEED A FEW BREAKS

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These and all benefits can be accessed using your ABENITY APP, CCFB Member Benefits page links, and the Member Center at: <https://cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits>



35% off adult prices, 20% off child prices and reduced processing fees available at: <https://drawbridge.medievaltimes.com/partner/CCFB>



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Call (800) 258-2847 or book online and use CCFB/IFB Discount code: **00800614** <https://www.choicehotels.com>

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.



Margaret Jura

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

*Margaret Jura has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for January 2022. Her office is located at 6136 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ste F, in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-631-9107. Margaret has been a Financial Representative since January 2008..



Leonardo Rojas

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager

Leonardo Rojas has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for January 2022. His office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave., in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-687-0443. Leonardo has been a Financial Representative since December 2019..



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager

Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2022. 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.



John Doherty

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

*John Doherty has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2022. His office is located at 10A W Schaumburg Rd., in Schaumburg IL. His phone number is 847-519-9922. John has been a Financial Representative since May 1992.



Faustino Ramirez

Chicago Northwest, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

*Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2022. His office is located at 1515 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste.930, in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



Gwen Shaw

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

*Gwen Shaw has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2022. Her office is located at 820 E.87th St., Ste. 212 in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is 773-487-0919. Gwen has been a Financial Representative since October 2014.



Arturo Salto

Chicago South Agency, Jeff Maxson, Agency Manager

Arturo Salto has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2022. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave., in Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-306-4013. Arturo has been a Financial Representative since March 2020.



Jim Andresen

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager

*Jim Andresen has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for February 2022. 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 February 2022. 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.



Bob Smith

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

*Bob Smith has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for January 2022. His office is located at 18159 Dixie Hwy., in Homewood, IL. His phone number is 708-798-4844. Bob has been a Financial Representative since March 1980.



Darryl Hevry

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Darryl Hevry has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for January 2022. His office is located at 10607 S. Harlem Ave., Unit. 101, in Worth, IL. His phone is 708-480-5091. Darryl has been a Financial Representative since June 2019.

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

ABC'S OF FOOD

At Cook County Farm Bureau, we love food... All types of foods in all types of shapes and all types of flavors. In this feature, we will be highlighting different types of food, primarily fruits and vegetables, from A to Z (we are not sure what to do with X yet!).

This month
"D"

**DRAGON
FRUIT**



Dragon fruit originates in Central and South America

It is called a fruit but is actually a cactus.



It is textured, scaly skin comes in pink or yellow, while it's flesh may be red or white with scattered, tiny, black seeds. The skin should not be eaten.

The claiming cactus plant can grow 15 to 20 feet high and can live for up to two decades.

It is also known as "pitaya" or "strawberry pear".

IT HAS A CRUNCHY TEXTURE AND SWEET FLAVOR, LIKE A KIWIFRUIT OR A PEAR.

Today, it is grown in Asia, Mexico, central America, South America and Israel. Farms in Florida, California and Hawaii are also trying to cultivate the fruit to keep up with increased demand.



There are many varieties of Dragon Fruit including ones named "David Bowie", "Voodoo Child", "Vietnamese Jaina", and "Purple Haze".

Next month...Edamame

Source: USDA/Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

This Month in Cook County Agriculture...

The Will – South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District is currently taking orders for the spring tree and fish sale. Plants, shrubs, and trees are available this spring in various starter sizes. Tree order pickup is on April 28-30, 8am-12pm.

Fish varieties include channel catfish, largemouth bass, triploid grass carp, rainbow trout, black crappie, bluegill, and minnows. Fish orders must be placed by Wednesday, April 5. All

orders are prepaid only. Fish pickup is Saturday, April 30 from 8am-12pm.

All pickups will be at the Will – South Cook SWCD building located at 1201 S. Gouger Rd. in New Lenox. Order forms are available on the District Facebook page, website, or from the office. Contact 815-462-3106 x3, info@willscookswcd.org | www.facebook.com/willsouthcookSoilandWater/ www.will-scook

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

Fantastic opportunity- Solo brick commercial building, with full basement, zone b2, 2350sq. ft, 1 mile from expressway, very near Arlington Park Metra and future Chicago Bears Stadium. Call 847-259-9339.

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

2002 Jaguar XKR 100 limited edition, supercharged convertible, every available option, with 16k on it. For details call Jim 773-581-4400.

Courvoisier Erte collection Limited Edition, un-opened and other collectible items. Call for pricing 773-581-4400.

2006 Yamaha V-Star 650cc Silverado Motorcycle, windshield, studded seats, backrest, leather saddlebags, two-tone silver paint, approx. 6800 mi, beautiful bike in great condition. \$3695. Call Gulio 708-267-8548.

