

Kane County Farmer



MISSION STATEMENT:
Enhance the quality of life for member families,
promote all aspects of agriculture
and advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 72 NO. 11 NOVEMBER 2007

St. Charles man designs miniature tractors for collectors

By Lyle R. Rolfe

Long before Kane County Farm Bureau member Anthony Sell began his career as an industrial designer, he was a kid growing up on a Michigan farm. Recently, he combined his career skills of carving original models for patterns with his farm background and love of farm tractors into a new hobby. The result was the Trac-ster.

About a year ago, Sell got the itch to develop a new hobby and do something different. "I talked

to my wife Lois about it and she encouraged me to go ahead, so I spent a lot of time last winter in the garage working on the models," he said. He began working with a block of high-density foam that soon began to resemble a John Deere 4020. Sell then made a few modifications to give it an Art Deco design reminiscent of the 1930's.

Sell, who now resides in rural St. Charles, admits his preference for the John Deere Model 60, the first tractor he drove at

about age 10. He said the 60 was a successor to the Model A designed in 1947. Like many people who were raised with tractors of this era, he prefers these designs to the newer ones. "There's more character in the older ones," he said.

The blocks he uses are similar to balsa wood and are porous, so his final preparation is to smooth each one with a thin coat of filler used on car bodies. It takes about 40 hours to draw and carve a tractor body, he said.

Next come the front and rear wheels.

"I wanted to keep it a local project if possible. I'm happy I

was able to get all the work done in the Fox River Valley from Montgomery to McHenry," he said. The design and carving, which originate in

terms then go to the Batavia Foundry to have the three parts cast in aluminum. From there, it was off to see a polisher in McHenry County to change the satin finish on the aluminum into a high gloss.

Then back home in St. Charles, Sell glued the parts together with a special resin and mounted the finished tractor on a block of wood with a faux metal look. And his first tractor was done. "When I saw the finished product, I felt it captured exactly what I was looking for,"

he said.

Because the Model 4020 turned out so well he repeated the procedure with a John Deere Model 60, an Oliver and an Allis-Chalmers Model WD45.

"I picked the Oliver because the engine is covered, whereas the others are all open," he said. He chose the Allis-Chalmers because of its smooth, flowing lines and the JD 60 because it was the first one he drove. But his favorite of the four is the 4020.

"When John Deere came out with this tractor design it totally set the farm world on fire. It was such a departure from what most tractors looked like," he said. He said manufacturers began hiring industrial designers in the mid 30s to come up with unique designs to make their tractors stand out from the others.

He noted that the sloping front of his Oliver model was similar to the front of the Pioneer Zephyr that made its
(continued on page 8)



Anthony Sell's Trac-ster sculptures are now on display at the Kane County Farm Bureau. The stylized aluminum castings are based on, clockwise from lower left, a WD-45 Allis Chalmers, an Oliver, a 4020 John Deere and a John Deere 60.

Visit us online ... win Thanksgiving Dinner

Kane County Farm Bureau now has a new website. Over the past several months the Board of Directors has been reviewing web content and format and with the help of Trittenhaus Design of Sycamore, our new web presence is more informative and professional than our earlier version. You can check it out at kanecfb.com, answer the questions in the Web Scavenger Hunt below and maybe win a free Thanksgiving Dinner!

The redesign of the website was sparked by requests to have more information about sources of locally grown food. Although the Farm Bureau produces a print directory of local farms and farmer's markets, an electronic source was needed. So from our home page, we've added links to local farm product information, as well as annual FB events, Foundation activities, Scholarship and Internship information, and our annual fundraising Tractor Raffle.

We've also added pages of

interesting farm and local facts, links to member benefit information, agricultural literacy resources and videos of local farmers harvesting crops. The site also contains an archive of Farm Bureau publications (like the Farmer) and informative brochures about Kane County Farm Bureau programs and services.

The staff is excited about the opportunities the website holds to better communicate with members and a broader audience about Farm Bureau's purpose, philosophy, people and programs. But most of all, we'd like your feedback.

Click on kanecfb.com, search the site for answers to the following questions, and clip and return the Web Site Scavenger Hunt below for a chance to win a free Thanksgiving Dinner from Canyon Creek BBQ of South Elgin. After you've finished, click on any email link on the site and let us know what you think.

KCFB Website Scavenger Hunt

(Hint: Check under all categories – you may have to scroll down to the bottom of the page for some answers.)

1. What year was our name changed to Kane County Farm Bureau? _____
2. _____ (How many) agricultural producers provide input and determine public policy as the core of the Farm Bureau?
3. What is the average size of farms in Kane County according to 2005 Kane County Ag Statistics? _____
4. What are the two workshops for teachers sponsored by our Ag Literacy program?

5. What town had the first electric street lights in the USA?

Please complete and return to the Farm Bureau,
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174
by November 16, 2007 for your chance to win a
Canyon Creek B-B-Q Thanksgiving Feast.

Christmas Tree Discount for Members

Marks' Tree Farm, which has been doing business in various St. Charles locations for a quarter century, will establish a Christmas Tree lot at the Kane County Farm Bureau between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Marks' provides quality, fresh cut Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Spruce and White Pines grown on their farm in Northern Wisconsin.

All trees on the lot will be tagged with a price and Kane County Farm Bureau members will receive a \$10.00 discount. We hope you take advantage of this convenient and money saving member service ... while you are at the Farm Bureau, come inside for holiday gift ideas.



Fresh Turkeys!

The turkeys for the November special are grown locally. They are fresh, free-range turkeys that are individually wrapped and boxed, which makes them perfect for holiday entertaining or as gifts. The price is \$2.49 per pound, which is a bargain considering the quality. They vary in weight, so please indicate the weight you would like and we will get as close as we can (exact weight cannot be guaranteed). Pre-order yours today by sending in the order form or calling the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Wednesday, November 21, just in time for your Thanksgiving Dinner! Remember, these are fresh, so no thawing time is required.

Quantity:

_____ Fresh, free-range turkey(s). Requested weight _____

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS
4:00 pm FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH.**

(Sorry – no late orders will be accepted)

Payment is due at pickup at the Farm Bureau
on Wednesday, November 21 from noon-4:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Member Number: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1
Board of Directors, 7:30 pm

November 14
Women's Committee
Meeting 9:15am

November 16
Turkey orders due 4:00 pm

November 21
Turkey pick-up Noon–
4:00 pm

November 22-23
OFFICE CLOSED for
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26
Citrus Orders Due

All meetings are at the Farm Bureau, 2N710
Randall Rd., St. Charles, unless otherwise noted.

Collins visits Legislators as part of FB legislative program

Kane County Farm Bureau Director and Geneva resident Bill Collins paid a visit to Washington D.C. in September for two jam-packed days of meetings with members of Congress. Collins was part of a delegation of Farm Bureau leaders sent to Washington to discuss Farm Bureau's policy agenda.



Bill Collins

Among the messages shared with Illinois Congressmen was the need to equip the next Farm Bill with a safety net that protects producers from poor prices and weather related crop failures. The group heard a prediction at the offices of the American

Farm Bureau Federation that put prospects for passage of a farm bill before year end at 50-50.

In addition, Collins and others thanked Congressional representatives for their efforts to pass the Water Resources Development Act. WRDA authorizes nearly \$2 billion for seven new locks on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, a long time Farm Bureau priority.

