



Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



Scan for more farm bureau info. & events

A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

Mission: To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

Vol. 92 No. 6

Countryside, IL 60525

www.cookcfb.org

June 2018

Mark Your Calendar

JUNE

7th	Family Breakout Box <i>Glenwd/Lynwd Pub Lib</i>	Page 1
9th	Wagner Dairy Breakfast	Page 2
13th	Family Breakout Box <i>Historic Wagner Farm</i>	Page 1
14th	Family Breakout Box <i>Morton Grove Pub Lib</i>	Page 1
20th	Family Breakout Box <i>Evergreen Pub Lib</i>	Page 1
23rd	Shred Day	Page 1
23rd	Growing & Cooking with Herbs	Page 1

JULY

10th thru 13th	Summer Agriculture Academy	Page 12
14th	Let's Talk About the Food on Your Table	Page 4
19th	Family Breakout Box <i>LaGrange Pub Lib</i>	Page 1

AUGUST

18th	Farm Crawl	Page 11
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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 using the member service center at www.cookcfb.org.

Question of the Month

What official from the U.S. EPA did local Farm Bureau Leaders and staff meet with in May?

☆*Bonus*☆: What page of this publication is CCFB mascot *Corny Calvin* "hanging out" on this month?

Call the Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or fax your answer to 708-579-6056 for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25 gas card. **If you will be emailing your entry, our email address has changed. Please email your answers to FBcooperator@gmail.com (Please include Name, FB# and phone number)**

May's winner is **Norman Hart**.

Last Month's Question:

What is the web address of the brand new website of the Cook County Farm Bureau?

Answer: www.cookcfb.org

☆*Bonus*☆: The page number where Farm Bureau mascot, *Corny Calvin*, was hanging out in the May issue of the Co-Operator was... page 12.

New Website—Check it Out today!

On May 21, a new Cook County Farm Bureau Website went live. The new website is designed to better serve members and to communicate more effectively to the general public in a modern format. The website serves as the virtual "Face" of the organization as well as that of the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation and PAC.

The goals of the website project were simple: design a mobile-friendly site that serves the needs of members, serves as the face of Cook County agriculture, encourages members to act, provides access to farmers by the general public, and enhances involvement of members in all aspects of the local organization. The website works effectively no matter what the member's online device.

The website will help members and the public:

- Access membership benefit information
- Find locally grown food and farm related products
- Register for member programs and activities
- Sign up for Ag in the Classroom programming
- Communicate with elected officials
- Join the Cook County Farm Bureau organization as a member
- Communicate with the Cook County Farm Bureau staff
- Access publications and information
- Support the efforts of the Cook County Farm Bureau



Foundation

- Get involved as a volunteer and supporter of the efforts of the organization

The design of the website is visually appealing and user friendly and is the result of great deal of time and talent from the staff of the Cook County Farm Bureau as well as Cybernetics, the design firm.

The website will always be a "work-in-progress" as we provide regular news, events, benefits, and programs every day.

Cook County Farm Bureau staff is excited to be able to deliver quality services through this electronic door to your Cook County Farm Bureau.

Check out the new site at www.cookcfb.org

Join us for a **Family Breakout Box Mystery Hour**

Bring a team and beat the clock to unlock clues and enable the farmer to get local produce from the farm to the market. This farm-themed night is sure to challenge even the best detective. Join us for a fun-filled hour hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau. After solving the breakout box, detectives will wrap up the night with a quick game of Ag Bingo.

Program is free to all attendees and includes snack, activities and prizes. Call program location to register.

6/7	Glenwood/Lynwood Public Library	6:00-7:00PM
6/13	Historic Wagner Farm in Glenview	6:00-7:00PM
6/14	Morton Grove Public Library	6:30-7:30PM
6/20	Evergreen Public Library	6:00-7:00PM
7/19	LaGrange Public Library	6:30-7:30PM

Growing & Cooking with Herbs:

Make an Herb Planter Workshop with Chef Cooking Demo

Smits Farms

3437 East Sauk Trail, Chicago Heights

Date: **Saturday, June 23, 2018**

Time: **10am-12pm**

Investment: **\$30.00**

Includes Herb Planter to take home and chef cooking demo with tastings and recipes!

Registration required:

Call 708-354-3276 or online at the Member Center at www.cookcfb.org



Smits Farms is a family owned and operated business, growing the highest quality herbs, vegetables & flowers!

Cook County Farm Bureau will be hosting a "Shred Day" on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10 am to 12-noon at the Rolling Meadows Country Financial Building located at 4190 W Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows. Bring any old documents (up to 3 bankers boxes) that you would like have shredded.

FREE OF CHARGE!

Please call the CCFB at 708.354.3276 to make a reservation.

**Better than a burn barrel
Much easier than using scissors
Free for members**



Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

"Where are my local farmers?"

Answered by Ruth Zeldenrust, Cook County Farmer

Ruth Zeldenrust, a Cook County farmer

We hear buzzwords like "grass-fed," "sustainable," and "local" everywhere, regardless if we're shopping at our local grocery store or buying at our favorite farmers' market. It's easy to ask, "What does this all really mean?"

We're all local farmers. Local farmers are not only at the farmers' markets, but their commodities like milk or meat are also in national and

When did buying food for our families become so complicated?

international brands like Dean's. Even national and international brands like Dean's Foods or Tyson Foods® are made up of local farmers' commodities. Dean's Foods boosts 16,000 farmers. Many local farmers sell their products to national and international brands rather than directly to the consumer.

Regardless of where you find your local farmer, farmers are committed to growing and raising a healthy and nutritious product for your family and ours.

Have a question? Submit it to bona@cookcfb.org. We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.

Recipe of the Month

Rhubarb Pecan Muffins!

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 c flour | ¼ c sugar |
| 1½ t baking powder | ½ t baking soda |
| 1 t salt | ¼ c pecans, chopped |
| 1 large egg | ¼ c vegetable oil |
| 2 t grated orange peel | ¼ c orange juice |
- 1 ¼ c fresh rhubarb, finely chopped – perfect picking in spring and early summer!



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and nuts. In a medium bowl, beat egg. Add oil, orange peel, and juice; add to flour mixture all at once and stir until batter is moistened. Stir in rhubarb. Lightly grease 12 large muffin cups and fill ¾ full. Bake 25-30 mins. Makes 12 large muffins. These are scrumptious.



Did Something Change? Let Us Know!

Our members' lives are constantly changing and evolving... moving of residences, marriage, divorce and more. Please keep us "in the loop" as changes occur so that we can properly reach, communicate and serve you.

Call us at 708-354-3276 • Fax us at 708-579-6056 • Email us at ccfb@cookcfb.org

Thank You!

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

You receive The "Co-operator" because you or a family member is a Farm Bureau member. Our farm owners and operators, as members, benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to a strong and productive agricultural way of life.

Members without direct ties to farming help to promote a strong local and regional farming lifestyle, encourage wise use of our limited natural resources, and help preserve our farming heritage. In addition, members are provided the opportunity to enjoy our affiliated

company, Country Financial, and access to the many other benefits provided by Cook County Farm Bureau.

Thank you for your membership and continued support. We welcome member input on content, including suggestions of farm, home, food, natural resource, renewable energy, agricultural heritage, and farm history for future issues.

Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Editor

P.S. For more information, please access www.cookcfb.org and checkout the "Who We Are" video and the Country Financial Connection history.

Historic Wagner Farm to Host Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show

Join Cook County Farm Bureau® at this year's Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show at Wagner Farm in Glenview. The delicious, farm-style breakfast begins at 8 a.m. on June 9. After enjoying homemade pancakes and freshly grilled sausage, enjoy live music, dairy demonstrations, and hands-on activities at the Farm Bureau booth.

After the breakfast, view the 3rd annual Stock Show sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau. This drop-in show will feature lambs, pigs, dairy heifers and cows, as well as beef steers and heifers. Professional judges will evaluate the stock and select a top showman in each species. Exhibitors will be Lake, McHenry and Cook County 4-H and FFA



members. This is a great opportunity to see and watch the youth of our counties showcase their hard work and dedication. Be sure to visit the Farm Bureau's "Ask a Farmer" booth to learn more about the different animals and animal care. The show will begin at 9 a.m.

Gracias THANK YOU Gratiſied

The Gratitude Box

Each month, there are people that go out of their way to lend a hand to help with our cause in many ways, big and small. We appreciate it greatly!

This month, the Cook County Farm Bureau thanks...