Authentic hot dog cart, beautiful, with all extra pans and hook up, and cover. Great business. \$5000 Call 847-297-6807 ask for Mary.

80 Illinois license plates- \$80. 65 years of fishing equipment rods, reels, lures. Supper reno slot machine with 691 tokens \$125. Marcy 120 cage with free weights and bars \$100. 1946 Lionel train engine and cars \$100, one small saddle \$80, and other items for sale. Call 708-532-4656.

For Rent

Vacation Villas at Fantasy world II Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. Seven (7) nights in one bedroom suite, full kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, sleeps four (4). \$650 for seven (7) nights. No presentation is required. Call Ms. Day at 708-347-9369 for availability.

5 Star Resort 3br/2br Condo 2 miles from Disney World Orlando. Rental rates from \$119/night. Call 630-853-7669 or go to www.vrbo.com/218673.

Wanted

Wanted to buy broken or good gold jewelry, honest prices paid, turn broken chains, bracelets, earrings, dental gold into cash. Call Bob 708-602-3350.

Wanted to buy vintage and old toys, planes, trains, automobiles, and boats etc. Old balloon tire bicycles, 20' high rise handlebar bikes, motor bikes, and motorcycles. Also looking to purchase a home safe. Call 708-361-8230.

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

Wanting to buy your HO scale on 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 sort cars. Call 630-272-4433 ask for Ron. Thanks!

Wanted: Part Time worker to provide periodic 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 8-12 hours per week. 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

2022 CookFresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Recipients:

The Commodities-Marketing Team sponsors 6 \$300 grants to support urban agriculture's growth in Cook County. Special thanks to the grant selection volunteers Gerry Kopping, Ellen Phillips, Rick Johnson, Karen Biernacki, and Angie Carmen.

- **50 Acre Farm** located in Evergreen Park, is a food production garden emphasizing seed to harvest and farm to table activities to provide hands on educational experiences for community youth and families. Farm community activities focus on soil to seed, harvest, and nutritious meal production. Grant funds will be used to purchase seed, soil, planters, garden trowels and materials to create raised beds.
- **St James Community Farm** located in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, is a food production farm garden that annually produces over 10,000 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs for the Bronzeville and neighboring communities on the near south side. Produce is also sold through community CSA, on site farm stand, while donating 50% to local community food pantries, schools, health clinics and aid organizations. Funds will be used to purchase seed packets, fertilizer, compost, seedlings for late summer/fall succession planting.
- **Oak Forest Pollinator Garden**, located in Oak Forest, is a community pollinator garden that was established in 2021 with over 100 pollinator plantings and is expanding in 2022. The garden looks to continue educating the citizens of Oak Forest and

- surrounding neighborhoods, with in garden presentations on the importance of pollinators in food production and the environment. Grant funds will be used to purchase plantings, seedlings and garden materials.
- **St Irenaeus Pantry Garden**, located in Park Forest, is a food production garden that primarily donates produce directly to Saint Irenaeus Food Pantry, while supporting other food pantries when possible. Grant funds will be used to purchase starter plants, seeds, fertilizer, compost, potting soil and garden materials.
- **Rainbow Beach Victory Garden**, established in Chicago's South Shore community in 1917, is a seed to table program where families can grow fresh vegetables, not available in this food desert area. This year, the garden is creating raised garden beds on open plots for neighboring senior citizens to garden in a safe space. Grant funds will be used to purchase vegetable plantings, fruit tree, mulch, garden hose, trowels and garden bed kits.
- **Roots Community Garden**, located in Palatine, is a community volunteer garden producing over 960 pounds of fresh produce through 400 hours of volunteer gardening in 2021. The garden also serves to provide a space to offer children's activities and community events, including growing, meal planning, and cooking with fresh vegetables, among other programs. Funds will be used to purchase vegetable plantings, gardening gloves and shovels for volunteers.

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.



Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts and Transferring Non-Titled Property Estate Planning and Trust Administration Presented by Thomas J. Olofsson, J.D., Estate Planning Attorney

Do you need to update your will? Do you know what to do in preparing a will and a trust? Do you understand what probate court is? This program will provide the advantages and disadvantages of preparing a will and trust. The program will inform

you what types of information you will need to gather and decisions you will need make before meeting with a lawyer to prepare a will or trust. Also, tips will be shared on what to look for in choosing a lawyer and where to locate a lawyer for this task.