Collins thanked the Board of Directors at their October meeting for the opportunity to participate in the program, an experience he feels more farmers

should take advantage of. In addition to visiting the office of the Secretary of Agriculture where the group saw a display provided by the Kane County based Illinois Green Pastures Fiber Cooperative, the group also met with Senator Dick Durbin. Collins also reported on visits to the offices of Representatives Dennis Hastert, Judy Biggert and Ray LaHood.

Leaders to Washington programs are conducted each June and September by the Illinois Farm Bureau with groups of up to 30 Illinois farmers traveling to the nation's capitol to discuss policy issues with legislators. For more information on this program, contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630 584-8660.

Illinois soybean growers to vote on soybean marketing referendum

Illinois soybean producers have the opportunity to vote on a soybean referendum at their local Extension office on November 15, 2007.

The proposed amendment would not change the current checkoff rate paid by farmers. It would change the state rate, which is currently suspended, from one cent per bushel assessed to one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the net selling price of each bushel assessed. This rate is the same rate that the nationally-legislated soybean checkoff has been operating with since 1991.

The proposed amendment aligns the state rate with the national rate so that if the national program is terminated, prodders and first purchasers would have a smoother transition to the state program.

The Illinois Soybean Checkoff program was established in 1973, but was suspended in 1991 when the national soybean checkoff came into effect. The proposed change in the state program would not go into effect unless the national program ceased operation. Growers would not pay double, but rather pay the same rate in

the event the national checkoff program was ever terminated.

Eligible voters who are unable to vote in person on November 15, 2007, may request an absentee ballot by sending a written request to: Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Attn: Bureau of Marketing and Promotion, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL, 62794-9281. Absentee ballots must be received at the Illinois Department of Agriculture by 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2007, to be counted.

The Illinois Soybean Association is the statewide organization to administer the checkoff for Illinois soybean farmers. The farmers on its board administer soybean checkoff funds to support research, promotions and educational programs designed to increase demand for Illinois soybeans. For more information, contact ISA at 309-663-7692, or visit www.ilsoy.org.

With the Randall Road widening now complete in front of the Farm Bureau office in St Charles, Spring Bluff Nursery of Sugar Grove was contracted to spruce up the Farm Bureau's front lawn. The sign planting they provided makes a nice backdrop for the 1952 John Deere B that will be given away by the KCFB Foundation at our March 2008 Touch-a-Tractor event. Tickets to win the B, or a new Cub Cadet riding mower, are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Funds raised will go to support the Foundation's Scholarship and Ag-in-the-Classroom programs.



Volunteer to help Kane County Farm Bureau

The Kane County Farm Bureau® relies on the ideas, involvement and input of its members. Here is your opportunity to make a difference!

___ I want to help Kane County Farm Bureau secure a brighter future for agriculture. Please contact me to discuss volunteer opportunities/agricultural and rural issues.

Name _____

Phone _____

Best time to contact (Day of week) _____ (Hour) _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau,
2N710 Randall Road, St Charles IL 60174 or phone 630 584-8660

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Sample Packs make great gifts!

Welcome new members

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourage wise use of our limited natural resources and preserve farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many other benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resource, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

Letter to the editor

The Southern Kane County Training Association (SKCTA) is a firefighter training facility located in North Aurora Illinois. SKCTA is a non-profit 501c(3) Corp. and we conduct hundreds of firefighter training session for firefighters all over northern Illinois annually. We rely on student course fees, donations, and grants to keep our facility running smoothly and to provide the training needed in many aspects of the fire service.

Two of the annual classes we hold have to deal with training firefighters in the specialized techniques needed to extricate victims of vehicle, farm, and machinery accidents. We train well over 100 firefighters each year in this area. The problem we encounter with these classes in particular is the props needed for the training. We go through approx. 150-200 junk cars every year. Along with this we need at least 6 semi tractors, farm tractors, combines, augers, buses, cement mixers, tankers, and any other industrial machinery, construction equipment and such that we can get our hands on.

The Association is searching for companies that can help us out by providing anything on our list of equipment as donations for us to use. We can make arrangements for transportation if the items cannot be brought to our site. We will also provide a donation letter for tax credit purposes. Some of the items that we cut up and work on can be returned for salvage to your company and some items we would like to keep for use over and over.

If you may have any of this equipment and would be willing to donate it, please feel free to contact me at anytime via the info below. We are especially in need of semi tractors and farm tractors right now. Thank you in advance for this important donation.

Sincerely,
Lt. Shawn Stephens
SKCTA
2 N. Monroe St., N. Aurora IL 60542 • (630)254-9574
sstephens@cityofbatavia.net

P.S. We have a descriptive booklet about our organization with much more detail of our operation, budgets, number of towns and students affected and such available by request.

Farm Bureau Board Attendance
Sept. 2007 – August 2008

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG
R. Biddle	X	X										
B Collins	*	X										
C. Collins	X	X										
B. Engel	X	X										
G. Feldott	X											
G. Gaitsch	X											
R. Gehrke	X	X										
M. Kenyon	X	X										
W. Kuipers	X	X										
D. Lehrer	X	X										
A Lenkaitis, Jr.	X											
M. Pitstick	X											
W. Schneider	X											
A. Volpp	X											
J. White	X	X										

** Attending the Farm Bureau Leaders to Washington program*

Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
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WOMEN'S CORNER

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



Happy Thanksgiving!

Do you have small children doing many craft projects for the holidays this month and next? If they want to use glue, put their glue into a lidded plastic margarine container. Then cut an X in the lid and let them dip out the glue with a popsicle stick. This will decrease waste and cut down on the cleanup.

With the cold weather, tire pressure decreases. For safety, check and add air to keep the tire pressure to the correct level, which is listed in your vehicle's manual. This needs to be done several times throughout fall as we go into cold winter temperatures. Then you will reverse the process next spring.

Waiting a long time for water to boil? Do not get impatient and use hot tap water instead. The hot water is likely to leach lead and copper from the water pipes. Copper pipes, lead solder and other plumbing that contains lead is the possible culprit. Always start with cold tap water whenever you are preparing any food or drink.

Just in time for fall, I have a recipe for pumpkin lasagna. I

got the recipe from a family who made it for a school bake sale in Los Gatos, CA.

Pumpkin Lasagna

5T. unsalted butter
1 tsp. olive oil
1 onion, coarsely chopped
1 c. dry white vermouth
3 c. 2" cubed pumpkin, or canned pumpkin puree
2 rounded tsp. flour
2 c. milk
1 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
1 tsp. salt
1 rounded tsp. freshly ground white pepper
1 lb. precooked lasagna*
1 c. parmesan cheese
10-12 fresh sage leaves

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt 1 T. butter with the oil. Sauté the onions until they are translucent. Reduce heat and add the vermouth and pumpkin. Stir with a wooden spoon to mix. Keep at a low simmer.

Make a white sauce:

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt 2 T. butter. Add the flour and cook for 3 minutes, stirring continuously with a wooden spoon. Add the nutmeg, salt and pepper. Stir

continuously until the mixture is slightly thicker than buttermilk. Add pumpkin mixture. Stir thoroughly to combine. Remove from heat.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use 1 T. butter to butter your baking dish. Cover the bottom with the lasagna noodles. Spread a ladle of pumpkin mixture and sprinkle 2 T. Parmesan cheese. Repeat layering until pumpkin mixture is used, ending with the noodles. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Scatter sage leaves on top. Dot with remaining Tablespoon of butter. Cover with foil and bake for 15 minutes.

Uncover and bake another 15 minutes or until bubbly at the sides and golden on top. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

**If you choose to use uncooked noodles, boil them first and then cook lasagna for 40-45 minutes.*

For freezing purposes, I chop the sage leaves, but if you are making and baking fresh, you can keep them whole or chop the leaves and fry them in a pan before topping your lasagna.