- The Chicago North Country Financial Agency, led by Manager Vicki Nygren, for the great bowling/pizza party celebration in recognition of winning the "Tipping the Scale" Award competition as a part of the Food Checkout Day benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities®.
- Big John's Greenhouse and Farms for hosting the Spring Planter Workshop for 20 members.
- Ray's Quality Greenhouse for hosting the Summer Entertaining Container workshop for 13 members.
- Our amazing AITC presenters for their dedication to the students of Cook County through wind, rain, snow, traffic and often, a lack of parking. You have shared the world of agriculture with a whole new group of children and we thank you.
- Country Financial Representative, Martha Dominguez, for bringing pizzas in to the Farm Bureau for lunch!
- Country Financial Reps Mike Spadoni, Gwen Shaw, and Alonzo Nevarez for their top 3 finish in total member recruitment during our March/April membership focus.
- Congratulations to CCFB Employee Melanie Paffumi on her 10yr anniversary. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Gratitude Appreciative Thanks Gratiſied

Recognition Appreciative Gratitude

Gracias THANK YOU

The "Co-Operator", the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®, is available to members through mail delivery, email, or by viewing online at www.cookcfb.org. Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to membershplinda@cookcfb.org with the subject: E-Cooperator.

Co-Operator

published monthly
Cook County Farm Bureau
6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
(ph) 708-354-3276 (fax) 708-579-6056
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USPS No 132180 Periodical Postage Paid at LaGrange, IL 60525 & additional mailing office

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Postmaster - Mail Form 3579 to 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
"Co-Operator" (USPS No 132180) is published monthly as a membership publication for \$2.50 per year to members as a part of their annual membership dues by Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Periodical postage paid at LaGrange, IL and additional mailing office. Postmaster: send address changes to the Co-Operator, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.



Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

“Hamburger Please”

You know how some kids will only order a hamburger from the menu no matter how great, broad and specialized the choices are? Yeah, that was me. Seafood, Italian, Mexican...it did not matter: “I would like a hamburger with French Fries, please.” I can remember how frustrated my Grandma and Grandpa were when they took me at age 12 to a fish fry and I insisted on ordering a hamburger instead of fish no matter how much they cajoled me.

A hamburger is still my go to comfort food. However, over the years, I have become a bit uppity in my hamburger preferences... My burger should be “loosely packed and formed” weighing in at 1/2 pound, cooked medium. However, please know that I will still gladly “choke down” a preformed, stamped, over-cooked, mass-produced burger with great gusto!

In the 2006 remake of the Pink Panther movie, Inspector Jacques Clouseau, the “allegedly” inept French detective played by Steve Martin, heads to New York in pursuit of the Pink Panther diamond thief. In an effort to not arouse suspicion with other New Yorkers, he trains with the greatest accent coach in the world to speak with a “flourish American accent”. There is a scene in which the American language trainer tries to teach Clouseau how to say, “I would like to buy you a hamburger”. Out of Clouseau’s mouth come the words Hambagger, Dambager, Hummmmbgrr, Ambergar, Dimburger and other variations but not an understandable “hamburger”.

Finally, in New York, Clouseau and his assistant Ponton, stopped at a McDonald’s. Ponton asks Clouseau “Have you ever had a hamburger,” and Clouseau responds, “It’s a disgusting American food”. He then takes his first hamburger bite and enters into a dream-like hamburger sensual food bliss (I’ve been there!). On his return trip, Inspector Clouseau, attempts to smuggle hamburgers out of the United States back to France but is arrested going through Customs because he can’t pronounce what was in his pockets (hamburgers).

Comedy fiction (minus the burger smuggling) has become reality in the country of France.

Last year, for the first time ever, the French purchased more hamburgers than its traditional French fast food staple, the Jambon-beurre sandwich (ham and butter sandwich), according to an article in Forbes magazine (written in English). I tried to read the actual report online published by the French consulting company Gira Conseil but it was written in French...the nerve.

Despite its lack of gourmet sophistication, the hamburger has become France’s preferred fast food cuisine with 1.46 billion hamburgers sold last year alone. Hamburgers of all varieties now appear on 85 % of French restaurant menus. And, only 30% of the burgers that were sold last year were sold through fast food outlets with the other 70% coming to diners through traditional sit down restaurants. And French citizens across the country are taking American language lessons so they

can properly pronounce the word “hamburger” to place their order (not according to Forbes).

My preferred burger toppings are cheese, dill pickles, crispy lettuce, a slice of fresh and juicy tomato, a slab of very crispy bacon, a dab of catsup and a touch of mustard. Grilled onions and mushrooms work sometimes. Not making the cut are artichoke hearts, pickled beets, hummus, olives, arugula (might as well put dandelion leaves on the burger), mangoes, peanut butter and jelly or the avocado slices that I’ve seen recently. So, what might the French, with their “upgraded palate”, use to top a burger? Here is my best guess how that food order may sound using a horribly fake, French accent...

Monsieur...What would you like on your burger?

I would like Fondue instead of cheddar and add some pan-fried foie gras. Substitute the blood sausage for the bacon...oh and add some steamed escargot with drawn garlic butter.

And, may I have it on a baguette instead of the sesame seed bun?

Thank you, Monsieur. How would you like your burger cooked?

I prefer it beef tartare style and a side order of French fries and a bowl of French Onion soup.

And a Coke to drink?

Non...a French Red Bordeaux wine, S’il vous plaît.

OUI! OUI!

Bob can be reached at brohrer@cookcfb.org.



Congratulations to financial representatives from the Chicago North Country Financial Agency! This agency won the “Tipping the Scales” contest by contributing food and cash donations to this year’s Food Checkout Day. Pictured left to right: Country Rep Todd Nauman, Bona Heinsohn CCFB, Bob Rohrer CCFB, Kelly Evans Ronald Mc Donald House, Rep Kamila Rosinska, Rep Devontae Beale, Rep Robert Barron, Rep Matt Whitsett, Country Manager Vicki Nygren, Rep Afnan Rahman, Rep Marco Solana, Rep Mike Basile, and Rep Chris Quigley.



The summer issue of Illinois Farm Bureau Partners magazine should have arrived in your mailbox. Be sure to check out the various farm feel-good articles, fun facts about female farmers, great places to see in Illinois, barn weddings, local food facts, recipes, nutritional information, gardening tips, financial information, and the special Cook County Farm Bureau Page. More information, articles, and past issues are available at www.ilfbpartners.com

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Your Chicago South Agency

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From the Farm Desk...

URBAN FARM TAX CREDIT MOVES... (NPR Illinois)– The Illinois House has voted to allow tax breaks for those who take vacant land and use it for urban farming, with the hope of boosting the economy in the state’s low-income areas. Democrat Sonya Harper, Chicago, proposed the bill and said it also would help alleviate food deserts.

PROPANE INCENTIVES OFFERED (FarmWeek) - Thinking about buying new propane-powered farm equipment? Consider applying for the 2018 Propane Farm Incentive Program provided by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC). The national program is a research and demonstration initiative offering farmers up to \$5,000 in financial incentives toward the purchase of new propane-powered farm equipment. In exchange, farmers selected to receive incentives provide feedback and real-world performance data to PERC. Qualifying equipment includes generators, pumps, water heating systems, poultry/swine/greenhouse heaters and flame weed-control systems. To learn more and apply, visit propane.com/farmincentive.

AUSSIE VINE BOOSTS SOY YIELD (FarmWeek) - An Australian perennial vine may boost soybean yields. University of Illinois crop scientists are studying Glycine tomentella, a distant relative of soybeans. U of I’s Randall Nelson found soybean yields increased 3.5 to 7 bushels per acre when crossed with the vine. The process of getting Glycine tomentella genes into soybean is highly complex.

TACKLING FARM RUNOFF (Civil Eats) – Civil Eats investigates how farmers and lawmakers across rural America are getting serious about preventing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff. Part of a year-long series about the underreported agriculture stories in rural communities, the story tackles cover crops, tillage practices and government programs aimed at helping farmers voluntarily reduce runoff.

PRAIRIE BOUNTY DIRECTORY UPDATED (FarmWeekNow) - The latest version of Prairie Bounty of Illinois, a directory of direct-from-the-farm sellers, farmers’ markets and agritourism businesses, is available at <http://www.specialtygrowers.org/prairie-bounty.html>

Provided by Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, the directory contains contact information and locations for more than 900 individual Illinois growers of fruits, vegetables and herbs. The directory also contains contact information, products available, method of sale and a complete list of all community farmers markets and agritourism businesses in Illinois.

