

Kane County Farmer



KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU®
Farm. Family. Food.™

Enhance the quality of life for member families;
Promote agriculture, farms & food; and,
Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 85 NO. 4 APRIL 2020



Pollinators postponed



Plans to plant a pollinator rain garden on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau at the 2020 Touch-A-Tractor event have obviously been postponed. And while it's a shame that the Farm Bureau cannot use this public event, with attendees in the hundreds at any given moment, to install this environmentally friendly practice and share its benefits with a wider audience, the installation will proceed, at a later date, and we will do our best to inform members and the public of the installation date so they can stop by and lend a hand!

While pollinator gardens have become popular in recent years with the decline in pollinators and the potential effects on the environment, especially food production, the idea for a pollinator rain garden owes its origin to two local entities, namely the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District and the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources.

Farm Bureau was first approached by the SWCD over 5 years ago about the possibility of installing a rain garden to filter run-off from the

parking lot and as a demonstration project for local farmers and the public. At that time, with a parking lot in need of massive repair or replacement, no suitable (visible) public space could be found.

In 2016, the County of

Kane embarked on a project to revisit the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance. An agricultural task force was assembled to investigate ways to improve water quality through application of stormwater provisions on agricultural lands

undergoing development. The result was an improved ordinance, with water-quality benefit measures (or best management practices) in lieu of stormwater detention on agricultural lands.

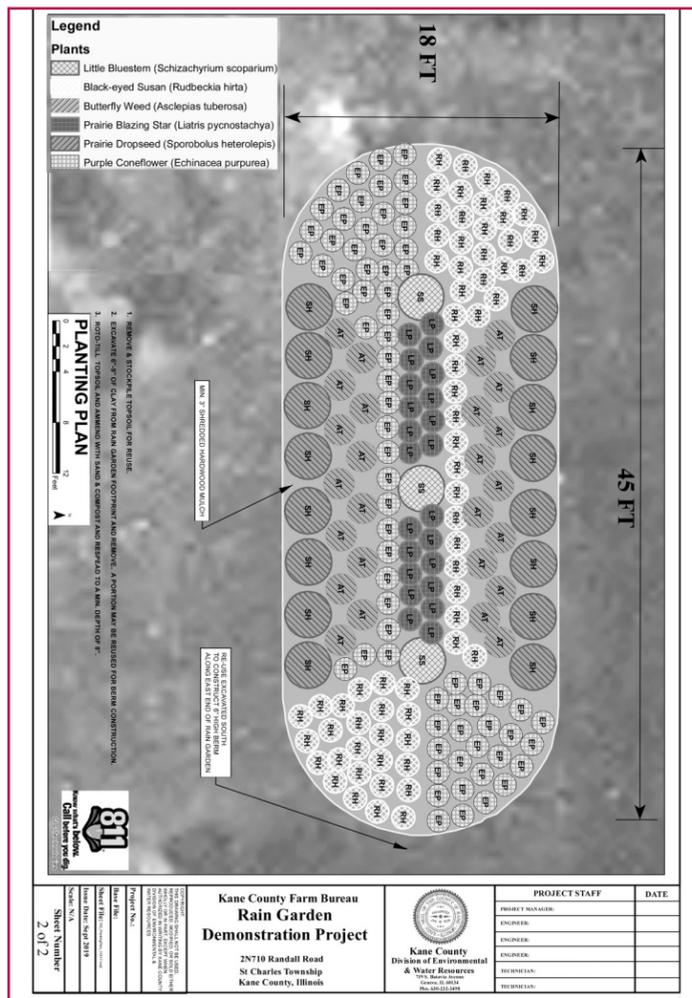
In the fall of 2018, the Farm Bureau had its parking lot reconstructed and changed elevations to concentrate runoff and direct it toward the existing storm sewer system. The resulting improvement created an ideal environment for demonstration of the benefits of one of these water-quality benefits, or best management practices, in a very public space along heavily travelled Randall Road in St. Charles.

The pollinator rain garden to be installed was designed by Rob Linke, P.E., CFM the Senior Water Resources Engineer & Wetland Specialist from the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources. We look forward to installing this educational improvement in 2020 and hope you will come out to help when we issue the appeal!

See page 6 for more information about the benefits of a pollinator garden.

Left: A diagram of the rain garden plantings. Want to come out and help put them in the ground? Call 630-584-8660!

Below: The site as it appears now with stakes to mark the 18' x 45' garden. Prairie Fence and Landscaping of Sugar Grove will begin site preparation soon.



FEATURED FOOD PRODUCT

Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

The special this month is 3 individually wrapped, 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the most tender part of the pork loin. The roasts are designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°F, sliced thin and used as an entrée. The roast is netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$20 to Farm Bureau members, non-members pay \$23. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

Available when the KCFB office is reopened to the public.



These signs and others emphasizing the importance of pollinators will be on display during planting of the new garden.

Please note that food products, toys and other KCFB services will be available to our members as soon as Executive Order is lifted and we are again able to open our doors.

Farm Toy of the Month

This month's farm toy is a sweet Easter treat – your choice of a pink or red Pillow Pet FREE* when you make any

non-food purchase from our Farm Store. These squeezable, cuddly pets are perfect for pint-sized farmers to snuggle with while they dream of spring plant-

ing. Get your FREE pillow pet with purchase while they last.

*A valid member email address is required for eligibility.



KCFB CALENDAR APRIL 2020

- 9 Board of Directors, 7pm
 - 10 Good Friday, Office Closes at Noon
 - 16 108th KCFB Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm
 - 19-25 National Library Week
- (All meetings/events are at KCFB unless otherwise indicated)

March 23, 2019

Dear Readers,

Although we have cancelled all April public events and public meetings (other than governance meetings), we want you to know that we at the Kane County Farm Bureau will do our best to be available every day, as we have been for over one hundred years, to provide you with answers to questions about farms, food and agriculture that you just can't get anywhere else.

Our doors may be locked by Executive Order to protect the health and safety of our community – but we are accessible by phone, email and online. Our goal is to continue to help support you in making important decisions that affect your farms and your families, and to continue support the most essential products and services in this or any economy – those of the food chain.

Please keep us up to date about what is happening on your farms, on your land, in your businesses and in other organizations. We should all stay connected and engaged, with appropriate social distancing, during this challenging time.

As we round the corner into the busiest times of the year, spring on the farm, many of you will shift focus toward planting crops. Now more than ever, we need to support each other and our industry to stay grounded and ensure that our nation is fed, clothed and sheltered. **It's going to take all of us.**

The Kane County Farm Bureau will be available to help you do just that.