Heating instructions for frozen lasagna:

Completely thaw lasagna in the refrigerator. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake covered with foil for about 35-40 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Small farms workshop scheduled

Small acreage doesn't have to mean small income, according to a series of workshops being offered by University of Illinois Extension. "Small farms have unique challenges," said Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, University of Illinois Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture Extension Specialist. "We wanted to offer workshops that would provide small farm operations with information tailored to their needs."

November 10, 2007 – Putting Small Acreages to Work – Location: Sycamore

Small farm landowners interested in learning what can be done with small acreage can take part in this workshop and join educators from the

University of Illinois Extension, as well as local producers. The workshop will help you investigate what can be produced on small acreage, how to set goals, and how to harvest and market your crop.

To register, contact U of I Extension DeKalb County Unit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/d/ekalb/>, 815-758-8194 or email johnhorn@uiuc.edu.

November 28 – Putting Small Acreages to Work – Location: Kankakee

This workshop provides practical, no-nonsense, hands-on advice to beginning, as well as transitioning farmers in the areas of crop production, market development, and other important business options. To regis-

ter, contact U of I Extension Kankakee County Unit at 815-933-8337.

December 1 – Small Farms Conference – Location: Peoria

Presenters at this conference will discuss topics of importance to those who are considering an alternative agriculture enterprise or are presently engaged in one. To register, contact Roger Larson, University of Illinois Extension, Peoria County Unit at 309-685-3140.

For a complete listing of workshop details, visit web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/.

For additional questions, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, (217-968-5512; cvnghgrn@uiuc.edu).

Corn growers help launch voluntary branding program for ethanol fuel

You may have caught the blue and green "e" ethanol logo on the #17 IndyCar® Series entry during the Indianapolis 500 this summer. Or maybe you've seen it during one of the "pump tours" during which hundreds of drivers line up to purchase ethanol-enriched fuel at a discounted price. Now that "e" is coming to the Village of Northbrook and the rest of Illinois.

The Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB) is working with The Ethanol Promotion and Information Council (EPIC), the American Lung Association of Illinois and the Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association to introduce a voluntary statewide brand initiative for ethanol fuel including E10 (10% ethanol-enriched fuel) and E85 (85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline).

"Illinois is ethanol country and consumers want to support the product. E10 is already widely available but this branding program will make it easier for the public to find ethanol products and make them feel good about their fuel choice. As E85 fuel and flexible fuel vehicles become more readily available we also hope their good experience with 10% blends will result in continued customer loyalty," said Mark Lambert, ICMB Communications Director.

ICMB and EPIC chose the Northbrook location to announce the program because of the Village's long history of support for E85 and flexible fuel vehicle technology. Northbrook adopted E85 and began converting its vehicle fleet to E85 a decade ago, making them the first municipality in Illinois to make a commitment to renewable fuel.

"Northbrook is a community concerned about the environment in general and local air quality in specific. Many residents also share a growing national concern that America

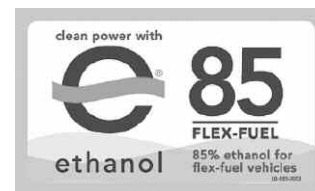
should be energy independent. Our investment in E-85 has been consistent with working toward the achievement of those goals," said John Novison, Northbrook Village Manager.

Illinois has labeled E10 pumps with plain, black and white stickers for years, however, the new pump labels are brighter and will offer a higher profile. According to EPIC's director of operations Robert White,

significant developments such as the Renewable Fuels Standard in the Energy Bill, higher gasoline prices and positive media coverage of ethanol have created a high level of consumer interest. This interest provides the opportunity for retailers to position themselves as responsive to consumer demand, and build on the growing interest in E85.

"Switching to the new labels is voluntary but it enables fuel retailers to capitalize on growing consumer awareness and the national brand-building activities that are being spearheaded by EPIC," said White. "More and more consumers are seeking out ethanol-enriched fuel and this branding program will help consumers find it simply by looking for the brand image that will be consistent from pump to pump and from city to city across Illinois – and, eventually, across the entire United States."

Formed in 2005, EPIC has quickly gained traction in its quest to create a national brand for ethanol including consumer promotion, auto technician training, educational workshops – even convincing the IndyCar Series to run on 100% ethanol. "Ethanol is about performance – for engines, for our environment, for our economy and for our energy security," White said. "This is a powerful brand message that is all wrapped up in that single and memorable 'e' logo."



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Several Kane County farms offer Christmas Trees, these farms include:

Johnsen's Farm & Country Store
(630) 232-9004 Elburn

Klein's Farm & Garden Market
(847) 683-9647 Burlington

Kuipers Family Farm
(815) 827-5200 Maple Park

Lee's Trees
(630) 365-2116 Lily Lake

Pine Apple Acres
(847) 669-3251 Huntley

Randy's Vegetables
(847) 428-5244 Dundee

Spring Bluff Nursery
(630) 466-4278 Sugar Grove

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouses
(847) 669-3421 Huntley



Above, left to right: On a cold but sunny October morning, County Board Chair Karen McConaughay and County Board member Jan Carlson share a laugh with Kane County farmers Chris Gould and Steve Pitstick in a corn field near St. Charles. McConaughay and Carlson were two of the local public officials who took advantage of the Farm Bureau's annual Harvest Combine Rides, to learn more about agriculture in Kane County. Video of the harvest view from the seat of a combine is available on the Kane County Farm Bureau's new website. Go to kanecfb.com and click on Local Farm and FB Event Videos.

Harvest combine rides



Right: Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns and his wife Terry also look advantage of the Combine Ride offer. Burns, a Republican candidate for the 14th Congressional District seat being vacated by Congressman Dennis Hastert took a break from campaigning on October 17 to hop on a combine on Meredith Road near the Elburn Co-op.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

By Merry Pitstick

Happy harvest! It's November and the holidays will soon be upon us. For many of us, this includes entertaining and getting together with friends and family.

We have a special this month that I'm really excited about – fresh, free-range turkeys. If you have never made a fresh turkey for Thanksgiving, this is the time! There is nothing better than a fresh, never frozen turkey. See the order form on page 1 or give us a call to place your order today!

Once again, the Farm Bureau is having our annual Citrus sale. You can pre-order citrus, nuts, meat, cheese, etc. and then come pick it up at Heinz Brothers in St. Charles on Wednesday, December 12. This has been a very popular program for us. If you haven't ordered the cheese gift boxes, they would be a fantastic hostess gift – give them a try! The citrus is wonderful (far better

than anything you can get locally, in my opinion). It also makes a great gift! See the order form on page 8.

The new crop of pecans is scheduled to ship from Georgia November 6. I would estimate that it will take about a week to get them. Obviously we don't want anyone to waste a trip, so please call ahead to be sure they have been delivered before you come. We will, as always, carry the one-pound packages of mammoth pecan halves. We will also have cinnamon-glazed pecans and chocolate-covered pecans in 12 ounce foil packages. These pecans are great for your holiday baking or gift giving.

We are also getting a new shipment of skinless peanuts. We have been out of these for a while, but they should be in our office by the time this goes to print. Again, you may wish to call before you come to make sure we have them.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Agriculture specialty plate

Show your pride in Illinois' leading industry on your vehicle and help teach schoolchildren the importance of agriculture with a new Agriculture Specialty License Plate.

The agriculture specialty plates are for autos and pick-up trucks. Whether you are a farmer, agribusiness person, or a "friend of farming," these plates will let everyone know that you are proud to be associated with

Illinois agriculture.