Growers interested in adding their names and businesses to Prairie Bounty of Illinois may contact Raghela Scavuzzo at 309-557-2107 or email Rscavuzzo@ilfb.org or register at specialtygrowers.org

FARMERS’ SHARE OF FOOD DOLLAR DIPS (Washington Post)– For every dollar consumers spend on food, only 7.8 cents goes to farmers – a record low according to the USDA. The drop comes as consumers shift from preparing most of their meals at home to buying more meals at restaurants, as well as buying more processed and prepared foods.

About From the Farm Desk: There are a lot of farm related news items that cross the Editor’s desk to share with area farmers and farm supporters. This collection of news briefs is gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep farmer members and leaders up to date. The articles are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions.

Let’s Talk About the Food on YOUR Table ...

July 14, 2018

Join us for a traveling exploration of and conversation about today’s farms.



- Interact with local farmers
- Ask your questions about modern farming practices
- Discover how technology impacts sustainability

Trip Details

- Meet at Cook County Farm Bureau and travel via motorcoach to the Stuenkel & Zeldenrust farms
- Registration fee of \$15 per person includes lunch
- Tour departs at 9:15 a.m. and returns at 2:30 p.m.
- Open to ages 12 and up.

Agenda

9:15 a.m. Depart
10:00 a.m. Stuenkel Family Farms
11:15 a.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Zeldenrust Farm Market
2:30 p.m. Return



Reserve your seat by July 5 by calling the Cook County Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276 or register online through the Member Center at cookcfc.org.

Registration deadline is July 5...Space is limited!

Meet a “Face” of the Cook County Farm Bureau®

Each month we are highlighting a Cook County Farm Bureau Board Member. This month’s “Face of CCFB” is ...

Beth Christian

- Elected to the Cook County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 2016.
- Part of the Ag Literacy team for eight years and active in educating students during Ag Days and other public outreach programs.
- Teach Special Education and Early Childhood.
- Love hatching chicks in Cook County schools as part of agricultural literacy.
- Grew up on a farm between Princeton and Walnut, IL.
- PhD in Early Childhood Education Development .
- A proud mother of three children and enjoy outdoor adventures.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?
On cold nights, My horse Patty would be in the barn with every cat around, piled up on her back, and my golden retriever would lay under her. I think one of the best lessons as a kid was observing how animals rely on one another.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?
One time there was a pig born that wasn't completely developed. My dad was able to do a minor surgical adjustment and correct what the pig lacked. Grunt became my pig, and was very tame. Grunt would get into my mother’s flowers and made a game for listening to her footsteps and scurrying off grunting to get away. As kids we would wait and just laugh.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?
Horse Breath

WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU?

I am thrilled to see so many new affiliates from different industries connected to Farm Bureau. I am constantly reminded of the joys of learning, laughing, and the opportunities we are given to create things that will continue to serve through sustainability.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Planting and harvest were really neat times, growing up on a farm in Bureau County. Everyone’s schedule was thrown out the door, and life revolved solely around planting and harvest for weeks.

Hot Issues in Agriculture... US Agriculture Loses in a Trade War

In April, President Donald Trump’s threats to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum and other Chinese imports resulted in a retaliatory response from China. Many United States farmers and ranchers that produce corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cattle, hogs, chicken, dairy products, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, wine, orange juice, sorghum and a host of other value-added products are alarmed and concerned about the threatened tariff trade war.

In April, China responded to the US steel and aluminum tariffs with proposed tariffs on US product lines, most of which are agricultural in nature (the remainder related primarily to steel and aluminum). The Chinese tariffs fall into two categories...

15%: fresh/dried fruit, tree nuts, wine, orange juice, etc.

25%: pork, soybeans, sorghum, cotton, corn, wheat, beef, etc.

China is a nearly \$200 billion importer of US farm and ranch agricultural products. Soybeans and cotton are the state’s top two ag product exports to China.

Following the President’s tariff announcements and the Chinese retaliation announcements, Illinois farmers sent over 6,000

messages to the White House and Capitol Hill calling attention to the economic and market impact that a trade war would have (and was already having) on the farm. The farmers’ message shared that the proposed tariffs come at the worst possible time as the farm economy has flourished in recent years.

Tariffs increase the cost of products provided by US farmers and ranchers and cause other countries to seek suppliers from other countries in the world. This reduced demand in the United States with increased supply has a downward pressure effect on market prices that farmers receive and has a ripple effect that moves through other farm supply, transportation and production companies in rural areas.

In addition, farmers know that many years go into the building of a consistent and dependable market export demand. Past trade wars have taught the farm sector that markets are quick to disappear and slow to return.

There has been no date set for when the tariffs from either country will go into effect in 2018. We call upon members to continue to communicate to President Trump, the US Trade Representative and members of Congress to end this trade war.

Types of Farm Bureau® Memberships

The Cook County Farm Bureau®, born in 1920, is a 501c5 not-for-profit membership organization that serves to improve farming and agriculture for its members.

The CCFB features three main membership classifications:

- M (Farmer Member) - for individuals that are farming and earned \$2,500 or more annually. This classification is for individuals earning income from farming or from farm ownership. Farmer Members have full voting rights, are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors locally and statewide, and can serve as an officer on the board or and a delegate to the state annual meeting. This individual receives the publications FarmWeek, Partners and The Co-Operator.
- PM (Professional Member) - for individuals that are employed in the field of agriculture. The PM member has voting rights, is eligible to serve on the local Board of Directors and as an officer of the CCFB and can represent the

organization as a delegate at the state annual meeting. The PM should have a passion for agriculture and farming and be seeking a strong industry in the Cook County area. This individual is eligible to receive the publication FarmWeek and Partners and the Co-Operator.

- A (Associate Member) - for individuals seeking to support the efforts of the Farm Bureau and to access the benefits and services offered through the organization. This individual receives Partners and The Co-Operator.

The Cook County Farm Bureau would like to encourage any Associate member who farms or is employed in an agricultural related field and has a strong interest in the future of agriculture to consider applying for the Farmer Member or the Professional Membership classification. Please contact the Member Service Center at the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email us at ccfb@cookcfc.org for more information.

Farm Bureau Continues to Weigh In on Solar Project Guidelines



With the increase in the interest and activity related to solar projects in Illinois, there is greater scrutiny regarding the state and local government guidelines and regulations for siting these projects. The Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has been active during the recent General Assembly session in working with various solar interest groups and companies in developing state language for guiding the placement of these projects. IFB also provided language for county units of government related to zoning for those entities seeking additional assurances. The following language is recommended by the Illinois Farm Bureau...

1) As a condition of receiving a permit from County, the company must pay the cost of hiring an Illinois registered professional engineer to provide a certified estimate of decommissioning costs, exclusive of any salvage value. The company will provide decommissioning security financing in the amount determined by the engineer. Security financing must be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit or a cash escrow, unless the county board, in its sole discretion, agrees to accept a performance bond. The decommissioning cost estimate will be reviewed and revised when needed, but estimate review must occur at least every ten years.

2) The company must provide an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement signed by the company and the Illinois Department of Agriculture prior to the issuance of a permit to construct from the county, and must certify that it will comply with all of the terms of the Agreement. Nothing in the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement will preclude the County from establishing any standards that exceed those contained in the Agreement.

IFB continues to encourage members who receive contacts from various solar farm companies inquiring about leasing property to create solar energy systems to seek quality legal advice. There are many questions to address before a landowner enters into an agreement with a solar company including lease/easements, future land uses, property description, agreement terms, renewal terms, company bankruptcy, termination, confidentiality, property tax payments, restoration of the land (AIMA on file with the IDOA?), decommissioning procedures and local requirements, dust, hunting, trees/shade, etc. There is no substitute for careful and exhaustive review of every term with trusted advisors.

The Illinois Farm Bureau's state legislative priorities include implementing statewide standards for commercial solar energy conversion systems that protect public health and safety, protect private property rights, and allow for reasonable development of projects and support legislation establishing a statewide standard for assessing commercial solar energy conversion systems for property tax purposes.

“From the Country”

Summertime Activities: Are You Covered?



Cary Tate, Country Financial Agency Manager
Orland Park Agency

As summer approaches, take a minute to make sure you have sufficient insurance coverage in case an accident happens.

Did you know that if your vehicle is insured under an auto policy and you pull your trailer or camper to a campsite for temporary vacation use, your vehicle liability insurance may provide liability coverage?

However, if you plan to leave your trailer or camper at a campsite, you should see your financial representative to make sure you have the additional coverage needed for ample protection.

Before you hit the water, you may want to check to see if your boat has the right coverage. For example, boats with inboard motors require a different coverage than boats with an outboard motor.