Sincerely,
The Staff and Management
Kane County Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau cancels spring learning events Ag Days, Touch-A-Tractor fall victim to virus

By now it's not news, but two of the KCFB's biggest and longest running events of spring, Ag Days and Touch-A-Tractor, both were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Ag Days had a 37 consecutive year history. 2020's Touch-A-Tractor would have been the 15th annual.

In keeping with advice from the Centers for Disease Control, Kane County Health Department and numerous other public health agencies and experts, Ag Days was cancelled before the announcements came from state and federal governments that limited group events and closed schools. In a letter to school teachers and the volunteer presenters who largely ran the two day educational expo, KCFB

Manager Steve Arnold saluted Mooseheart Child City and School saying, "We appreciate the partnership that has allowed Farm Bureau to use the Mooseheart facilities for over two decades for this event, and fully support their decision to prioritize public health, safety and welfare."

That same correspondence offered school teachers who had planned to bring 4th grade classrooms online and classroom lessons on farm & food related topics that would have been incorporated in the Ag Days presentations, through the Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag-in-the-Classroom website: <http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/TeacherResources.shtml>.

The week following, when the state ordered the closure of all schools, the Illinois Farm Bureau responded with the launch of daily "video" with a simple lesson demonstration that links to a worksheet, website, and other resources. The inaugural "issue" launched March 17, can be seen here: <https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/>. KCFB will be sharing these lessons on its Facebook page. If you haven't already, like and follow the page - You can find it by searching for "Kane County Farm Bureau" on Facebook.

Plans for a late summer or early fall Touch-A-Tractor event will be discussed in the coming months by the Kane County Farm Bureau and Foundation

Boards of Directors but a decision has yet been made. The planting of a "Pollinator Rain Garden" by volunteers at Touch-A-Tractor has been postponed, but the Farm Bureau fully intends to proceed with land preparation for the garden planting and will share information about a date to put plants in the ground through a future issue of the *Kane County Farmer* and on social media.

Arnold closed the letter to

the many presenters and volunteers have helped make Ag Days such a tremendous success over the past 35+ years, saying, "Thank you for your dedication to agricultural and consumer education and your loyal service to this event. We hope to see you next year!" The same holds true for Touch-A-Tractor and all the other programs and activities that have gained the loyal support of members and volunteers.

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, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many 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 resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history-related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

Don't be a statistic.

KCFB offers FREE grain bin safety stickers

Farmers everywhere know that a whole lot of grain went into storage in the fall of 2019 in less than ideal conditions. The tragic results in loss of life have played out on social media, in agricultural news and through local news stories in rural areas across the Midwest already this year.

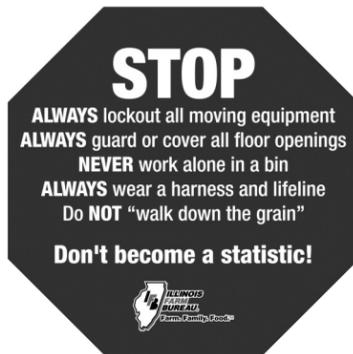
Grain Safety Week is April 13-17, and Kane County Farm Bureau is working to raise awareness about grain handling and storage hazards. We want to

help provide education and training, and convey best safety practices for farmers and grain handlers.

To assist in promoting grain safety awareness, Kane County Farm Bureau has FREE Grain Bin Warning decals available to area farmers. The die-cut decals are 12 x 12 inches and are overlaminated vinyl for outdoor use. The decal lists prudent grain safety procedure.

Farm families wishing to get stickers can stop by Kane

County Farm Bureau or call us at 630-584-8660.



Learning resources available online through Kane Co. & IL Farm Bureaus

In these times of limited in-person gatherings, and particularly while Illinois schools are closed, Kane County Farm Bureau and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) are offering online lessons and resources to help educators, parents and students. The daily video lessons launched March 17th with "Where Does My Milk Come From?" The simple lesson demonstration links to a worksheet, website, and other resources. A new lesson will be offered each day, covering topics such as watersheds, soil, agriculture production and much more. Lessons can be seen here: <https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/>.

Kane County Farm Bureau will be sharing these lessons on its Facebook page - find it by searching "Kane County Farm

Bureau" on Facebook.

Kane County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau invite teachers, parents and students to use these resources as alternative activities or e-learning

activities while schools are closed or anytime free learning resources are needed.

Visit www.agintheclassroom.org or call 630-584-8660 for more details.

Ellen Kamps of St Charles presents an update on the development of a new website for the organization at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors. No release date has been determined but we hope to improve the look, feel and functionality of the organization's website and make it easier for members to navigate.



KC Corn Growers scholarships

Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and college students. You or your parent/guardian must be a Kane County Corn Growers member to qualify for the scholarship. For membership details see our homepage. Application must be received by May 1, 2020. For more information, visit <http://www.kanecountycorngrowers.com/scholarship/>.

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Sample Packs make great gifts!

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2020

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X									
B. COLLINS	X	X	X									
C. COLLINS	X	X	X									
J. ENGEL	X	X										
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X									
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X									
W. KECK	X	X	X									
M. KENYON	X	X	X									
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X									
D. LEHRER	*	*	*									
A. LENKAITIS	X	X	X									
N. LONG	X	X										
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X									
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X									
J. WHITE	X	X	X									

*Attendance by electronic means.

Kane County Farmer

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Steven J. Arnold, Editor

Audre Pack, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator

Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator

Sindhu Saveen, Membership Assistant

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38

Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles

PHONE: 630-584-8660

info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

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<p>■ DISTRICT 1 Aurora, Sugar Grove, Big Rock Twnshp. Nan Long 11461 E. County Line Rd. Big Rock, IL 60511 815-693-7214 Donna Lehrer 7S027 Jericho Rd. Big Rock, IL 60511 630-556-3476 William Keck P.O. Box 281 Sugar Grove, IL 60554 (630) 466-4030</p>	<p>Joe White President 47W727 Main St. Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-557-2517 ■ DISTRICT 3 Virgil, Campton, St. Charles Twnshp. Andrew Lenkaitis 6N707 Corron Rd. St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-9980 Chris Collins 1143 Anderson Elburn, IL 60119 630-934-4642</p>	<p>Mike Kenyon Secretary/Treasurer 1250 E. Main St. South Elgin, IL 60177 847-741-1818 Craig Bradley 37W791 Orchard Lane Elgin, IL 60124 847-888-2380 ■ DISTRICT 5 Hampshire, Rutland, Dundee Twnshp. Joe Engel 516 Sawgrass Ln. Hampshire, IL 60140 847-347-5561</p>
<p>■ DISTRICT 2 Kaneville, Blackberry, Gen./Bat. Twnshp. Bill Collins 1125 Lewis Rd. Geneva, IL 60134 630-484-6852 Karl Kettelkamp 47W407 Main Street Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-365-2713</p>	<p>Dale Pitstick 2N118 Pouley Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-816-0223 ■ DISTRICT 4 Burlington, Plato Elgin Twnshp. Beth Gehrke 12N860 US Hwy. 20 Elgin, IL 60124 847-697-2538</p>	<p>Gerald Gaitsch 10613 Brittany Ave. Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-2003 Wayne Schneider Vice President 721 Lindsay Lane West Dundee, IL 60118 847-428-0488</p>

Kane County farmers meet with local legislators

In mid-March, Kane County Farm Bureau farmer-members volunteered to visit the offices of local legislators during this year's "Lunches to Legislators" program. This program, organized by the KCFB Governmental Affairs committee, gives local farmers the opportunity to get acquainted with local legislators and speak with them on behalf of the local agricultural community. Prior to sitting down with the legislators, volunteers were invited to attend a dinner to discuss current IFB legislative priorities to further prepare them for their office visits.