Date: Tuesday, April 5
Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Location: Zoom (the zoom link will be emailed to all participants the evening before the class)

Price: No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members. \$10 for non-members
Registration: Call the CCFB at 708-354-3276.



Butterfly Planter Workshop Goebbert's Farm & Garden Center Limited In-Person

Goebbert's garden center staff will lead us in creating our own 15" butterfly pollinator planter filled with flowering annuals that will attract butterflies and create beautiful visual interest! Join us for this must attend spring event by registering today-class size is limited to 15.

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2020
Time: 10:30-11:30 p.m.

Location: Goebbert's Farm a & Garden Center | 40 W Higgins Road, South Barrington

Price: \$50.00 for members and guest, includes 15" pot and materials

In-Person: Limited to 15 registrations

Registration: Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org.

3857 W 111TH ST CHICAGO 60655

SATURDAY 11AM-5PM

SUNDAY 12PM-4PM

Flower & Garden Show

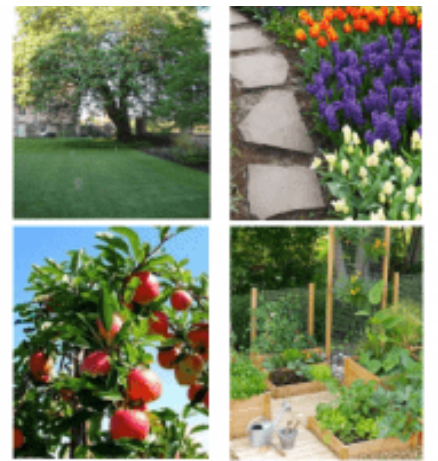
\$5 ENTRANCE FEE

APRIL 9-10

Spring is a Great Time to Test Your Soil!

Soil Testing Kits Available

Cook County Farm Bureau offers both members and non-members an opportunity to test their garden or lawn soil by purchasing a soil testing kit. Soil, in its natural state, is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually, it is necessary to supplement the earth's store of plant nutrients before we can obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the most aesthetically satisfying trees/shrubs, and the greatest yield of tasty and nutritious vegetables or crops. Test your soil pH, potassium, phosphorous, and other key elements to begin the soil improvement process.



Complete kit guidelines and instructions, as well as mailing information, included in the test kit. Members will receive test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Farm Bureau Soil Test Kit discounted member pricing:

- 1 sample Soil Test Kit: \$27
- 2 sample kit: \$35
- 3 sample kit: \$53
- 1 sample Soil & Lead Test Kit: \$53
- 1 sample Lead Only Test Kit: \$45

Non-member pricing also available. Costs are subject to change.

Soil Kits are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau. To order, call 708-354-3276, using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover at no additional charge.

Soil Testing Program



COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU*

Farm Bureau members are invited to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the San Diego Padres!

Wrigley Field • Thursday, June 16, 2022 • 1:20 pm

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m.
CCFB members can purchase 300 level tickets for \$66.08 per ticket!
(4 ticket limit per membership)

To order tickets, call the CCFB office at 708.354.3276.

VERY LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE!

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 708.354.3276.

MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK 2022

Monday, Apr 18
– Friday, Apr 22, 2022

We truly appreciate our members and during our Member Appreciation Week, we want to provide some extra love to say thank you for your membership, your involvement, your interest, and your support. We know that it has been a long and difficult year for many... Thank you for partnering with us to get through it!

To show our appreciation and gratitude, members only, please enter for a chance to win great prizes, free memberships, and a daily gift basket full of fun for you!

Daily Gift Basket Drawing

- Brew & Brew basket (Monday)
- Fiesta basket (Tuesday)
- Rainy Day Fun basket (Wednesday)
- Gardeners Corner basket (Thursday)
- Wine & Dine basket (Friday)

Daily free paid membership for a year

Daily Drawings (1 winners each day)

- Movie Monday—2 AMC movie tickets
- Turf Tuesday—Soil kit
- Wednesday CCFB Swag Day—CCFB logo items
- Treat your car Thursday—Delta sonic car wash gift card
- Food Friday—Home Run Inn gift card

Must be a member paid in good standing to enter.

Member Appreciation Week Entry Form

Monday, April 18 – Friday, April 22, 2022

Name _____

Email _____

Phone # _____

Member # _____

Entry form can be mailed to the office, faxed to 708.579.6056, emailed to fbcooperator@gmail.com or you can go to www.cookcfb.org to enter under the Membership section. One entry per member; entries received will be submitted for a chance at all drawings and will automatically rollover to the following day's drawings, if not selected.

Questions?? Please call us at 708-354-3276!

We wish all of our members a prosperous and healthy 2022...We look forward to serving you!