You will need additional coverage if your boat has an inboard or inboard-outboard motor of more than 50 horsepower, if it's 26 feet or more in length, or if it's powered by one or more outboard motors totaling more than 25 horsepower.

Vacations are a time to relax, not a time to worry about whether or not you have adequate insurance.

When you make your list of things to do before you leave, put your financial representative's name on that list. Most times a phone call is all it takes to give you the peace of mind you need to help you really enjoy your vacation. Contact a COUNTRY Financial representative for an insurance and financial review to ensure you have adequate coverage.

Cary can be reached at Cary.tate@countryfinancial.com.

Edible Flower Fast Facts

On Saturday, April 28, CCFB had a very nice planter workshop at Ray's Quality Greenhouse in Steger. A portion of the program related to edible flowers; check out some of the information and fun facts that were shared during the workshop:

- Nasturtiums are originally from Peru, where the leaves, as well as the flowers, were eaten by Incas.
- People have been cooking with flowers for centuries, but the concept became especially popular in Victorian times. Crystallizing or candying flowers to make decorative sweet treats was especially popular.
- The Aztecs used marigolds in their religious ceremonies and as a medicine to treat hiccups.
- When we eat a head of broccoli, we are actually eating the plant's flower buds.
- Not all flowers are edible! Some are poisonous, including common garden flowers like datura and foxglove.
- In most cases, eat only the petals. Avoid eating the pistils and stamens, which are often bitter and may contain pollen that can trigger allergic reactions.

Source: kidsgardening.org

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Your South Holland Agency



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Agency Manager
708-560-7777



Andrew Carrell
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Gary Molenhouse
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Pat Hickey
Worth
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Tim Winters
Worth
708-480-5094



Josh Van Namen
Worth
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Jim Pathemore
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Tim Perchinski
Steger
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Bob Smith
Homewood
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Paul Turay
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Mike Burton
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708-560-7777

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Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

Ag Lit Bit: Local food is here!

By Diane Merrion



Classrooms talk about it, newspapers write about it and grocery stores feature it: Locally grown food. What is the definition of locally grown? It depends on where you google or who you ask. Here are some definitions of the term I received from several people I asked: *“Those crops produced by farmers in that area or neighboring city”*, *“Grown within a certain distance of where the item(s) are sold”*, *“It’s a marketing must. Positive, current”*, *“Your neighborhood farm”*, *“Farmer Markets (farm stands)”*, *“Anything grown within 100 miles of where I am.”*

I was in several classrooms last month and the students’ answers to that question ranged from *“food grown up to one mile away”* to *“food grown within the United States.”* There was no consistent answer except the students said that we should eat locally grown foods. I had some sweet corn with me, and the students agreed that it was a good example of locally grown food. *“Where could you grow sweet corn around here and pick it in May?”* I asked.

We talked about many foods that previously weren’t being produced here in the winter but are now through hydroponics, aquaponics and vertical gardening. Farmers are producing locally grown lettuce, microgreens, tomatoes and more

due to new techniques of growing food. It’s becoming more feasible to eat only locally grown food any time of the year, but especially fall and summer with the explosion of farmers’ markets.

Throughout the various programs we do as part of Ag in the Classroom it is amazing to hear the questions students are asking these days and how curious they are about farming and food. There’s never been a more important time to educate them about the production, processing and distribution of food and there have never been more opinions on that topic as there are in today’s classrooms. As we wrap up another outstanding year of classroom presentations, the questions on the minds of children have never been more consistent with the questions their parents and all families are asking about food.

So, what is the definition of locally grown? As you can surmise, it depends on who you ask. Ask a farmer this summer and read your food labels. I encourage you to keep asking and hope the students in the classrooms next year keep asking and bringing more questions. That’s what keeps things interesting and grows our curiosity to learn more. To read more on this topic, check out <http://www.ilfb.org/resources/consumer-resources/hidden-food-miles-and-local-food.aspx>.

Diane can be reached at AITC@cookcfb.org.



Students from the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences (CHAS) joined our Ag in the Classroom Program while Mrs. Linda Dunn was presenting to 4th grade students at Most Holy Redeemer School in Evergreen Park. During the first presentation, they observed the one-hour program and then co-taught the next session including leading a farm-to-table activity and a grain matching game. Pictured here are Mrs. Dunn, junior students Maggie Dennehy, Cecilia Solis, Amy Sundquist, and senior Tess McKenna. All hope to major in education and/or agriculture careers and are currently in the Animal Science Pathway at the high school. CHAS provides all of their junior and senior students with job shadow experiences each school year in order to expose their students to the opportunities that exist in the agriculture sector.



One of our final customized school presentations took place at Old Quarry Middle School in Lemont, IL. Sixth Grade Science classes attended one-hour sessions to learn about plant structure and function through hands-on agriculture learning activities. The sessions started with a game teaching them about crops including corn, soybeans and cotton and then moved into an ag science lab (shown here). The students studied five different substances, and through observation and experimentation, they tried to determine each ag commodity and its uses and origin. Our thanks to the teachers at Old Quarry for including agriculture in their curriculum.

Meet our Summer Intern



On May 17, we welcomed our Summer 2018 intern, Kirsten Raver. CCFB is very excited to welcome her to our farm bureau

where she will focus on the Ag in the Classroom program and related outreach efforts with youth and adults in Cook County this summer. You will get to know Kirsten through The Co-Operator as she shares her experiences in ag literacy. We’ll let Kirsten introduce herself:

“Currently I just finished my junior year as a student in the college of ACES at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign. In this program, my concentration has been agricultural science education. Coming from the western suburbs of Chicago, my school did not offer agricultural programs. Having spent time on farms with an

interest in the equestrian field, my family eventually ended up owning a small farm. Through additional family dynamics, I had the opportunity to learn about the areas of crop science, corn and beans to be specific.

With so little information on such a fascinating part of our American culture, it became an area of great interest to me. I believe that it is important for students of all areas to have a basic knowledge of what it is to bring the field to the table in our country. In addition, the agriculture environment of something as simple as corn feeds livestock, is exported to more than 100 countries, is found in medicine, fuel and food, and is used in industries such as lubricants, textile and paper products. And that is just corn! It is my desire to let our future generations be aware of how important our agriculture truly is.”

“Be Bold” Conference Brings Students Together



Three hundred Illinois FFA members from 78 counties across the state participated in the 2018 Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Conference “Be Bold” April 16-17 in East Peoria. The Cook County Farm Bureau® Foundation funded two students and one teacher from John Marshall Academy in Chicago. Attendees, who are juniors in high school, gained

leadership, teamwork and communication skills through five different breakout sessions and keynote speakers Keith “Doc” Patterson and Amberley Snyder. The conference Opportunity Fair offered students the chance to network with nearly 20 different colleges, universities and agricultural organizations. The conference is coordinated by the Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Education Committee and sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau, GROWMARK, Inc., COUNTRY Financial, the IAA Credit Union and Prairie Farms.

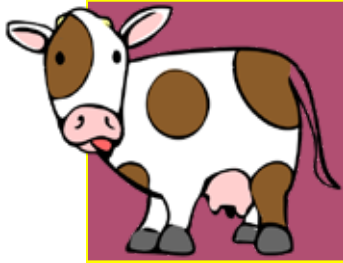
2018 “Agriculture in Your Day” Themed Bookmark Contest Winners



Thank you to all of the children of Cook County who entered our “Agriculture in Your Day” bookmark contest this year. Some entries came from schools and others from individuals; all of them showed just how much children understand the importance of agriculture. It was a tough choice with over 150 entries! The winner of the contest was KaLiah D. from South Holland, who will be awarded a \$25 Amazon gift card. The runner-up winners were Brooke A., Genevieve L., and Heaven R. who will each receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. Congratulations to all! The bookmarks will be given out during our summer library programming (see schedule on this page) and to all 4th grade students who receive Ag in the Classroom Programming next year at their school.



At left is the winning bookmark; above (left to right) are Runners Up One, Two, and Three.



AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

June is National Dairy Month and celebrations will take place all over Illinois. If you are looking for a local event in Cook County, check out the Dairy Breakfast and Stock Show at Wagner Farm in Glenview. It will be held on June 9th from 8-1:00 pm. For more information visit <http://www.glenviewparks.org/event/dairy-breakfast/>



As we celebrate Illinois' Bicentennial and connections to agriculture, there is a BIG example of the importance of dairy to our state that is displayed at every Illinois State Fair. The Illinois State Fair Butter Cow is created by artists every year and proudly displayed at the fair. Last year's cow was designed by artists Sarah and Andy Pratt and showed two cows in the exhibit featuring nine hidden hearts that represent the nine essential nutrients in milk. "The Butter Cow is one of the most photographed and most visited attractions of the Illinois State Fair," states Illinois Agriculture Director Raymond Poe. "For more than 90 years, fairgoers have looked forward to this buttery bovine creation. We are extremely proud of our partnership with the Midwest Dairy Association, which allows us to keep this long-standing tradition alive at the Illinois State Fair, and we cannot wait to see what they have in store for this year's sculpture."