Volunteers were able to visit and sit down with local legislators and with staff members where legislators were absent due to prior obligations. Information was shared about the agriculture industry, programs the Kane County Farm Bureau provides for community

members, local and state publications, as well as the IFB 2020 Policy Resolutions, voted on by Illinois farmers at the December 2019 IAA Annual Meeting. The program is something both volunteers and local legislators look forward to every year.

Common themes in conversations this year during the scheduled visits included taxes, trade, budget, livestock issues and environmental issues. And of course the potential impacts of coronavirus. Farmers shared statistics related to Kane County farms, information about technology being used on farms, personal stories and Farm Bureau policy on key legislative issues. The volunteers were able to connect with the legislators and staff members present on these topics and many more, presenting the information asked for in relatable terms.

Mark Raney, Illinois Farm Bureau's Assistant Director of

State Legislation gave the legislative briefing to KCFB volunteers. He provided a variety of topics to discuss with local legislators, including: the state

budget, Livestock Management Facilities Act, taxes and environmental issues. Volunteers in attendance were also presented with the opportunity to ask

questions about any other agricultural related pieces of legislation, as well as advice on topics to present to certain elected officials.



Left: 33rd District State Senator Don DeWitte (L) and a staff member converse with KCFB Vice-President Wayne Schneider of West Dundee and KCFB Director Beth Gehrke of Elgin (not pictured) during the Friday, March 13 Lunches to Legislators program.



Right: Senator DeWitte with KCFB members Bob and Beth Gehrke on their farm during corn harvest on November 30, 2019. Farm Bureau works hard to develop rapport and relationships with elected officials. We appreciate both our members and our legislators participation in these type of legislative relations visits to learn more about the farm economy.

Farm Bureau 2020 State Legislative Priorities

- Seek sufficient levels of state funding for agricultural programs.
- Maintain a balanced process for siting livestock farms through the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) that protects both the environment and farmers' ability to raise livestock.
- Support state tax policies that build a positive business climate. This includes supporting agricultural sales tax incentives and the Farmland Assessment Law.
- Continue to support efforts that benefit and expand habitat for pollinators statewide, including education and outreach, habitat development, and science and research.
- Support Illinois' NLRs, which set a 2025 target of a 25 percent reduction in phosphorus and a 15 percent reduction in nitrates leaving the state via Illinois' major rivers.
- Maintain a balanced system for antibiotic usage. Farmers know that quality food begins with quality care for their animals. That is why farmers use antibiotics strategically and under the guidance of their veterinarians.
- Support legislation limiting liability on agritourism for inherent risks.
- Seek changing flood levels for levee construction permits from "worst case analysis" to more measurable analysis.
- Support the expansion and enhancement of high-speed broadband while protecting the private property rights of farmers during the installation, maintenance, and upgrading of current services.
- Support a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture.



Although largely an acquaintance and appreciation program for area legislators, packets delivered to local offices always include Farm Bureau Policy Resolutions. The Farm Bureau is proud of its farmer-led policy development process and is likely one of the few organizations that makes ALL policy widely available to legislators and members alike. If you don't believe so, stop by our office on Randall Road anytime and ask for a copy!

Your odds just got better!

One reality of the forced cancellation of Touch-A-Tractor for 2020 is improving odds for holders of a KCFB Foundation Vintage Truck Raffle ticket. Touch-A-Tractor is the not-for-profit Foundation's biggest annual opportunity to sell tickets for this annual fundraiser for

college scholarships and ag literacy programs and it's cancellation means fewer ticket sales, and therefore greater odds of winning!

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn on July 19, 2020, at 3pm during the Kane County Fair. The win-

ning ticket will take home a 1969 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck. Second prize is \$500 in groceries and third prize \$500 in fuel.

Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles), from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2, with VISA or MasterCard at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

In 2019, over \$22,500 in tuition assistance was provided by the Foundation. Your contributions through the annual raffle and other events throughout the year play a huge role in helping students attain their degrees, reach their goals, and assist in securing a bright future for farms and food.

For more information and rules on this year's raffle, scholarship programs or other KCFB Foundation programs and services, visit www.kanecfb.com or contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.



The winning ticket in The KCFB Foundation's 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle will net the grand prize of this nicely restored and maintained 1969 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck - a fun summertime ride!

Win a pedal tractor at the Kane County Fair

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the Kane County Fair on July 19. Previously the drawing was held at Touch-A-Tractor, but with the postponement and possible cancellation of that event for 2020, we have decided to move the drawing to the Kane County Fair.

Return the form below to KCFB by July 19, sign up at our office or sign up at the fair. The pedal tractor drawing is open only to children 8 and under. Entrant's name, age, and phone must appear on the form.

You can also receive one (1) additional entry to the FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing for each child or grandchild in your family by bringing non-perishable food

items to the Farm Bureau office. Food items will then be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.



Give your child or grandchild the chance to win a pedal tractor at the Kane County Fair! Pictured is 5-year old Liam Sickafosse of St. Charles, the winner of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's 2018 Pedal Tractor Drawing.

FREE PEDAL TRACTOR DRAWING

(For children 8 and under. Entrant's age must appear on the form below)

Please enter me in the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing.

Name _____ Age _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Return by Sunday, April 19 to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Save for FREE admission to: **Touch-A-Tractor**
April 17, 18, 19 2020 | St. Charles

VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

Proceeds benefit college scholarships, Ag literacy programs & local FFA chapters

2020 GRAND PRIZE

1969 CHEVY C10 PICKUP OR \$3,500 CASH

\$15 EACH 2/\$25 5/\$50

Drawing Sunday July 19, 2020, 4H Blue Ribbon Sale, Kane County Fairgrounds, Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois.

18 or older to enter. Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all local, state and federal taxes associated with prize chosen.