As a bonus, when you put these plates on your vehicle, a \$25 donation supports the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom. The IAITC program is one of the top programs in the country. IAITC teaches children in classrooms in every county in Illinois about the importance of farming and the source of their food, fiber, and bio-fuels, as well as



the impact of agriculture on Illinois' economy.

First year plates will cost \$118, and each following year they will cost \$103. Like for all specialty plates, the fee is higher for the agriculture specialty plate, but it is a great way to show your pride and support for Illinois' number one industry. The license plate will soon be available. Visit <http://www.ilfb.org/viewdocument.asp?did=13961> to register today!

IL gives \$175,000 to farmers markets

Gov. Blagojevich announced a new grant program to promote Illinois farmers markets and increase demand for fresh, Illinois-grown produce.

The Illinois Farmers Market Advertising Grant Program will provide farmers markets up to \$7,500 to help with advertising and promotional expenses during the 2008 season. The funds were awarded to the Illinois Department of Agriculture through the federal specialty crop program and will be distributed as part of Opportunity Returns, the pro-active, comprehensive economic development strategy designed to spur more economic growth and create jobs across Illinois. More than \$175,000 in total is available.

"Farmers markets are good for local economies, good for consumers, and ultimately, good for our entire state," Gov. Blagojevich said. "Communities that sponsor farmers markets benefit from increased tourism, and consumers benefit from wholesome, locally-grown food. These grants will help

support and expand the state's agricultural economy."

Through Opportunity Returns, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has invested nearly \$400,000 the past three years to expand the state's specialty crop industry. In addition to promotional materials and advertising, specialty crop grant funds have been used to develop an "Illinois, Where Fresh Is" marketing campaign that brands Illinois food products and encourages consumers to buy local and buy fresh. Illinois farmers and specialty crop companies are eligible to use the "Illinois, Where Fresh Is" logo to help consumers quickly and easily identify their specialty crops at farmers markets and grocery stores.

"Illinois' fertile soil and favorable climate are good for growing a wide variety of crops," Agriculture Director Chuck Hartke said. "While most people know Illinois ranks second in the production of corn and soybeans, many don't realize Illinois is the nation's largest producer of pumpkins and ranks among the

top ten states in the production of such specialty crops as asparagus, cauliflower, fresh cut herbs, peas, lima beans and mustard greens. These grants will help expand markets for this produce and increase the competitiveness of our specialty crop industry."

More than 220 farmers markets currently operate throughout the state, up from 97 in 1999. According to a 2003 Illinois Specialty Crop Survey, more than 117,000 acres of farmland is devoted to growing specialty crops, producing nearly \$137 million in sales for Illinois farmers.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture will accept applications for the funds through November 7, 2007. Application forms can be obtained on the department's website at www.agr.state.il.us or by calling Kim Janssen at (217) 785-5848. Grants will be awarded by Feb. 1, 2008. The Kane County Farm Bureau hosted an informational meeting for farmers market operators on writing grants during the middle of October.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Susan Erickson (l) accepts a check for \$1125 from Kane County Farm Bureau Information Director Tracy Windett. The check was a contribution from the Illinois Farm Bureau's Young Leaders Committee in recognition of Kane County Farm Bureau's effort in the national "Harvest for All" campaign. In the past year, Kane County Farm Bureau has donated over \$2500 to local hunger relief efforts through programs including a shopping spree for local public officials, penny wars at the Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting and the Kane County Fair 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale.



Save big on deal with Dell

Go high tech with low cost! Sometimes technology can be challenging, but there's nothing frustrating about saving 2-12% on Dell's hottest items.

From flat laptops to flat screen monitors, from big screen TVs to tiny MP3 players, and from digital cameras to photo paper, as a member you will save on Dell's already low prices. Your discount will be on top of

regularly advertised Dell Home Office promotions! You will get:

- Dedicated sales representatives available to assist with your purchase
- Discounts and offers not available to the public
- Easy financing options
- Discounted shipping

For more information on this great deal, contact the Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.

Holiday Product Order Form

Don't miss delicious Citrus, Nuts, Cheese and more ... order today for wonderful holiday gift-giving
See page 8 for details!

Cleaner Engines, Better Performance



Available Exclusively at Conserv FS, Inc.
(800)924-9942 · www.conservfs.com





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Beth Dawson and Tracy Windett

Recycling options in Kane County

You can take back grocery, produce, newspaper, and dry cleaning bags (without receipts) to any Dominick's, Jewel, or Wal-Mart store. Consumers in the United States use 100 billion plastic grocery bags each year, which adds up to about 333 per person. Only about 4% are currently recycled.

Used clothing and textiles should be brought to your favorite charity or to one of the red metal donation boxes located throughout the County. You can also call (800) 604-9533 to find the nearest drop-off location.

Dishes, small appliances, and other home furnishings can find new homes when you donate them to resale stores. Goodwill Industries has locations in Batavia and Elgin that will accept usable items.

Recycling Quick Facts

In a lifetime, an average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage. For example, a 150-lb adult will have thrown away 90,000 lbs of trash.

The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This adds up to over 2 billion trees per year!

Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can and back on a grocery shelf within six weeks.

Used motor oil is filtered and sold to steel mills, where it is blended with fuel oil and used to heat their furnaces. The oil filters are crushed, baled, and recycled with other non-ferrous metals.

PLEASE RECYCLE!



National Recycling Day is November 15

Benefits of Recycling

According to the Kane County Division of Environmental Management, there are many benefits of recycling in Illinois.

- Reduce the need for landfills: Recycling in Illinois over the past 18 years has eliminated the need for 12 new landfills, saving more than 2,100 acres of land from becoming permanent dumping grounds for our garbage.

- Conserve Resources: Paper recycling in Kane County alone saves the equivalent of 7,000 trees each year. Our recycling also results in energy savings equal to more than 600,000 barrels of oil.

- Reduce Pollution: Recycling reduces the production of greenhouse gases equal to the emissions produced by more than 50,000 cars.

Recycling in Kane County also eliminates more than 5,000 tons of air pollutants and 800 tons of water pollution each year. Over 90% of the material we separate for recycling is made into new raw materials and products. To find out how the recyclables are handled and where they are shipped for recycling, visit the Kane County website, www.co.kane.il.us, and choose "Recycling" in the Quick Links menu.

Tips for Safe and Effective Recycling

Every community has its recycling guidelines. You can call your local public works department, recycling organization, or the Kane County Farm Bureau for more information. This way, you can be sure that you are contributing your share the right way. These are some

general tips you can keep in mind.

Rinsing cans and keeping boxes dry makes them easier to process, and in turn, keeps costs down.

If you have a recycling bin, make sure you put only recyclable materials in the bin. Check the lid of the bin for guidelines, or visit your municipal website for recycling rules.

Tin cans, aluminum cans, newspaper, magazines, phone books, plastic beverage bottles, milk jugs, glass bottles and jars, cereal boxes, other clean and dry



cardboard boxes are safe bets.

Plastic bags, Styrofoam, light bulbs, food-spoiled paper, wax paper, and ceramics are not usually recyclable.

Household hazardous wastes like paint cans, motor oil, anti-freeze, car batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals, etc. usually need to be disposed of separately.

Crafty ways to recycle

Make a melted crayon stained glass window!

What you will need:

Adult supervision
Black construction paper
Leaves
Wax paper
Crayons or crayon pieces in autumn colors

Glue
Scissors
Iron (requires adult supervision)
Hole punch

String, Suction cups with hooks

How to make it:

1. Take black construction paper and cut it into 5" by 5" squares.

2. With two pieces of paper together, trace a leaf on the top square and then cut out the leaf with the two pieces together. The squares will be solid around the edges with a leaf pattern cut out

of the center.