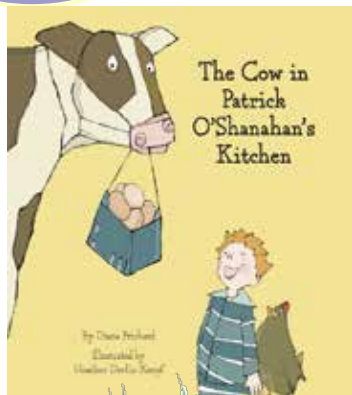
Source: www.week.com/story/2017-illinois-state-fair-butter-cow-unveiled

Dairy Cow Facts

1. Did you know only females should be called cows? Males are called bulls. A cow begins giving milk once she delivers her first calf at about two years of age.
2. In the U.S., there are seven different dairy cow breeds, including Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Milking Shorthorn and Red and White Holstein.
3. A cow's weight can vary between 1,000 to 1,800 pounds depending on the breed. The average dairy cow weighs between 1,300 and 1,500 pounds.
4. Have you ever noticed that a cow always seems to be chewing something? Dairy cattle are ruminant animals with one stomach that has four compartments. This means a cow can swallow its food and then brings it back up again to continue chewing it.
5. A dairy cow will eat about 100 pounds of nutritious feed and drink about between 30 and 50 gallons of water each day.
6. A single dairy cow will produce 6 to 8 gallons of milk per day. That is about 90 glasses of milk a day!

Source: www.midwestdairy.com

If you are looking for a fun book to read this month, grab a copy of *The Cow in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen*. Written by Midwest author, Diana Prichard the story follows a young boy and his father who prepare breakfast together while learning the origins of the food they are using. Think of a hen in the refrigerator (eggs) and a cow in the kitchen (milk). A fun look at where some foods come from on the farm.



Dairy Words You Should Know

(match words to definition)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1) Calcium | A. The process of heating milk to 106°F or above for 15 seconds, followed by rapid cooling, to destroy bacteria and keep milk safe and wholesome. |
| 2) Homogenization | B. A young cow, between birth and 2 years old that has not yet given birth to calf. |
| 3) Ruminant | C. Elements found in food necessary for healthy body functioning. |
| 4) Pasteurization | D. A substance that helps build and repair muscles and serves as a source of energy. |
| 5) Nutrients | E. An animal doctor that helps farmers assure the health and wellness of their cows. |
| 6) Heifer | F. The process of breaking down the fat globules in milk so they stay together rather than separating. |
| 7) 48 Hours | G. A mineral that builds strong bones and teeth. |
| 8) Protein | H. An animal, like a cow or sheep, that has more than one stomach and that swallows food and then brings it back up again to continue chewing it. |
| 9) Veterinarian | I. About how long it takes for milk to get from your local dairy farm to your grocery store's dairy case. |

Answers: 1)G 2)F 3)H 4)A 5)C 6)B 7)I 8)D 9)E



Choose your prize: Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets

*AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

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

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau
Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd
Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBCooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2018 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!



Dave Jerbi

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!

June Word Search

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

Calcium
Dairy
Holstein
Milk
Protein
Veterinarian
Calf
Guernsey

Homogenization
Nutrients
Ruminant
Cow
Heifer
Jersey
Pasteurization
State Fair

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Membership #: _____

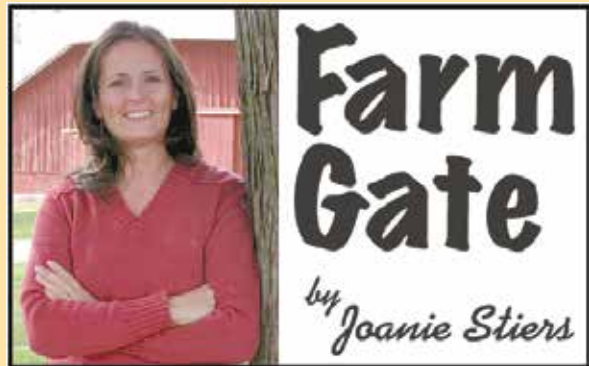
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

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.



Sometimes Big Jobs Fill Small Windows

On hectic days, I humor myself with thoughts to add a lengthy extension cord to my hair dryer. That way, I can multi-task and trash a few more sticky-note reminders of things that need to be done. Rather, I dry my hair and resort to prioritization of the to-do list, a difficult task when everything ranks of equal importance.

Welcome to this spring's situation on the farm, where spring planting and related field work all happen at once in a short time due to unfavorable weather. Mother Nature delivered an abnormally cool March and then the second-coldest April on state record. She also tossed in snow for three Sundays in a row, Palm Sunday and Easter included. The result: Easter egg hunts inside the farm shop and no spraying, fertilizing, planting, gardening, mowing and little fertilizer application before late April.

On top of that, the weather prompted grass to stay dormant longer than normal. With no grass to eat, cattle needed hay, which led to a forage shortage and high hay prices throughout the area. Calves kept coming, one of our few signs of spring. And despite the season's lingering cool and wet field conditions, our guys avoided thumb-twiddling. They cleaned out some old farm buildings and even brought the combine into the shop for harvest maintenance before we planted a single seed for the season.

When field conditions warmed and dried in late April, farmers across Illinois collectively showcased an impressive performance of preparedness and efficiency. Farming's springtime to-dos happened fast and efficiently in a condensed window of time. Bigger, high-tech equipment deserves some of the credit, as does farmer ambition. When the weather turned, our corn and soybean planters started at the same time, my cousin supplied seed to both, our most tenured employee ran a reduced-tillage tool across some of our acreage, and my dad sprayed with limited help for water and herbicide refills.

The condensed schedule inundated the local FS service center for "need-it-now" fertilizer and herbicide applications. It overwhelmed local service technicians with more machinery breakdowns than men available to fix them. Local dealers kept a hectic pace with demands for seed. And my husband worked with his team of precision farming specialists to keep the season's field applications straight, accurate and working as they should from a technology standpoint.

What a speedy spring. Just like the rest of farm country, our guys worked in all directions during this overly hectic season, perhaps most evident to my mom as she delivered nightly field meals. And she somehow managed it all without an extension cord.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from West-Central Illinois where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.



Family Farm and Food Bytes



A display comparing modern sweet corn with corncobs found in the Cahokia Mounds is among the agricultural representation in a new virtual exhibition prepared for the Illinois Bicentennial celebration. (Photo courtesy of Illinois State Museum)

VIRTUAL MUSEUM TO TELL 'STORY OF ILLINOIS' THROUGH 13.5 MILLION OBJECTS (FarmWeek) -

In 200 years, a state accumulates many stories to tell. That's where the "Story of Illinois" comes in. It's a joint project between the Illinois State Museum and the Illinois Association of Museums. Among those artifacts are some agricultural highlights, including a moldboard plow and a display comparing corncobs found in the Cahokia Mounds with modern sweet corn.

The digital "Story of Illinois" can be accessed at story.illinoisstatemuseum.org. The Illinois State Museum in Springfield will also host a special exhibit honoring the state's bicentennial. The exhibit, "Bicentennial and Beyond: The Illinois Legacy Collection," will open June 30.

USDA TO STUDY HONEYBEE DISEASE CONTROLS (FarmWeekNow) - USDA Agricultural Research Service entomologists will lead a \$1 million international research project to find new controls for honeybees' no. 1 problem – varroa mites. Researchers will screen chemicals for their ability to control the mites with minimal damage to individual bees and colonies.



Chicken fingers fried in high oleic soybean oil hold less oil and more moisture, according to chefs. To meet increased demand, soybean growers set a goal to plant 18 million acres of the beans by 2025. (Photo courtesy of the American Soybean Association)

FOOD PROFESSIONALS PREFER HIGH OLEIC SOY OIL (FarmWeekNow) -

Chicken fingers fried in high oleic soybean oil hold less oil and more moisture, according to chefs. To meet increased demand, soybean growers set a goal to plant 18 million acres of the beans by 2025. (Photo courtesy of the American Soybean Association)

From fair food to fine dining and from frying to baking, high oleic soybean oil provides a proven trans-fat-free solution.