Name (print) _____ #0000
Daytime Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
2020 VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE

Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 **or** charge my:

Visa MC # _____ Exp ____/____/____

Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Teacher Institute Day: Lessons for a Cleaner, Greener World

“We’re not here to teach you ag.” That may seem an odd thing to tell teachers assembled at KCFB for Institute Day on February 28. But Kevin Daugherty, Director of Agricultural Engagement at Illinois Farm Bureau, made the point that teaching ag is “what high school and college ag classes and FFA programs do. We can teach language arts, history, math, earth sciences, social studies and more through agriculture,” he said.

Twenty-five teachers from across Kane County attend ed Institute Day, learning fun, creative and informative lessons to take back to their classrooms to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22 (or really for any time of the year). Attendees engaged in a number of interactive lessons showing how many aspects of agriculture can be used to teach lessons on recycling, clean water and the water cycle, how plants and trees grow, pollination and planting pollinator gardens. For instance, Daugherty demonstrated what percentage of the earth’s soil is usable to grow food by cutting an apple into fourths – three parts represent the oceans and the fourth represents the land. He repeatedly cut the “land” portion in half until there was 1/32 of an apple. The peel on this last 1/32 section represents the amount of soil on which we have to grow food. The other portions of land are too rocky, wet, hot, cold, mountainous, swampy, lack nutrients, or have human-made structures on them.

Math and geography also can be taught in ag-related ways. By following where their milk originated on the whereismilk.com website, students can learn lessons on how the milk was transported, how far it traveled from the dairy, and how much gas was used. To demonstrate the Illinois water shed, teachers can draw dots on a map

of Illinois (or blank piece of paper), wad it up tightly and unfold but not flatten out. The high spots are hills, the low spots valleys. The dots represent possible pollutants – soil, chemicals, and debris. Then use a spray bottle to mist the paper and watch how the dots begin to wash away and travel over the paper. That shows how rain and melted snow travels over the land, carrying pollutants into rivers and streams and eventually into the ocean.

To demonstrate how a seed sprouts into a plant, a kindergarten teacher was game to be dressed up in multiple layers and accessories. She donned a rain jacket, hat, backpack, and had snacks and a water bottle stashed in her pocket. By doing this in the classroom, children learn that the coat protects “Sprout” from wind, rain and cold. When it gets warm, the seed sheds its “coat.” Kids also learn that, like us, seeds need a nutrient supply and water to grow.

Josh Libman, naturalist with Kane County Forest Preserve, spoke about the importance of pollinators. He noted that “one out of every three bites of our food” is due to honeybee pollination. For instance, 90% of blueberries and cherries are pollinated by honeybees and 100% of almonds. While European honeybees are very important to our food system, he cautioned not to forget that there are many other pollinators, such as over 400 species of bees native to Illinois, and other creatures such as carrion beetles, butterflies and hummingbirds. He offered tips to plant a pollinator garden, and said it needn’t be large—a small patch of land can serve as a way station.

- Use a wide variety of plants that bloom during all growing seasons.
- Avoid modern hybrids (they are low nectar producers).
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use.
- Include larval host plants to be eaten by caterpillars.
- Leave dead trees/limbs in place when safe to do so.

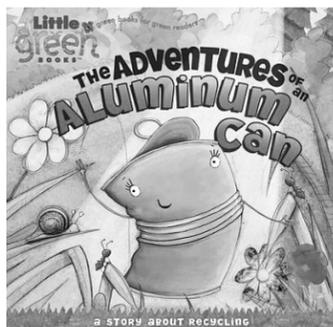
Book of the month

Ever wonder where that plastic bottle or aluminum can holding your favorite drink originated? Or if it had other “lives” before becoming that container in your hand? *The Adventures of an Aluminum Can* follows the journey of cans and a companion book follows plastic bottles.

Told in a “Dear Diary” format, it traces the journey as a cute little speck of alumina (yes, the illustrator makes it cute!) is excavated, brought to a refinery and made into aluminum oxide, which is then made into a long, rectangular sheet of aluminum. In this example, it is then stretched into the shape of a can for fruit, which a family buys, consumes and tosses into the recycle bin. It is then sorted and taken to the aluminum recycling plant where it is cleaned, shredded, melted and recast. She is then shipped to a baseball bat factory where they squeeze the

aluminum through a mold, spin it around, then put into a salt bath and heat treatment. She’s happy being a baseball bat, beloved by her young owner and used for many years to come.

Come check out *The Adventures of an Aluminum Can* in our library, made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, with funding provided by the Bob Konen family.



The Adventures of an Aluminum Can by Alison Inches

• Install nectar feeders.
Jennifer Jarland, Kane County Recycling Coordinator, gave the teachers an overview of the sometimes confusing world of recycling. Most of us can readily quote the three “Rs” of reduce, reuse and recycle, to which she would add another: rethink. Do we need to buy that new item, or could we reuse something or go without? She noted that about 20% of a landfill consists of food waste, where it rots rather than decomposes, which produces methane gas. Jarland discussed the criteria of what can be recycled in Kane County: it must be able to be sorted and must have a viable market. For some plastics, she said, there is not enough of a market. In many cases, it’s easier and cheaper to make new plastics. Jarland suggested activities schools can do including posting clear signage detailing what can and cannot be recycled, working toward zero-waste

lunches, and holding a clothing recycling drive.

The day wrapped up with Jodie Wollnik from Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources speaking about clean water and what farmers can do to protect our water systems, including adding filter strips, grass waterways, and wetland restoration. She gave the teachers information on how to create a basic woodchip bioreactor in the classroom, similar to the

Kane County bioreactor located at Meissner Prairie-Corron Forest Preserve. She explained how the woodchip bioreactor works: water with dissolved nitrates flows into a woodchip pit. The woodchips act as a home and food for the bacteria in the low-oxygen environment. Bacteria converts nitrates into dinitrogen gas, and water flows from the output minus nitrates.

From kindergarten through high school, Kane County teachers came away from Institute Day armed with resources, colorful posters, lesson plans, hand-on activities, shared ideas, and a new network to inspire them to teach almost any subject through the lens of agriculture.



Top: Kevin Daugherty, IFB Director of Agricultural Engagement, shows teachers at Institute Day some of the many resources available for teachers and classroom use.



Right: Jennifer Jarland, Kane County Recycling Coordinator, gives teachers a rundown of proper recycling practices, ideas to promote recycling at school, and how to prevent food waste.

Helping you protect what matters most



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Todd Wilcox
St. Charles
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Deb Stob
Geneva
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Gary Bolger
West Dundee
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Bobbi Boston
St. Charles
630-485-5155



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Sherri Schramer
Elburn
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Keith Eakins
St. Charles
630-762-1324



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Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Chuck Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0001



David Berreles
Hampshire
847-683-2100



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Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
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Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Earth Day

One of Earth's most important natural resources is soil.