3. Next, shave crayons using the colors of fall leaves. Using a warm iron, melt the crayon shavings between two pieces of wax paper. Then cut down the wax paper to fit between the two squares of construction paper.

4. To assemble the window, place one square of construction paper on the table and glue your wax paper "glass" to that square. Then place the second square over the first square, making sure your leaf pattern matches up and glue the two squares together. Use the hole punch to put make a hole to hang the stained glass.

Tips: You can also trace the leaf on the paper on the diagonal so that it hangs from the corner. You can use suction cups with hooks to hang the stained glass squares in the windows.

Turn old crayons into new crayons!

What you will need:

Adult supervision
Several old crayons
Assorted cookie cutters or candy molds
Old saucepan or tin can for melting crayons
Aluminum foil

How to make it:

1. Take the paper off the crayons and put them in an old saucepan. Another option is to put the crayons in an empty tin can and place the can in a saucepan filled with water.

2. Melt the wax by turning the stove on low heat.

3. Place the cookie cutters on

a sheet of aluminum foil. Pour the melted wax into assorted cookie cutters. You may need to hold the cookie cutters down to keep the melted crayons from running out.

4. Wait for the wax to set, then cool, and pop out your brand new crayons.



Recycling word search

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

ALUMINUM
BOTTLES
BOXES
CANS
CARDBOARD
CLEAN
DRY
EARTH
EMISSIONS
ENERGY
FUEL
GLASS
JARS
MAGAZINES
MOTOROIL
NEW
NEWSPAPER
PLASTIC
RECYCLE
TIN
TREES
WOOD



November is... Yum!

Georgia Pecan Month
Good Nutrition Month
National Peanut Butter Lovers Month
Raisin Bread Month

Fourth Thursday
National Turkey Day and National Stuffing Day

Fourth Friday
National Leftovers Day

November 1
National Deep Fried Clams Day

November 2
National Deviled Egg Day

November 3
National Sandwich Day

November 4
National Candy Day

November 5
National Doughnut Day

November 6
National Nachos Day

November 7
Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day
November 9
National Scrapple Day
November 10
National Vanilla Cupcake Day
November 11
National Sundaes Day
November 15
National Recycling Day
November 16
National Fast Food Day
November 20
National Peanut Butter Fudge Day
November 21
Gingerbread Day
November 23
National Espresso Day
November 28
French Toast Day
November 29
National Lemon Crème Pie Day
November 30
National Mousse Day

Congrats!

Congratulations to June Jones of Carpentersville. Her name was drawn from the entries received for correctly completing last month's word search. For June's participation, she will receive a box of Honey BBQ Chicken Breasts. Thank you for reading the Kane County Farmer, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____

Return to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174
by November 13, 2007 for your chance to win a box of pork kabobs!

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



November is here with the harvest completed and the cool weather approaching. Thanksgiving looms right around the corner. We have many farmers thankful for their bountiful harvests, and we are grateful to them for once again supplying

the grains, food and fibers that we need to maintain our lives.

The idea of being thankful for the harvest is a very old concept. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians praised their god Min, the god of plants and fertility. In China, they honored the full

moon of the harvest with moon cakes and the moon festival. This moon festival is still observed with special moon cakes, lanterns, and other special activities. The Greeks honored Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and the Romans offered the first foods of their harvest to their goddess of agriculture, Ceres. The Jewish harvest festival, Sukkoth, thousands of years old, thanks God for his protection and for their food. Various Indian tribes have celebrated the harvest with dances and special foods.

Our Thanksgiving, here in the United States, has a colorful history. A national day of Thanksgiving was first proclaimed by President George Washington in 1789. Many people thought this was silly to have a holiday celebrating only a few Pilgrims. President Thomas Jefferson agreed with the folks and did not continue the celebra-

tion of Thanksgiving. An editor of a woman's magazine, Sarah Josepha Hale, led a 40 year campaign to have Thanksgiving reinstated as a national holiday. Finally, President Abraham Lincoln signed a Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1863, naming the last Thursday of November as the day to celebrate. Later, President FD Roosevelt changed the date to the fourth Thursday of November, which would lengthen the Christmas season. His idea was not well received, so he changed the date of Thanksgiving back to the last Thursday of the month. In 1941, Congress sanctioned Thanksgiving as a legal holiday.

Each year, the president makes a Thanksgiving Proclamation. President Bush proclaimed in 2006: "At this time of great promise for America, we are grateful for the freedoms guaranteed by our

Constitution and defended by our Armed Forces throughout the generations. Today, many of these courageous men and women are securing our peace in places far from home, and we pay tribute to them and to their families for their service, sacrifice, and strength. We also honor the families of the fallen and lift them up in our prayers." Sadly, again this year, we must pray for those men and women who are defending our liberties in far away lands. President Bush added, "On this Thanksgiving Day, and throughout the year, let us show our gratitude for the blessings of freedom, family, and faith, and may God continue to bless America."

May your Thanksgiving be a time of contentment...a day spent with your family and friends enjoying all that life in these United States of America has to offer.

Scholarship/Internship applications online

Have a student in college? Is he/she studying for a career in an agriculture/food related business? Are you a Kane County Farm Bureau member? If you can answer Yes to all three of these questions, send them to kanecfb.com. From the Farm Bureau's website, students can download or print applications for Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarships and internships, and you just might get some relief from the high cost of higher education.

Established in 1986 by the Kane County Farm Bureau to carry out charitable work in the advancement of agricultural literacy and preparing students and leaders for careers in the agriculture industry, the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation solicits and distributes private funding for agriculturally related education and leadership training, Ag-in-the-Classroom programs, Ag Literacy Library development, charitable activities and research. The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation offers several scholarships to members or dependents of members who wish to pursue higher education in an agricultural related field.

General Scholarships

To be eligible for a Kane County Farm Bureau general scholarship, the member or dependent must have been a member in good standing for two years. The student must also be planning an agriculture related career. A brochure is available to assist students in identifying those careers and areas of study. Foundation General

Scholarships carry a minimum award amount of \$1,000.

John Buck Memorial Scholarship

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively. Late in 2001, the family of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. An endowment to the Foundation, supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, provides funds for \$1000 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Any student in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will County is eligible to apply. A similar scholarship program has been established by the family through the Midwest Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

Foundation President's Scholarship

The President's Scholarship is a \$2000 scholarship reserved for the high school senior among Foundation scholarship applicants possessing the most outstanding combination of scholastics, activities, goals and ACT score. The President's Award Scholarship will provide \$2000 to be applied towards tuition.

For more information on Foundation scholarship programs, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Application deadline is February 15, 2008.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Richard Bristow, Agency Manager

Charles Quick has been named Agent of the Month for September 2007 in the St. Charles Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Richard Bristow. Chuck has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since 1974. He serves his clients from his office at 822 Centennial Drive in Hampshire. You may reach Chuck at (847) 683-2100.

Aurora Agency, Jackie Meier, Agency Manager

Greg LeBeau has been named Agent of the Month for September 2007 in the Aurora Agency. Greg began his career with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services in October 1987 and just recently celebrated his 20th year with COUNTRY. He serves his clients from

his office at 1921 Wilson Street, Batavia, IL 60510. You may reach Greg at (630) 406-6900.