Food industry experts value its benefits as an edible oil that fits diverse applications. They observe that cooking in high oleic soybean oil provides better texture and taste for a wide variety of foods. Currently, the biggest barrier to widespread adoption of high oleic soybean oil in the food industry is availability. Chefs, cooks, bakers and food manufacturers are eager to use it, but need assurance that supply is adequate to warrant switching.

To meet projected needs, the American Soybean Association has set a goal of 18 million acres of high oleic soybeans planted by 2025. In addition to taste and health value, high oleic soybean oil has demonstrated high-heat stability, extended shelf and fry life and lower maintenance characteristics.

TRUCKERS FAVOR BIODIESEL OVER OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUELS (FarmWeekNow) - Biodiesel ranks as the most popular alternative fuel option on the market, according to a survey by The Association for the Work Truck Industry.

Biodiesel was followed by E85, CNG and Electric Hybrid. Survey data showed 18 percent of fleet participants use biodiesel – up from 15 percent in 2017. And in terms of future alternative fuel interest, biodiesel also takes top honors, with more fleets planning to acquire or continue using biodiesel than any other alternative fuel option.

RESEARCHERS RACE TO FIND NEW CORN USES (FarmWeekNow) - Consider Corn Challenge, a promotion put on by the National Corn Growers Association, made it worthwhile for researchers and engineers to find new ways of using an old crop. A prize pool of \$150,000 was on the line. Six prizes of \$25,000 apiece were handed out recently.

Some of the winning entries included:

- New corn-based chemicals that can be used to make soda bottles
- New uses for monoethylene glycol, a chemical whose current applications range from plastics to adhesives to antifreeze and more
- New ways to produce aromatic chemicals, which are used in solvents

TIRES COULD BE A DEMAND DRIVER FOR SOY (FarmWeek) - What does soybean oil have in common with volcanic ash and Kevlar? They're all materials Goodyear uses in some of its tires. Goodyear worked with the United Soybean Board to use soybean oil as a replacement for some of the petroleum in its Assurance WeatherReady and Eagle Enforcer All Weather tire lines. The breakthrough earned Goodyear an Environmental Achievement of the Year award from a global trade group recently.

ADM OPENS BIOBASED PLASTICS PLANT IN DECATUR (FarmWeek). DuPont Industrial Biosciences and Archer Daniels Midland Company have opened the world's first bio-based pilot production facility in Decatur IL to make plastics from fructose. Furan dicarboxylic methyl ester (FDME) is a molecule derived from fructose that can be used to create a variety of bio-based chemicals and materials, including plastics, that are ultimately more cost-effective, efficient and sustainable than their fossil fuel-based counterparts. One of the first FDME-based polymers under development by DuPont is polytrimethylene furandicarboxylate (PTF), a novel polyester also made from DuPont's proprietary Bio-PDO™ (1,3-propanediol). PTF is a 100 percent renewable polymer that, in bottling applications, can be used to create plastic bottles that are lighter weight, more sustainable and better performing.

About Farm and Food Bytes: This article is a collection of articles gathered from both mainstream and agriculture media and is designed to keep you informed as a member and leader within the Cook County Farm Bureau organization. The articles summed up above are not intended to represent Cook County Farm Bureau policy or positions, but rather to provide members an idea of what is being reported regionally, nationally and globally.

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Members “ACT” on Behalf of Farm Bureau

Every day, politicians and regulators make decisions that impact the way farmers and small businesses operate. Despite these changes, individuals still have a voice in Washington, Springfield, and in their own backyards through Farm Bureau’s Agricultural Contact Team (FB ACT).

Sixteen Cook County Farm Bureau® members have responded to over 90 percent of action requests since September, those members are:

- Dan Biernacki, board member
- Karen Biernacki
- James Bloomstrand, board member
- Kathy Bloomstrand
- Beth Christian, board member

- Roger Freeman, board member
- Cindy Gustafson
- James Gutzmer, board member
- Bona Heinsohn, staff
- Patrick Horcher, Governmental Affairs Committee chair
- Gerry Kopping, board member
- Janet McCabe, board member
- Kim Morton
- Robert Rohrer, staff
- Tim Stuenkel, board member
- Ruth Zeldenrust, board member

A tremendous thank you to everyone who has contacted their legislators about a Farm Bureau issue. If you’re interested in learning more about FB ACT please visit www.cookcfb.org or contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276.

Farm Bureau Priority Issue Advances

Senate Bill 486, Amendment #1, establishes a standardized method of assessing commercial solar energy systems for property tax purposes. Farm Bureau policy supports a standard method of assessing solar energy systems and supports providing protection for landowners should a solar conversion system owner fail to pay property taxes.

Farm Bureau reached an

agreement with representatives of the solar energy developers, county assessors, and other interested parties on the technical aspects of the assessment process. An amendment was filed on Senate Bill 486 that represents the agreement.

Senate Bill 486, as amended, passed the Senate with 51 yes and 0 no votes. It’s now in the House.



Bona Heinsohn, CAE, Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations at CCFB spoke with WTTW Channel 11 regarding the trade situation with China and the possibility of a 25% tariff on Chinese soybean imports.



Cook County Farm Bureau (Janet McCabe, Tim Stuenkel and Bona Heinsohn) joined other area County Farm Bureau leaders to meet with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency EPA Administrator in May to discuss jurisdictional concerns and water issues. Pictured left to right are Alec Messina, Director of Illinois EPA; Steve Pitstick, Kane County farmer; Cathy Stepp, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator; and Raymond Poe, Director of Agriculture.



By Bona Heinsohn

Cook County Farm Bureau® is a grassroots organization, which means that our policies,

resolutions, and decisions begin with our members. Specific to resolutions, Farm Bureau conducts the Viewpoint Survey, an annual survey sent at the beginning of the year to farmer members requesting their opinions on priority issues. This year’s survey included questions on local government consolidation, health care reform, immigration reform, and government regulations.

This year’s Viewpoint Survey was followed by a Telli-Town Hall Meeting, which is basically a large conference call. Members discussed trade, tariffs, and farm programs. Both programs seek to engage members in conversations about the issues impacting their farm or small business.

As a result of these conversations, the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Farm Bureau is working on resolutions to numerous topics, including:

Illinois rules allow staff to contact Electronic Benefits (EBT) recipients only after four requests for a replacement card in a 12-month period. Seventy percent of members believe that Illinois should implement

a program like Arizona. In which the state can contact SNAP recipients who request a replacement (EBT) card more than twice in a 12-month period.

Kelo v. New London is the landmark eminent domain case. After the Supreme Court ruled against Kelo 5-4 more than 20 states significantly changed their eminent domain laws to make eminent domain more difficult. Kelo v. New London was ultimately over New London authorizing the use of eminent domain on a little pink house overlooking the Thames River in 1997. The area was going to be revitalized after Pfizer’ invested in the area; in 2009 the project fell through. The land where Kelo’s “little pink house” once stood is now empty. Ninety-seven percent of members believe that in situations when eminent domain is used to acquire property, but that property is not used and is resold, that the original owner should have the first right of purchase at the original price.

Next, farmers wishing to market their products as “organic” should undergo a rigorous certification process including: adopting specific management practices, an extensive application process, document inspection, and site inspection by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Only the agent can issue the organic

certification.

The organic certification process is rigorous, time consuming, and expensive. Annual certification costs vary widely depending on the certifying agent, size, type, and complexity of the farm. Certification costs may range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Typically, there is an application fee, annual renewal fee, assessment on annual production or sales, and inspection fees. Farm Bureau members believe that farmers selling organic produce should be required to display the USDA certified logo and their certification number. There have been instances in the county of growers selling produce as “privately certified” at farmers markets. By displaying the USDA Certified Organic logo and their certification number, the integrity of the organic certification program is ensured.

The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) released an analysis of U.S. food date labeling. The report illustrates that date labels are poorly regulated and give little measure of food safety.

Farm Bureau members support standardized and consistent meanings for terms such as “sell by,” “use by,” and “best before.”

Next, farmers responding to the Viewpoint Survey believe that like

schools, municipalities should have uniform budgeting, accounting, and fiscal years. The Illinois Municipal Code provides the appropriation and budget process for municipalities. Provisions are especially specific regarding levying for property taxes. Under the Code, municipalities fiscal years start with the date of the last regular municipal election, but municipalities can change their fiscal year, which makes comparisons difficult. The Code is also mute on accounting practices and budgeting methods with exception of designated funds.

The final resolution supports requiring multi-township assessors checking their assessments for fairness and accuracy. The International Association of Assessing Officers, an international professional organization that develops assessment guidelines and standards, requires that assessors check their assessments- known as sales ratio studies- for fairness and accuracy. A result home values that are “outside the target range” of industry standards is regressivity- the tendency to over value lower-priced homes and undervalue more expensive properties.