The dirt on soil conservation

One of Earth's most important natural resources is soil. The soil beneath your feet can differ drastically from place to place. Soils are identified based on properties like soil texture (the proportions of sand, silt, and clay the soil contains), which can influence the soil's color, organic matter content, mineral content, drainage abilities, and other properties important to plant growth. With more than 600 kinds of soils identified in Illinois alone, it is no surprise that management practices that work on one farm in northern Illinois probably do not work on a farm in southern Illinois.

Farmers depend upon the soil in their fields to support and nourish crops and pastures. In order to realize its full potential, farmers are knowledgeable about the types of soils in their fields and their characteristics. On average, it takes 500 years to form one inch of topsoil. Because of this slow regeneration, farmers are careful to implement soil conservation measures to reduce the risk of soil moving out of their fields. Soil erosion can occur by wind carrying away loose particles from the soil surface or by

water moving along the soil surface, carrying loose soil particles along with it.

One of the most common ways for a farmer to implement soil conservation practices is through tillage – or lack thereof. Tillage is the preparation of land for growing crops. It's a mechanical process that stirs, overturns, or otherwise agitates the soil to prepare it for planting or to disrupt the growth of weeds.

There are three main categories of tillage: minimum-till, reduced tillage, and conventional tillage.

Minimum-till includes practices like no-till and strip-till, which result in little to no soil disturbance outside of what is required to plant the crop. At least 50 percent of the soil surface remains covered by crop residue.

Reduced tillage (or conservation tillage) includes practices that leave 30 percent or more of the soil surface covered by crop residue.

Conventional tillage includes practices that tend to work soil more deeply than reduced tillage practices, leaving less than 15 percent of crop residue remain-

ing on the soil surface.

Beyond tillage, there are many ways farmers are working to enhance their soils. This includes planting cover crops, maintaining grass waterways and buffer strips, utilizing terraces within the field to reduce slopes, and practicing proper nutrient management.

Soil management is not a one-size-fits-all strategy. Even though fields might be in the same area, key differences between soil types and qualities result in farmers using different management practices on different fields or even within the same field!

Farmers also consider the types of equipment available to them and the costs associated with adopting different practices. It could require a buying new piece of tillage equipment or spending time re-fitting existing equipment to make a new practice possible.

Ultimately, farmers are all working towards the same goal: to leave their land better than they found it, providing an opportunity for the next generation to step up and take over the family farm.

Earth Day 2020 – the 50th anniversary

Over the last 60 years, Illinois farms have more than doubled production (102%) while using 11% less land. (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Survey)

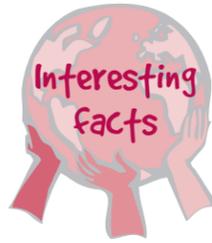
Farmland acres covered by cover crops over the winter in Illinois more than doubled (123%) between 2012 and 2017. (USDA Ag Census)

Solar projects on Illinois farms nearly tripled between

2012 and 2017. (USDA Ag Census)

72% of Illinois farmland acres are no-till and reduced-till, while 28% of Illinois farmland acres are conventional-till. This is a 9.5% increase in no-till and reduced tillage practices since 2012. (USDA Ag Census)

There are about 27 million acres of farmland in Illinois. (USDA Ag Census)



Nature Faces craft

This will get you and the little ones outside to enjoy Earth Day!

Nature Faces

1. Cut face-shaped ovals out of cardboard
2. Go on a nature walk and collect grasses, flowers, different shaped leaves, maple keys, pine

needles – all sorts of things in different shapes, sizes, colors and textures.

3. For the younger ones, lightly mark in pencil where the eyes, nose and mouth should go.
4. Using school glue, let the kids create their self-portrait!

An Earth Day green recipe

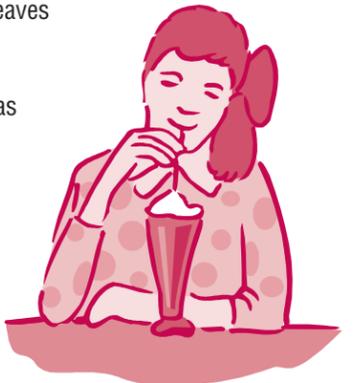
Go Green For Earth Day!

Parsley, Kale and Berry Smoothies

This will make a vibrantly-colored green smoothie, but is sweet from the berries and banana. Parsley is rich in vitamin K, which is important for bone health and a healthy cardiovascular system, and also a good source of vitamins A and C. Kale is also high in vitamin C, and rich in calcium and fiber.

- 1/2 cup (packed) flat-leaf parsley (leaves and stems)
- 4 kale leaves (center ribs removed)
- 1 cup frozen organic berries (such as strawberries or raspberries)
- 1 banana (fresh or frozen, cut into pieces)
- 1 teaspoon ground flaxseed (optional)

Puree all ingredients in blender with water. Optional: add 1/2 cup of plain or vanilla yogurt for extra calcium boost.



Why are people always tired on Earth Day?

Because they just finished a March.



Why are recycling bins optimistic?

Because they are full of "cans"!



What's the difference between weather and climate?

You can't weather a tree, but you can climate!

Congratulations

Frances Stuehler from Hampshire, this month's winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a cow themed prize. Thank you Frances, for reading the Kane County Farmer, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Earth Day

B H A N R R Q Q W N E Y I D Z H Q S G T
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 Y O V N R E R U V I O W A T E R S H E D
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 ETHANOL
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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by April 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for an Earth Day themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

February FB legislative reception

Top: State Representative Jeff Keicher, State Representative Keith Wheeler, KCFB President Joe White, State Representative Dan Ugaste and former KCFB Director Frank Carlson pause for a photo during a Farm Bureau statewide legislative reception at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield as part of the IFB Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference in February. Administration officials including Lt. Governor Julia Stratton also stopped by the reception to mingle with farmers.



Bottom: State Senator Jim Oberweis stops to chat with KCFB Manager Steve Arnold at the reception. KCFB reminds Regular (farmer) and Professional members that registration to this and six other statewide conferences is a FREE membership benefit of the KCFB! The next conference offering will be the Farm Income and Innovations Conference In July. Call 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve for details of the offer.



Pesticide applicator training clinics cancelled

Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing Clinics jointly administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and University of Illinois Extension are cancelled for the remainder of the clinic season. These cancellations include the Des Plaines, and St. Charles locations and the test-

only locations in DeKalb and Springfield. The University of Illinois Extension has initiated the process of contacting each individual registered for clinics. **The Illinois Department of Agriculture will extend licenses that expired December 31, 2019. These licenses will now be valid through December**

31, 2020. Training and testing opportunities will be available for individuals not currently licensed as applicators. Please visit the Illinois Department of Agriculture homepage for the most up to date information and FAQs.