Elgin/Schaumburg Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Bernie Gaston has been named "Career Agent of the Month" for September 2007. Bernie has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since February 2002. His office is located at 763 S. Eighth, West Dundee, IL 60118. His phone number is (847) 428-7147.

Kathy Fester has been named "Employee Agent of the Month" for September 2007. Kathy has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since November 2006. Her office is located at 1814 Grandstand Place, Elgin, IL 60123. Her phone number is (847) 742-0001.

November Book of the Month

Material World: A Global Family Portrait by Peter Menzel

"Sixteen of the world's foremost photographers traveled to 30 nations around the globe to live for a week with families that are statistically average for that nation. At the end of each visit, photographers and family collaborated on a remarkable portrait of the family outside of their home, surrounded by all of their possessions – a few jars and jugs for some, an explosion of electronic gadgetry for others. Vividly portraying the look and feel of the human condition everywhere on Earth like nothing before, Material World puts a human face on the issues of population, environment, social justice, and consumption and brilliantly illuminates the crucial question facing our species today: Can all six billion of us have all the things we want?"

Material World is a great

book to help us realize all that we have to be thankful for. So many of the families interviewed were thankful for the basics, like each other, things handed down to the family from older family members, and religious memorabilia. As you browse through this book and look at the photographs, at first the differences seem to be great. However, after reading through the text, it becomes apparent how much we are all alike. The happiness and fears of each family, no matter what their

material possessions, makes the book one you will never forget reading. A perfect book to read at Thanksgiving time.



KCFB Executive Assistant Merry Pitstick checks facts in this month's Book of the Month, *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*. The book is one of many titles focusing on agricultural and food topics for Farm Bureau members available through the Kane County Farm Bureau's Agricultural Literacy Library. Stop by anytime to check one out...literally!

— CLASSIFIED ADS —

FOR SALE

Clean straw for sale. Lily Lake area. Call: 630-365-2019 or 630-365-2272

Large and small square hay bales and wheat straw for sale. Freezer Beef for sale, medication & hormone free, raised from crops grown on the farm. Call: 847-697-2538

1996 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT Laramie 1/2 ton pickup. V-8 318 5.2L. Bedliner, cap, added rear leaf spring, hitch. 63,000 miles, \$5,000 OBO. Call: 630-553-6935

Straw; oats; hay; ear corn; barley straw, good for natural control of pond scum. Kenyon Bros. ask for Mike – Call: 847-741-1818

Snowthrower attachment for John Deere 300 Series lawn tractors, like a 318. Model 49, tall chute, weights and chains, extra belt. Very nice condition. Asking \$700. Call: 630-514-6540

House – Aurora, Jericho Rd near Orchard Rd, Sugar Grove Township, Kaneland Schools – 5.45 acres, 3 bedroom home, 2 baths, 2-car garage. \$425,000. Call Don Call: 630-466-0100

SERVICES

Nelson Landscape and Hauling: Bobcat work, pulverized dirt, gravel, sod, and misc. odd jobs. Call: 630-365-2392

Eric Nelson & Son Construction, Inc. Tear out & replace concrete driveways, patios, sidewalks.

Custom flagstone sidewalks & patios. \$100 off any job \$2,000 or over with this ad. Call: 630 973 0468

WANTED

Donations of usable hand tools, fencing, shovels, buckets, folding

chairs, etc. for day to day operations at Garfield Farm Museum. Also free museum calendar of events available – Call: 630 584 8485

FREE

FREE – Farm Bureau Member must move! Upright Seybold Piano (Elgin), Cast Iron Clawfoot Tub, Iron fencing – fourteen 6' sections with gate. You pick up. Call: 847-683-4939

CLASSIFIED ADS KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$10 minimum. DISCOUNTS for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Payment in advance is requested. Voting members receive limited free classified advertising of farm commodities and farm equipment. Ads are due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Category: Circle One: For Sale, Wanted, For Rent, Services,

Other: _____

Ad copy: _____

Member No. _____

Phone No. _____

Complete the above form and mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 or fax to (630) 584-0023. Non-member ad rate: payable with ad, \$10.00 – 20 word maximum per ad.



This stool is made for working

My grandpa received a hand-made milk stool for his eighth birthday. His dad crafted the stool, which allowed Grandpa to spend twice a day beneath milk cows for years afterward. It was a gift that kept on giving milk for the family.

Today, he is 76 and still farms. He has downsized but continues to grow crops on some of his own land and help his sons, even at 14 years past traditional retirement age. He has worked on a farm nearly 70 years, 52 on his own. Farming is what he knows and loves. It is his life and that of other men and women working on more than 72,000 farms in Illinois. During my farmer interviews, the most common answer to, "How long have you farmed?" is "All my life." Then I ask their age.

By age 14, Grandpa had his own team of horses and a few acres. At 16, he convinced his dad

to buy a tractor for the first time. At 22, his service ended during the Korean War, and he returned home to farm on his own and marry Grandma. He would have entered the service sooner, but the military allowed him to stay home to help his dad farm. When a brother returned, he was drafted.

Four kids, nine grandkids and decades of farm growth later, Grandpa is plowing on past retirement age similar to many farmers. Like Grandpa, they may sell a few cows or let their children or grandchildren take on more responsibility. That's a reason the average farmer age is 55 in Illinois, which is about the average age of Grandpa and my farming brother.

Grandpa (and Grandma) deserve years of rest, Bingo nights and trips to Florida. He will walk the beaches of Florida only if someone takes him there. Otherwise, he will walk to cut thistles in the cattle pasture or weeds from his soybean fields.

"I really like harvest, and I like planting," Grandpa told me, as I rode alongside him in the buddy seat of the combine. He harvested a cornfield with a John Deere combine that could pick six rows of corn at once while separating the kernels from the cobs.

Three hand-written notes were taped to the glass. They gave simplified instructions for the combine's computerized monitor, which uses a satellite system to track the crop's performance at specific points in the field. He said the monitor wasn't working, and he didn't mind. The thing takes too long to program, and he often forgets to shut it off, so it maps his travel between fields. It's a point of humor by winter when maps are printed. His sons know the gravel road produces nothing.

The technology seems unnecessary to Grandpa, who finds the combine itself a major invention. As a kid, he and his brothers picked corn by hand and threw it into a horse-drawn wagon. They averaged 80 bushels a day and later had to remove the corn kernels from the cob at the farmstead. His combine today picks and shells that amount of corn in about 5 minutes.

My early morning chores as a kid didn't require milking cows and running more than a mile across hills to the schoolhouse. But I also don't remember the gift from my eighth birthday. That boyhood celebration began Grandpa's career on a wooden stool that is intended for work, not rest.

insurance services through two companies (Country Mutual and Country Preferred) only to Farm Bureau members. For \$6 more, you can purchase a Bail Bond Card. Not a bad item to have in case you might be pulled over. We offer Movie tickets to the Charlestowne Movie Theater at \$6 apiece. Add to this list the savings on local and long distance services, prescriptions, vision, dental, hearing products, Sherwin-Williams products, hotels, rental cars, and many other member discounts and the annual dues is easily recouped.

I would like to thank all of our members who have paid their dues for the coming year. At this time, about three-

(continued on page 8)

Becker, Gehrke to represent Kane County at National 4-H Congress

Two top 4-H winners will "Accept the Challenge" at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA, November 23 through November 27. Wayne Gehrke and Kevin Becker will be among over 30 representatives from several counties in Illinois.

Wayne Gehrke is attending for Community Involvement & Global Awareness. Wayne did a lot of volunteering in the community and at his church. He explained the process of earning an invitation to the Congress: "First you fill out a County 4-H award application. You are then judged at the County level, and if you win, you are judged at the state level. The top 10% of those who earn the state award are interviewed, and then about half of those people attend the Congress."