Members are encouraged to contact Bona Heinsohn at 708-354-3276 or via email at bona@cookcfb.org with any comments or thoughts.

Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

MEMBER RELATIONS

360 SKY YOGA

AT



360CHICAGO.COM/360-SKY-YOGA

ENTER PROMO CODE "CCFB" FOR \$3 OFF!

360 SKY YOGA WELCOMES YOGA ENTHUSIASTS FROM ALL SKILL LEVELS TO A ONE-HOUR WEEKLY CLASS LED BY 360 CHICAGO'S PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR.



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM EVERY SATURDAY
875 N MICHIGAN AVE

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FARM BUREAU GRAND SLAM GROUP

WHITE SOX VS. MINNESOTA TWINS

Tuesday, August 21st, 2018 - 7:10 PM
Guaranteed Rate Field

SPECIALY PRICED WHITE SOX TICKETS!

Specially Priced White Sox Tickets! www.whitesox.com/fbn

On this special night the White Sox would like to offer specially priced tickets to all Farm Bureau members, their families and friends. Tickets start as low as \$13.44!

Orders will NOT be redeemed at the Guaranteed Rate Field ticket windows or the White Sox administrative offices.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH.

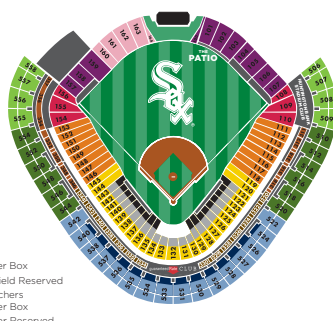
OPTIONS TO ORDER TICKETS	# OF TICKETS	TICKET PRICE	TOTAL
WEB Visit whitesox.com/fbn (Service fees will apply)		Lower Box - \$28.00 (regularly \$42.56)	
		Outfield Reserved - \$15.68 (regularly \$24.64)	
CALL (866) 769-4263 for Ticketmaster and give the "FBN" code (Service fees will apply)		Bleachers - \$13.44 (regularly \$22.40)	
		Upper Box - \$13.44 (regularly \$17.92)	
		Hot Dog Value Meal (hot dogs, chips, soda) - \$7.75	
MAIL with payment to: Chicago White Sox Sales Department ATTN: Farm Bureau GSG 333 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL 60616		Car Parking - \$20	
		Handling Fee (Applies to groups of 19 or less)	\$5
FAX with payment to: 312-674-5140		Total Enclosed	

PRICES ABOVE INCLUDE 9% CITY AND 3% STATE AMUSEMENT TAXES. ALL GAME TIMES AND PROMOTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover
 Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

OR: Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Chicago White Sox.
 (If check or money order is greater than total cost of the tickets, the difference will be made up in Comiskey Cash.)

Check # _____



Lower Box
 Outfield Reserved
 Bleachers
 Upper Box
 Upper Reserved

Cook Country 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.



Kevin Welsh

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Kevin Welsh has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 220 S. Cook St., Ste.102, Barrington, IL. His phone number is 773-248-2561. Kevin has been a Financial Representative since January 2009.



Todd Nauman

Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager
 Todd Nauman has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 1426 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-687-0443. He has been a Financial Representative since December 2016.



Matt Powell

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Matt Powell has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Ste E in Rolling Meadows, IL. His phone number is 847-934-5117. Matt has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2005.



Ibrahim Essa

Chicago Northeast Agency, Sharon Stemke, Agency Manager
 Ibrahim Essa has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 25 NW Point Blvd., Ste 850 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is 847-963-8851. Ibrahim has been a Financial Representative since January 2017.



John Doherty

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 John Doherty has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. John's office is located at 10A W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is 847-519-9922. John has been a Financial Representative since May 1992.



Faustino Ramirez

Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager
 Faustino Ramirez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. Faustino's office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL. Her phone number is 847-891-3937. Faustino has been a Financial Representative since October 2017.



Silver Castillo

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Silver Castillo has been named Chicago South Career Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-284-9000. Silver has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2015.



Alonzo Nevarez

Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager
 Alonzo Nevarez has been named Chicago South Employee Financial Representative of the month for April 2018. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL. His phone number is 773-284-9000. Alonzo has been a Financial Representative since July 2013.



Nora Beverly

Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager
 Nora Beverly has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for April 2018. Her office is located at 17605 S. Oak Park Ave., Ste. C & D, Tinley Park, IL. Her phone number is 708-429-7789. Nora has been a Financial Representative since August 2011.



Kevin Gardner

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



Tim Perchinski

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Tim Perchinski has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for April 2018. His office is located at 29 East 34th St., Steger, IL. His phone number is 708-754-7300. Tim has been a Career Financial Representative since December 2002.



Mike Burton

South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager
 Mike Burton has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for April 2018. His office is located at 4845 167th St. Unit 101, Oak Forest IL. His phone number is 708-560-7777. Mike has been an Employee Financial Representative since January 2018.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WHITESOX.COM/SPECIALEVENTS

MR

Classifieds

All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds. If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us to include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website only along with your ad. Email your ad (and photo if you have one) to FBcooperator@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your full name, Farm Bureau number, and phone number. Deadline date for Classified ads is the 17th of each month. Any ads submitted

after the 17th will appear in the following month's Co-Operator. Members may run up to four non-commercial classified ads annually for free. Any ads submitted after the fourth free, will be charged. If mailing your ad, please mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attention: Classified Ads, 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525. You can also fax your ad to 708-579-6056.

For Sale

91 pc. Mikasa china set twelve five pc. Place settings plus 7 misc. pcs. Lexington pattern (L2808). Never used, in original packaging box. Retail value \$1500 asking \$550. Call Rich at 630-222-0257.

Teeter EP970 inversion table. Used five times. Retail value \$450 asking \$350. Call Rich at 630-222-0257.

Tradesman! 28' commercial grade extension ladder Type 1A, 300lb rating. Like new condition. Retail Value \$350 asking \$275. Call Rich at 630-222-0257.

Miller Welder & Generator 200LE with cart & trailer \$375.00. Call George 847-366-4962

2 Sets tires 4-p265/70r18 Tires & Mags \$200.00 Call George 847-366-4962

4 Tires Toyo A20 2.35/55r18 100h open country like new- \$250.00 Call George 847-366-4962

46 piece Lladro collection for sale to settle estate. All excellent condition. All from the 1970's and 80's collector series. Please contact

Jim at 224-388-3252 for location.

Greenhouse buildings for sale must be dismantled and removed by July 2018. We also have Concrete garden, Religious statues, and flower pot planters left. No reasonable offer refused. For viewing call Charlie 708-707-7423.

Kling colonial solid maple bedroom set. Triple dresser with mirror, chest of drawers, 2-night stands all with glass tops, double bed frame medium brown stain, really good condition. \$500.00 Call Dale at 708-474-7757.

4 Ethan Allen tables 2-end tables, coffee table, round table all with glass tops solid maple. Medium brown stain excellent condition \$300.00 for set or will break up. Call Dale at 708-474-7757.

1950's Heilman Old style beer pitcher heavy glass \$20.00. Schlitz pewter ice chest made in Italy \$25.00, 6 beer steins \$5.00 each, Budweiser beer coasters from 1950 in original packaging .50 cents each. 3 piece brass fireplace set \$3.00, Time clock for lamp \$3.00, 6 1'ridged pipe dies new \$5.00, brass lamp and shade \$15.00. 13 deer tree stand climbing strap-on \$2.00 each. Call Allen at 708-614-8148.

2008 Kawasaki KFX50 4wheeler like new condition. \$650.00. Call John at 708-479-5203.

Wanted

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

This Month in Cook County Agriculture

There are so many farm related activities, events, workshops and gatherings occurring every month in the Cook County area. Local farm stands, farmer markets, chefs and restaurants, and organizations are hosting these functions to help people become aware of their food, fiber and plants. The Cook County Farm Bureau would like to help our various members who are hosting such functions by promoting them on a monthly basis in a new feature in The Co-Operator called... "This Month in Cook County Agriculture"

Members of the Cook County Farm Bureau, may promote their farm related activity, event, workshop, or gathering by sending an email to [membershipdebbie@](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org)

[cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org) The information must be received by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing of next month's issue of The Co-Operator. 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.

If you have questions about this way to promote your events, please contact Commodities/Marketing programming coordinator, Debbie Voltz, at 708-354-3276.