Travel opportunities thru FB

Northern Illinois County Farm Bureaus have teamed up to offer a wonderful group trip in 2021. It's never too early to start planning! Free airfare when booked by June 30, 2020. Join fellow members while enjoying a 10-day vacation and tour of Yellowstone, Grand Tetons and Mount Rushmore, featuring Deadwood, Jackson Hole and the Black Hills. Tour Dates: August 4-13, 2021. Trip brochures and pricing available by calling Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



Farm stewardship celebrated on Earth Day

Every April after an evening mushroom hunt in the timber, the sunset's glow across the home farm triggers a connective feeling to the land that I struggle to describe.

That connection developed while working side-by-side with my family on land improvement efforts. The passion strengthens at harvest, when we gather the land's bounty. The kids express the feeling when they request to fish and canoe the river that borders the farm.

This April marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It seems fitting that the world celebrates this day April 22, a time when (weather-willing) Illinois farmers work with the land and Mother Nature to plant from sunrise to sunset. I compare this day to Mother's or Father's Day, an official date to formally honor an everyday commitment, in this case to environmental stewardship.

Because in the 364 days preceding Earth Day, we appreciated and cared for the land with the same ambition. Solar arrays helped produce the energy that powers our home farmstead and

grain facility. My family installed or maintained grass waterways, buffer strips and terraces in fields to protect the soil and filter water that moves across the land. Sensitive lands transitioned to wildlife habitat. Reduced tillage and often no tillage at all make the land less vulnerable to soil and nutrient loss.

Agronomists help us follow the 4Rs, choosing the "right" fertilizer at the "right" rate, the "right" time and in the "right" place on our farm's varying soil types. Technology in our tractors use global-positioning satellites for precise applications and operations. This reduces use of fuel and pesticides and maximizes use of seed and fertilizer in science-proven ways never available to my grandpa's generation.

In the house, we recycle eligible plastics, metals and papers. The kids and I pick up trash in country ditches, where we more often mow around milkweeds, the food source for monarch butterflies. Deer, raccoons and even a growing population of bald eagles co-exist with the farm, too.

On Earth Day, as every day, farm families like ours feel an obligation to keep the land in as good or better condition for the next generation of caretakers. I hope they find the sunsets on the land just as magnificent.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Benefits of a Pollinator Garden

You probably understand that bees around the world are in danger. Over the past decades, bees have been mysteriously dying and disappearing, leaving hives empty and beekeepers scratching their heads. But bee die-off is a problem for more than beekeepers and lovers of honey; bees are a big part of the world's food system, and their declining population poses a big threat to global food security.

Planting a pollinator garden is a great way to provide habitat for important bee species, but saving the bees isn't the only benefit of a pollinator garden. Here are four other perks you'll enjoy!

- 1. It Will Improve Vegetable Gardens** – If you have a garden, you could enjoy a big boost to fruit and vegetable yields when you add a pollinator garden. When bees visit blooming plants, they're doing more than having a bite to eat. They're transferring pollen from flower to flower so plants can grow fruit. Some fruits and vegetables, including cucumbers and squash, can't produce a crop unless pollinated by an insect.
- 2. It's a Great Educational Tool** – Building a bee-friendly garden is a fun project for adults, and it's also a wonderful way to promote an early love of science and bond with kids. Parents and children can discuss flower structure, plant reproduction, and insect behavior while watching bees forage in the garden.
- 3. It Cleans Your Air** – All plants consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen during photosynthesis. And while plants consume oxygen and produce carbon dioxide at night, they create about ten times more oxygen than they use.
- 4. It Controls Unwanted Insects** – If you're having trouble with nuisance insects, a pollinator garden might be the solution you're looking for. Gardens designed to attract pollinators are incredibly diverse, as they must have plants of different colors, shapes, and sizes flowering three seasons out of the year. The birds, bugs, and even bats that your garden attracts will eat problem bugs while the diverse assortment of plant life will help ensure that no single pest takes over.
- 5. It Makes You Happier** – Gardening is more than a fun pastime; it can even be good for your mental health. Gardening can relieve your stress and reduce the risk of depression and anxiety, thanks to the benefits of moderate exercise and the restorative nature of natural settings. While any sort of garden can improve your mood, a pollinator garden is a great entry point for beginning gardeners who don't quite have a green thumb. Pollinator gardens typically use native plants, which are adapted to the specific climate they're grown in and require little care to thrive.

Author: Christy Erickson (SavingOurBees.org)

Benefits of a Rain Garden

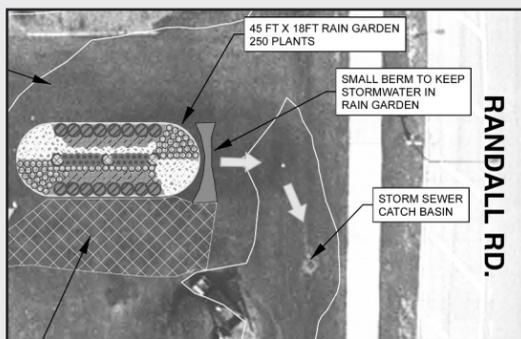
Rain gardens are an inexpensive, simple to implement and environmentally sound solution to residential and urban storm water runoff. Increased imperviousness – the increased build up of towns and cities with buildings, roads, parking lots and other hard surfaces – alters the local water cycle and inundates storm sewers and runoff with large quantities of storm water and associated contaminants.

By mimicking the natural absorption and pollutant removal abilities of a forest or meadow, rain gardens can absorb runoff more efficiently – as much as 30% - 40% more than a standard lawn. By capturing rainwater in a rain garden, holding it, and then slowly releasing it into the soil, the rush of runoff from a large storm can be slowed and cleaned – quickly, neatly and naturally.

Rain gardens are a very good option to help lower the impact of impervious surfaces and polluted runoff because they are low-tech, inexpensive, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.

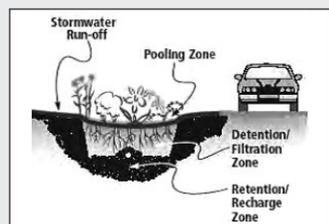
A Rain Garden will:

- Filter pollutants from runoff
- Recharge groundwater
- Conserve water
- Reduce erosion
- Remove standing water
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pests
- Reduce potential of flooding
- Create habitat for birds & butterflies
- Survive drought seasons
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Enhance property value.



A pollinator rain garden is coming to the Kane County Farm Bureau. Watch future issues of the Kane County Farmer for information on how YOU can help us recover pollinator populations and improve water quality. See the full story on page 1.