Wayne is looking forward to attending workshops. The workshops are offered with topics ranging from leadership to cooking. He is also looking forward to listening to various motivational speakers. Among the speakers at the National 4-H Congress will be Dan Thurmon, president of Motivation Works, Inc., motivational speaker Jonathon Sprinkles, and Miss America 2007 Lauren Nelson.

Kevin Becker is attending for Mechanics & Technology. During his three years of participation in the Cloverbud program and eight years of participation in 4-H, he has been interested in electronics, electricity, and computer sciences.

"I have made small projects learning about electricity and many lamps, a strobe light that fit in a model police car, rockets, which are more fun to launch

than build, and used various computer software programs, learned about computer hardware and wrote computer programs," Kevin said.

Kevin hopes to have a great time at the Congress and meet new people. He is looking forward to learning about areas he is interested in and making new friends.

"From what I have heard, there will be a lot of people and plenty to do. We will attend lectures, seminars, and leadership programs. We will participate in community service and have fun at gatherings, like the dance," Kevin said.

Members are allowed to participate only once during their 4-H career. Carolyn Gehrke, Wayne's sister, attended the National 4-H Congress last year. This year, she will be going to the Congress again, but she will be a part of the Design Team. In February, Carolyn met with other members of the Design Team. They developed the basics for this year's Congress, and they designed the Congress logo for this year. Carolyn and the rest of the Design Team will be making sure things run smoothly during the event this year.

The National 4-H Congress originated from an education tour of the Union Stock Yards in Chicago during the International Livestock Exposition. Over 100 young men and women were recognized for accomplishments and community service projects. Over time, this event became known as the National Boys and Girls Club Exposition. The first National 4-H Youth Conference was in 1922. Since 1998, the event has been held in Atlanta, Georgia.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Beth Dawson

Fall is here! The leaves are getting cooler and shorter, and the farmers are busy harvesting their crops. We have a lot to be thankful for!

This time of year is very busy for me. Not only because I am busy processing payments, member cards, bail bond cards, and benefit information for the renewals coming into the office, but because of the phone calls I

receive from people who do not understand the Kane County Farm Bureau, its mission or the savings potential available to its members.

The savings on insurance through COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services is well worth the annual \$20 per year. As a company formed to meet the insurance needs of Farm Bureau members, COUNTRY offers property and casualty

Top Membership Recruiters named

Each month, Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. This month we have a three-way tie. We would like to congratulate

late Donna Tonovitz, Dan Cooper, and Sherri Schramer. All of them have signed seven new members to be named top recruiters for September 2007.

Donna has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since July 2004. Donna services her clients out of the Wasco office at 40W099 Rt. 64 Unit C. She may be reached at 630-587-7440.

Dan has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since January 2003. Dan services clients out of the Sugar Grove office at 32 Cross

St. He may be reached at 630-466-9600.

Sherri has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since January 2007. Sherri services her clients out of the Elburn office at 151 E Rt. 38 Unit C. She may be reached at 630-365-9512.

As a token of our appreciation, Donna, Dan, and Sherri will receive a container of prime rib au jus. Thank you, Donna, Dan, and Sherri for your continued support of Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Donna Tonovitz



Dan Cooper



Sherri Schramer

Farmland For Sale

visit our website at www.capitalag.com

Call Doug Deininger:
815-439-9245

- 150± ac. Kankakee Co., IL
- 298± ac. Kankakee Co., IL
- 90± ac. Kendall Co., IL
- 60± ac. Will Co., IL
- 132± ac. DeWitt Co., IL
- 462± ac. Grundy Co., IL
- 45± ac. LaSalle Co., IL

Call Bill Green:
630-761-8143

- 80± ac. Kane Co., IL
- 10± ac. Kendall Co., IL
- 238± Rock Island Co., IL

Call Chip Johnston:
815-875-2950

- 168± **Sale Pending** h Co., IL
- 90± **Sale Pending** Co., IL
- 292± ac. Whiteside Co., IL
- 40± ac. Stark Co., IL
- 273± ac. LaSalle Co., IL
- 594± ac. Dekalb Co., IL
- 340± ac. Marshall Co., IL
- 84± ac. Henderson Co., IL

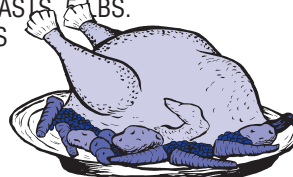
Call Doug Lakamp:
217-359-3318

- 411± ac. Ogle Co., IL
- 158± ac. Knox Co., IL

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU Product List

Prices subject to change without notice

PRODUCT	"MM" or "A+"	"A"
CLEARANCE - WHILE THEY LAST		
BUTTER TOFFEE PEANUTS 12 OZ	\$2.00	\$2.00
PECAN HALVES, 1 LB BAG (2006 crop)	\$3.50	\$3.50
CINNAMON GLAZED PECANS, 12 OZ. BAG	\$3.00	\$3.00
CHOCOLATE PECAN CLUSTERS, 12 OZ. BAG	\$3.00	\$3.00
NUTS		
PEANUT BRITTLE BITES, 12 OZ. CAN	\$3.75	\$4.25
PECAN HALVES, 1 LB BAG (2007 crop)	\$6.50	\$7.00
PORK SPICE 12 OZ	\$4.50	\$4.75
POPCORN		
YELLOW, 2 LB BAG	\$2.25	\$2.50
MEAT		
FRESH TURKEYS <i>Special</i>	\$2.49 LB.	\$2.49 LB.
PRIME RIB AU JUS	\$8.00	\$9.00
HONEY BBQ CHICKEN BREASTS	\$21.00	\$22.00
BOURBON STEAKS, 5 LBS.	\$30.00	\$31.00
PORK CHOPS BONELESS 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
PORK CHOPS BONE-IN, 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
CHICKEN BREASTS, 5 LBS.	\$18.50	\$19.50
HAMBURGERS	\$16.50	\$17.50
SOIL TEST		
SOIL TEST 1	\$12.00	\$20.00 non
SOIL TEST 4	\$20.00	\$30.00 non
SOIL TEST 3	\$30.00	\$40.00 non
CANDLES		
Small	\$4.50	\$5.00
Large 16 oz.	\$10.00	\$10.50
X-Large 21 oz.	\$11.00	\$11.50
PLAT BOOKS - KANE COUNTY	\$50.00	\$50.00
THEATER TICKETS - Charlestowne 18	\$6.00	\$6.00
SMV SIGNS		
Individual sign	\$5.50	



Trac-sters

(continued from page 1)

famous "Dawn-to-Dusk" run from Denver to Chicago on May 26, 1934. The original train, which was driven by Jack Ford of Aurora, is on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

"The Zephyr was designed by the same firm that designed some of the John Deere tractors. Henry Dreyfus, one of the pioneers in industrial design, did various automotive designs before he was hired by John Deere," Sell said. Dreyfus also designed the New York Central Hudson streamliner Twentieth Century Limited in the 1930s.

Sell admitted his models are not perfect replicas of the origi-

nals. "I like to stylize them just enough to retain their integrity," he said referring to their design. "I wanted something unique and different and feel this is what I have come up with.

"I take a bit of artistic license to design them with a sense of motion. But they look enough like the real tractors so the person who knows his tractors will know what they are," he said.

"I've never seen anything like them so I have no idea where it might take me. I'm hoping they will appeal to antique tractor fans and collectors. And they could also be used as trophies for tractor pulls or other farm events such as plow matches," he said.