Farmers' Share of Food Dollar at Record Low

Farmers' share of the food dollar fell to 14.8 cents in 2016, the lowest level since USDA launched the Food Dollar Series in 1993.

USDA's Economic Research Service noted farmers' 2016 food dollar share fell 4.5 percent compared to the previous year. When adjusted for inflation in 2009 dollars, the farmers' food dollar share was 12.2 cents, down 11.6 percent from 2015 and again the lowest level since the series began.

For 2016, the farmers' share of food consumed at home was 23.6 cents, down 2.9 percent from the prior year. For food and beverages consumed at home, the farm share was 18.9 cents, down 3.8 percent from 2015.

The largest decline in the farm share of the food dollar was in food consumed away from home – 4.4 cents, down 10.2 percent from the prior year. The smaller share of the food dollar consumed outside of the home was attributed to costs of restaurant food service and preparation.

Farmers' share of the \$1 spent on domestically produced food represents the percentage of farm commodity sales tied to that food dollar expenditure. Nonfarm related marketing associated with the food dollar – transportation, processing, marketing, etc.—rose to a record high of 85.2 cents.

Spring Planter Workshops a Success

Donna Nykaza-Jones (below, top), owner of Ray's Quality Green house in Steger, served up delicious hibiscus cocktails; the recipe calls for plants used in the entertaining planters! Michelle and Yvonne (below, center) created beautiful planters at Ray's Quality Greenhouse on April 28th. Jen from Big John's Farm & Greenhouses co-lead the instruction for the Spring Planter Workshop, helping CCFB members, Brenda (bottom left, with Jen) and Sorie (bottom right) create beautiful planters on April 21st!



The 2018 Recipe Collection Is Here!

Recipes focus on cooking with the freshest, locally grown ingredients, submitted by Cook County Farm Bureau® members!

To receive a free copy, email: membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org or call 708.354.3276.

To download a copy visit: www.cookcfb.org/discover-local/recipes

Mark your Calendars!

FARM CRAWL

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Cook County Farm Bureau®
Passport to Agriculture Farm Crawl



The Cook County Farm Bureau® is hosting its 2nd annual FARM CRAWL on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The Farm Crawl is self-guided with no set schedules allowing members and the public flexibility to choose the farms and agri-businesses to visit during the CRAWL times.

Full program details, and participating farms and business information will be available in the coming issues as well as on the Cook County Farm Bureau Events Calendar at www.cookcfb.org/Events. The Farm Crawl is an event all ages can enjoy. We hope to see you on the farm on Saturday, August 18!

12th Annual CCFB Family Celebration Picnic

Goebbert's Farm
40 W. Higgins Rd., So Barrington, IL.
Saturday, September 22, 2018
1pm-4pm (lunch served 1:00-3:00)
Early Bird rates end 8.15.18



Tickets are limited!

\$15 Early Bird Admission
 (ages 2 & up)
 1 & under are FREE

\$40 value!

The event will feature a picnic buffet lunch which includes:
 Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, roasted corn, chips, apple cider donuts, kettle corn and assorted sodas/water

Each person will receive:

- ◆ Admission to Animal Land & Little Farmers Playground including the corn & straw town maze
 - ◆ 1 voucher for a wagon ride
 - ◆ **1 voucher to be used for either a pony ride, camel ride, haunted house or jumping pillow
 - ◆ All children will receive a voucher for 1 small pie pumpkin
- **1 & under excluded

*Tickets/vouchers will be picked up at the welcome table the day of the event.

Ticket orders must be in our office by Friday, September 7, 2018.

Family Celebration Picnic Order Form

Name _____	General Ticket (2 & up)	_____
Farm Bureau Number _____	\$20.00(early bird price) x _____	= _____
Address _____	\$25.00 (rate after 8.15.18) x _____	= _____
City _____ Zip _____	1 & under FREE _____	
Phone _____	Total amount _____	

Mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau
 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 or call 708.354.3276 to charge your Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
 *Price includes food and activities.

Soil Test Kits on Sale | Master Gardener Resource Center at the Cook County Farm Bureau®!



Why should I test my soil? Soil testing takes the guess-work out of soil improvement, growing plants and fertilizer recommendations insuring plant growth to its fullest potential.

How do I get a soil test kit? Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 to request your soil test kit. You can purchase your kit by using a credit card over the phone or mailing in a check. Upon payment, your soil test kit will be mailed to you.

Soil Test Kit Prices:

One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members)
Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members)

Lead Testing Kit Prices

\$37.00 for members \$42.00 for non-members.

Soil test kit includes soil sample bag(s), instructions on how to take a soil sample, questionnaire about your soil samples and a shipping box with a pre-paid UPS label. You will receive your test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

Who can assist with results? Our Master Gardeners Resource Center opened in April in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL. The Master Gardeners are available **on Mondays and Thursdays through November 8th from 9:00am to 1:00pm.** To contact a Master Gardener, call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276 or email mastergardener@cookcfb.org.

Master Gardeners are available to assist with soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification/ treatment and more!

JULY 10-13, 2018 SUMMER AGRICULTURE ACADEMY



Four farms to learn how food is grown

Learn how to include agriculture in your STEM curriculum

Connect food, fuel, fiber from farm to Chicago

Experience active learning like driving a tractor/walking a corn field

Using the Farm to Teach K-12 STEM

Enjoy 3 days of intense learning as we travel throughout agriculture stops in Central IL. Speakers, farmers and agri-business professionals will provide tours and discussions about the importance of ag. Day 4 will provide on-site lesson plans and collaboration.

- Includes 3 days coach bus, hotel, tours, speakers, meals
- Binder with classroom materials/resources
- \$125 includes 30 PDCH credits. May be offering 2 graduate credits through St. Francis University for additional \$200
- Registration open until May 1 or class filled; call or email Diane or Jill @ 708-354-3276 aito@cookcfb.org



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

Want a free movie ticket?

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

Individuals can join the Cook County Farm Bureau by going to www.cookcfb.org and clicking on MEMBER CENTER.



Visit one or more of our Cook County Farm Bureau® member Greenhouses & Garden Centers for all your planting needs this Summer!

Plantings, flowers, trees and shrubs are gorgeous and of the highest quality. For all your landscaping needs - skip the big box stores and patronize our fellow Farm Bureau member businesses.

For a listing of Greenhouses and Garden Centers, please visit <http://localfarmproducts.org/.../agricult.../ornamental-nursery/>.

PRIDE Plus Pride in membership plus savings.

Keep Your Family Safe and Secure for Less

As an Illinois Farm Bureau member, you can take advantage of great discounts from ADT Security through its most tenured Dealer, PowerLink, LLC.

ADT Security
FREE Security System (\$850 Value)

- Up to \$5 off Monthly Monitoring (\$60 Yearly Savings)
- Free Monitored Smoke Detector • Homeowners Insurance Savings

To speak with a Representative call 1-877-289-4070

Member's don't forget to take advantage of our discounted car wash and movie tickets listed below...



Delta Sonic Car Wash Tickets

- Super Kiss \$9.50
- Basic Touchless \$6
- Super Interior (larger vehicles) \$7.50
- Super Interior (smaller vehicles) \$6.50

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 \$9.00 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
 Ticket is void when "Extra Special Attention" OR "Movie Fun Coupons Not Accepted" appear in newspaper ads AND is not valid on shows that start after 5:30 pm on Saturdays.
Platinum Tickets \$8 each
 Tickets valid any day week/time & can be used on new releases.

Tickets 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.

Theme Park

Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL
Tickets bought directly from Cook County Farm Bureau® are \$49.00**
Tickets DO NOT INCLUDE Hurricane Harbor but are VALID for Fright Fest. Online 1-Day General tickets are \$54.84. No Processing fee; a minimum of 2 tickets must be purchased through ilfb.abenity.com.

Raging Waves, Yorkville, IL
1-Day General Admission Tickets: \$18.00
Ages 2 and under are FREE. Tickets only available at the Cook County Farm Bureau office

Santa's Village, East Dundee, IL
1-Day: \$16.75 Ages 2 and under are free.
Tickets for Santa's Village are available at the CCFB office.

For pricing and to order tickets online for King's Island, Cedar Point and Other theme parks go to
<https://ilfb.abenity.com/perks/>

To order tickets by phone call (708) 354-3276.



©2018 ADT Customer Activation Fee. 24 Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$21.00 per month. \$11.95-14.95. Terms of agreement must be by credit card or electronic charge for your convenience. See website for details. Offer applies to home service only. Local service fees may be applied. Subscribers must notify company. Terms and conditions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT, LLC. Offer may vary by location. Service is provided only with other ADT. Call 1-800-828-1244.