This image depicts how a rain garden is designed to gather and filter storm water from a parking lot to remove pollutants and percolate into the water table below for groundwater recharge.



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EARTH DAY 2020— THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

By Alice Macha



God looked down on the earth he created and said, "I need a caretaker for this world I have made." And so, God made a farmer.

— Paul Harvey

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is around the corner – April 22, 2020. I participated in the first Earth Day event in 1970; my school classmates and I picked up litter in the blocks surrounding my Batavia school. It has become a lifelong habit – I pick up litter at forest preserves, in parking lots and along my neighborhood entrance parkway and frontage along a busy road. There's a lotta litter out there!

It has always seemed sensible to me to practice good housekeeping in the environment that sustains us. We humans are just a small part of the huge life cycle on this planet and we don't have the right to monopolize its resources to the detriment of all other life.

I had the privilege of hearing Dr. George Archibald speak recently. He is the co-founder of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI, and has worked tirelessly for

decades to "conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds and flyways on which they depend."

Dr. Archibald has traveled the world, evaluating the populations of the world's 15 species of cranes, including North America's abundant Sandhill Cranes and critically endangered Whooping Cranes. During his travels, he has also been a goodwill ambassador for the United States, a keen observer of flora and fauna, and a liaison between farmers, native tribes, governments and environmentalists.

He noted during his speech that it is curious serendipity that the International Crane Foundation ended up in Baraboo, tucked in the long shadows of environmentally minded giants like author and early conservationist Aldo Leopold; architect Frank Lloyd Wright; politician and environmentalist Gaylord Nelson, who founded Earth Day; and Denis Hayes, coordinator of the first Earth Day.

I think we in Kane County have the serendipity of living in one of the largest urban sprawls

KANE COUNTY FARMER

in North America, with all the perks of an urban environment, and living next door or down the road from working farmers and large expanses of farm land and forest preserves. We are a short drive away from city amenities or the wide open spaces of farmland.

Kane County farmers have the curious challenge of growing and producing grains that feed the world, while keeping an

eye on the fragile environment that sustains their livelihoods, families, and sense of well-being. It is challenging to walk this tightrope between crop production and yield and stewardship of the land many Kane County farmers have worked and called home for decades or over a century.

I hope the 50th anniversary of Earth Day will remind all of us good citizens of Earth that we

have an obligation to care for our planet. On that note, Kane County Farm Bureau will be celebrating the planet and pollinators by planting a pollinator garden on the lawn at KCFB. We welcome volunteers to help plant this garden in honor of Earth Day and every remarkable day on our planet.

Watch for more info about pollinator planting in upcoming issues of this newspaper.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

ORAZIO DIFRUSCOLO has been named the Rep of the Month for February 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Orazio has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services:

Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696, orazio.difruscolo@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/orazio.difruscolo/. Congratulations, Orazio!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Andy Johnson, Financial Representative with the Aurora

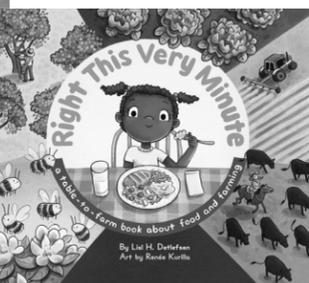
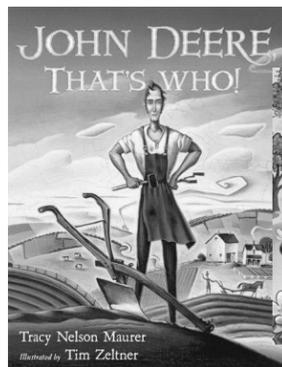
Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for February 2020. Andy began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2012 and services clients out of his office located at: 1921 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, 630-907-0870. Andy's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Andy!

Library books available!

Two great Ag in the Classroom programs – National Library Week, where we donate books to local public libraries, and "SPROUTS," where Farm Bureau volunteers read and donate books to schoolkids – have uncertain futures this year. Therefore, we invite teachers, librarians and school administrators to stop by KCFB to pick up a complimentary copy of these beautiful books.

John Deere, That's Who! by Tracy Nelson Maurer, details Deere's journey to Illinois, where, as a blacksmith, he often was called upon to fix broken iron plows. He realizes polished steel plows would cut through the thick prairie soil much more easily, and customers begin ask-

ing for his "singing plow." A booming business is born. Interesting fact: John Deere never lived on a farm.



Left: John Deere, That's Who! is available to Kane County Farm Bureau libraries. *Right: This Very Minute* is being offered to teachers and school administrators. Complimentary copies of both books are available while supplies last from Kane County Farm Bureau.

Right This Very Minute, by Lisl H. Detlefsen, is an adorable "table-to-farm" book about food and farming, profiling hungry

kids interacting with their parents for breakfast, snack, lunch, dinner and dessert. Where did the wheat for the pancakes, the orange juice and the syrup come from? A farm of course! Kids eat cranberries and nuts for a snack, and a cheese sandwich with apples and carrots for lunch. The book notes that dairy farmers work every day of the year and that vegetable farmers must keep the proper balance of nutrients in the soil. Dinner is a burger, salad and potatoes, and makes the point that "next time you eat your breakfast, snack,

lunch, dinner or dessert, remember that somewhere, right this very minute, there's a farmer to thank for your delicious food."

FB volunteers to read farm-themed book to 1,500 students?

If or when schools resume, Kane County Farm Bureau volunteers may still be needed to share a well-written book about agriculture, and their knowledge of rural life, to teach area third graders about the work farmers do. The Spring Program of Reading to Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students (SPROUTS) is a popular program with students and teachers and reaches dozens of classrooms.

We hope that SPROUTS vol-

unteers will be able to read the book *Right This Very Minute* by Lisl Detlefsen and relate the story to farms right here in Kane County. Colorful illustrations in the book are the work of Renee Kurilla. The book will be given to each teacher for his/her classroom library.

If you're interested in reading this book to a classroom during the month of April or May, please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660

to sign up. Funds for SPROUTS and library book donations are provided to the KCFB Foundation by the Konen Family Foundation, in memory of long-time Farm Bureau volunteers Bob & Alyce Konen of Aurora. Bob was a former KCFB Director and Alyce a member of the organization's Women's Committee. Both were tireless promoters of Farm Bureau and agricultural literacy.

Buy Fresh Buy Local IL registration

Registration is coming for *Buy Fresh Buy Local Illinois* – the first comprehensive directory and local food marketing campaign in Illinois to help shoppers find local food direct from area farmers. *Buy Fresh Buy Local Illinois* is managed by a coalition of 10 food and farm organizations across Illinois, working together to collectively promote your farms and local food businesses.