He sells them mounted on wood bases painted to look like

hammered steel, or teakwood bases stained with a honey, dark cherry or walnut finish. And they can be mounted sitting on all four wheels or with the front wheels up – the stance he prefers because it signifies power, almost like a tractor pull. They can be ordered narrow or wide fronts. And while he prefers the high-gloss aluminum, he may consider offering painted models in the future.

Sell plans to show them at area farm events such as county fairs, the Big Rock Plow Match, and the Northern Illinois Steam Power Show in Sycamore. "But I don't plan to flood the market with every model. I want there to be a demand for them," he said.

Sell is already working on additional models. They include

an International 506, a Farmall M, a Case 830, a Ford Jubilee and a Minneapolis-Moline. He also hopes to get into the early tractors of the 20s and 30s. He may also consider other farm machines such as combines and the steam engines from the early 1900s which were made obsolete by the gasoline engine.

You won't find the minute detail in these models that can be seen in small die cast tractors. With aluminum, a lot of the detail is lost in the casting process. And each model from the same pattern will have some minor differences because of the type of casting, he said.

He plans to price the tractors between \$250 and \$295 – enough to cover all expenses, make a contribution to 4-H and

still have something left for him. As a farm boy, Sell was always involved in 4-H and his parents were 4-H leaders. "I want to give back for what was given to me, so a percentage of his profits will be given to the National 4-H organization. I hope to sell the models nationwide, so I'll let the national group decide how to use the money.

"It would be nice if some of it could be used to help send farm kids to Washington," he said.

Sell has a trademark and copyright on his designs and the Trac-ster company name. He has a website at Trac-Ster.com. For more information on Sell's Trac-ster, contact him directly at tony@trac.ster.com or 630-632-TRAC (8722).

Membership

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quarters of our over 17,000 members have already paid their dues for the coming year. For those of you who have not yet paid your dues, just a reminder that there will be a \$5 late fee after 10/31/07. An additional \$5 reinstatement fee (\$10 total) is required for dues paid after 11/30/07. Payment may be made by check, money order, cash or credit card (Visa or MasterCard only).



GIVING THANKS FOR TRADITIONS

By Tracy Windett



Some of my fondest memories from when I was younger involve family traditions. One of my favorite traditions is having Thanksgiving dinner with my family. My family would spend the morning cleaning the house during commercial breaks of the Thanksgiving Day Parade. We would set up the two long tables in the kitchen and place chairs around to accommodate every family member. We used every single chair we had in the house, even desk chairs from our bedrooms. We decorated the tables with little turkey favors for our family members to take with them when they left. There was usually just enough time to

take a shower right before the family members started to arrive!

When everyone got there, it was fun to see all of our shoes lined up by the door. For a while, when my cousins were younger, there would be a big difference between their little shoes and my grandpa's big shoes. Through the years, the difference grew smaller as they grew bigger.

Having one refrigerator in the kitchen and another in the basement always came in handy – especially when we filled both of them completely with Thanksgiving food! Everyone has been responsible for one part of the meal: My grandma

cooks the turkey and stuffing. My mom makes more stuffing (my favorite part) and the sweet potatoes. My aunt brings the gravy and the cranberries, and my cousin bakes the corn. It is my great-grandma's job to bring the pies. Sometimes my relatives showed up early and finish baking in our oven. The smells of all of the food created a feast for our noses! Part of the magic of the meal was seeing everything come together. We sat cozily together in the kitchen and enjoyed each other's company and the delicious food. Long after the meal was over and the dishes were clean, my family stayed at the house. Some of the time, they stayed late enough to have leftover turkey or an extra slice of pie, if there was any left.

Of course, some Thanksgiving meals stand out in my memory more than others do. Like the year our cat jumped on the dinner table as soon as my grandpa carved the turkey, or the

year we cleaned up and cleared out the kitchen, turned up some music, and everyone danced in the kitchen.

Eating together on Thanksgiving is a tradition that we still honor, although the location of the meal has changed a few times, sometimes at my grandma's house. There is another tradition that has not changed. After we say grace as a family, we go around the table and share what we are thankful for, and the most common response is the most important – we are thankful for each other.

As Thanksgiving approaches and the start of the holiday season is just a twinkle away, it is a good time to reflect on all of the things we are thankful for. This would be a great tradition to start every day.

I am looking forward to this holiday season. The beauty of it all is being together, honoring past traditions, and creating new traditions.

Holiday Product Order Form

Citrus, Nuts, Cheese, Meat, Popcorn and Spices

Complete the order form and return with your payment in full to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174, no later than Friday, November 23, 2007. Pickup is Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse (same place as last year), 2010 E. Main St., St. Charles (just west of Dunham Road).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ORDER DEADLINE: Friday, November 23, 2007

PICKUP TIME: Wednesday, December 12, 2007
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: HEINZ BROS. GREENHOUSE
2010 E. MAIN ST.
ST CHARLES
(JUST WEST OF DUNHAM ROAD)

PAYMENT: **WITH ORDER PLACEMENT**
WE ACCEPT VISA & M/C

SEND ORDER TO: KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
2N710 RANDALL ROAD
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

Quantity	MEMBER CLASS	
	MM/ A+	A
CITRUS		
GRAPEFRUIT 2/5 BUSHEL	13.50	15.00
GRAPEFRUIT 4/5 BUSHEL	22.00	23.50
NAVEL ORANGES 2/5 BUSHEL	13.50	15.00
NAVEL ORANGES 4/5 BUSHEL	22.00	23.50
TANGELOS 2/5 BUSHEL	13.50	15.00
TANGELOS 4/5 BUSHEL	22.00	23.50
CITRUS TRIO 2/5 BU. (oranges, grapefruit, tangelos)	18.00	19.50
MIXED CITRUS BOX 2/5 BU. (half oranges/half grapefruit)	18.00	19.50
PREMIUM VARIETY PACK 2/5 BU. (oranges, grapefruit, red delicious apples, D'Anjou pears)	22.50	24.00
CHEESE GIFT BOXES		
BOX "A", Mild Cheddar, Swiss, Longhorn, Calico	17.45	17.95
BOX "B", Mild Cheddar, Swiss, Calico, 5 oz. sausage	17.85	18.35
BOX "C", Longhorn, Mild Brick, Mild Cheddar, 12 oz. sausage	18.70	19.20
BOX "D", Calico, Mild Cheddar, Swiss, Colby, Gouda, two 5 oz. sausage	22.15	22.65
NUTS		
PEANUTS - 20 OZ CAN SKINLESS	4.25	4.75
HONEY KRUNCH PEANUTS - 11 OZ. CAN	3.50	3.75
PECAN HALVES -1 LB BAG	6.50	7.00
MISCELLANEOUS		
POPCORN, YELLOW 2 LB BAG	2.25	2.50
BBQ SPICE, 12 OZ. SHAKER JAR	4.50	4.75
MEAT - 5 LB BOX (all individually wrapped)		
BOURBON SIRLOIN STEAKS, 8 OZ.	30.00	31.00
PORK CHOPS 8 OZ, SEASONED W/BONE	22.00	23.00
PORK CHOPS 8 OZ, SEASONED BONELESS	22.00	23.00
PORK CHOPS 10 OZ, SEASONED BONELESS	22.00	23.00
CHICKEN BREASTS	18.50	19.50
GROUND BEEF PATTIES	16.50	17.50

TOTAL ITEMS ORDERED & TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

(NON-MEMBERS ADD 10% TO THE "A" MEMBER PRICE)