Registration is open to all farms that sell their products directly to consumers in Illinois,

as well as the direct-to-consumer business outlets – farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants, and grocers – that carry their products. Farms in neighboring states that sell their products through direct-to-consumer outlets in Illinois are also encouraged to join.

Registration is FREE to be listed on the *Buy Fresh Buy Local Illinois* website, and for a small fee, farms and local food business have the opportunity to be listed in the corresponding print directory as well, which

will consist of 30,000 copies distributed across Illinois.

For more information, visit www.buyfreshbuylocalillinois.org.



Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Donna Tonovitz! Donna has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since July 2004. Her office is located at 1750 E. Main St. Unit 90, St. Charles and may

be reached at: 630-549-7694. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Donna Tonovitz

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Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$20 minimum (60 words or less). DISCOUNTS for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. Ads due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted. Call 630-584-8660.

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Growing To Serve You Better

Let's Celebrate Trees!

April is time to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd and Arbor Day on April 24th. In these times of limited in-person gatherings, we wanted to let educators of all sorts know what resources are available from Kane County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau.

Ag Mags are a great way to teach lessons on a variety of subjects, from Trees, Soil, and Water, to Beef, Pork, and Dairy, to Corn, Soybeans, Pumpkins and Apples (and more!). Geared toward the 4th grade level, the information contained in these colorful 4-page magazines can be repurposed for almost any level, with historical and scientific facts, career profiles and hands-on activities.

Drop by KCFB to pick up physical copies or check out agintheclassroom.org/teacher-resources for online interactive versions.



Important Dates in Environmental History

Preserving our environment and caring for all living things that inhabit the Earth began early in our country's history and continues today. Check out some of these important dates that have helped make our world a better place.

- 1872 - Yellowstone became the nation's first national park.
- 1881 - President authorizes public lands to be set aside as forest reserves.
- 1897 - The National Forest System was established, followed by the United States Forest Service in 1905.
- 1970 - The first Earth Day was celebrated.
- 1974 - The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed and required the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the quality of public drinking water.
- 1990 - The National Environmental Education Act was passed. It was created to educate the public about environmental decisions.
- 2003 - The Clean School Bus USA program updated over 4,000 school buses to eliminate pollutants from being released into the air.
- 2005 - National NeighborWoods month was created to celebrate organizations that participate in local tree planting programs.
- 2006 - WaterSense is launched to raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency.

Tree Talk

Trees come in all different shapes, sizes and colors, but most have the same basic parts.

Do the Research!

Above are the dates when important environmental actions were taken. For each date, determine who the President was at the time. Which President do you think made the most difference for our environment?

Crown: the top of the tree that contains all the leaves and branches.

Leaf: the growth from the stems where photosynthesis takes place and where nutrients can be stored.

Bark: the outside covering of a tree that protects the inside of the tree from weather and animals.

Roots: the tree structure that grows into the soil and helps anchor the tree. Roots also supply the nutrients and water to the tree.

Protecting Our Trees

To help trees grow to ripe old ages, special care has to be given to ensure pests or diseases don't attack them. Two common pests that are a big concern to trees in North America are the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer. The Asian Longhorn Beetle is black with irregular white spots and feeds on any hardwood tree. The Emerald Ash Borer grows to be 1/2 inch long at adulthood and is metallic green and feeds on all varieties of Ash trees.

Circle the picture that you think is the Asian Longhorn Beetle and put an X through the picture that you think is the Emerald Ash Borer.



How Do I Plant My New Tree?

One of the biggest mistakes made when planting a tree is that the tree is planted too deep. To avoid making mistakes when planting your next tree, follow these simple steps:

1. First, make sure you did your research and plant a tree that is native to your state. Why do you think this is important?
2. Select an area that is going to allow your new tree to have enough room to grow to its full size. Try to avoid being too close to buildings or power lines.
3. With the help of an adult, dig a hole that is as deep as your tree's roots are long. The hole should also be at least three times wider than the soil and material around the roots of your new tree.
4. Lightly water your tree hole to help the soil and air settle out of the way of your new tree's roots.
5. Place your tree into the new hole, placing the root collar (the place where the roots join the stem) at soil level. Now begin to fill the hole back in with the dirt you just removed. As you're filling the hole back in, make sure someone is holding the tree straight.
6. Now have an adult add stakes around your tree to help keep it straight as it grows. This will also protect your tree from wind damage.



Local distillery 'retools' to produce hand sanitizer

When Ivanka Trump tweets your photo, you know the world has changed.

#whiskeyacres
#seedtospirit

Whiskey Acres Distillery in DeKalb is using their "down time" created by the Covid19 shutdown to produce alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The product will be distributed free of charge to local hospitals and medical professionals.

Their decision caught the attention of Ivanka Trump, who issued her thanks to the Whiskey Acres team, as well as other American manufacturers who are contributing goods and services to the U.S. effort against Covid 19.



Welcome to the next level!

This month we welcome the following KCFB members who joined our organization or reclassified their membership in August to *Regular or Professional Status:

Regular Members

Anna Showerman Batavia

We remind you of added perks that accompany your new Regular member or Professional Status and thank you for supporting KCFB's efforts at advocacy, education and hunger relief:

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers

Tree Farms

You know that there are farmers that grow Christmas trees, but did you know that there are several types of trees that can be grown for other purposes? There are trees that are grown for furniture and there are trees that provide you with nutritious treats like pecans. Where do you find a tree farm? You may have seen one and not even known it! Most farmers are now practicing an agricultural technique called Agroforestry. Agroforestry is just the scientific name for combining growing trees with other agriculture commodities. For example, planting a hay crop between rows of walnut trees is an example of Agroforestry.



Celebrate Arbor Day

Plant a tree and celebrate Arbor Day! The first official Arbor Day celebration took place in Nebraska around 1872. The idea came about when J. Sterling Morton felt the need to promote planting more trees in the vast prairie areas. Today, most states set their own Arbor Day celebrations in accordance to when it is the best time to plant trees in their state. What date will your state celebrate Arbor Day?

Benefits of Shade Trees

- Reduces carbon dioxide.
- Increases the value of land.
- Helps lower energy costs in your home.
- Improves appearance of property.
- Improves air quality.



What Do You Call Me?

Trees fall into two categories, deciduous and coniferous. How do you tell them apart? Simply remember this: deciduous trees, like the Oak tree, lose their leaves once a year. Coniferous trees have cones and needles instead of leaves.



How Old Am I?

Trees have rings and, as you can imagine, they are not the type that people wear. Tree rings are found in the heartwood of the tree, which is the center part of the tree, which is the bark. Scientists can tell a lot about the tree's age by counting the rings. Each ring represents one year of growth.

