

# 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. 87 NO. 4 APRIL 2022

## Spring fun for everyone—Touch-A-Tractor rolls into town

Get a close-up look at farm life with a visit to Touch-A-Tractor, our annual farm-city community event, April 8-10 on the KCFB lawn.

You'll be welcomed to a lawn full of vintage and modern tractors and farm equipment, farm animals including a calf and baby chicks, and loads of

activities for cooped up kids. You'll also see our 2022 raffle prize, a 1971 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck. You can purchase raffle tickets at Touch-A-Tractor.

Kids will have a blast riding pedal tractors, playing in corn corrals, taking pictures with farm themed backdrops, and sitting in the seats of tractors. New this year – kids will be able to participate in story time and hear farm-themed books

read to them, and create a make-and-take felted wool craft.

There will be a FREE pedal tractor drawing for kids 8 and under – one entry per child.

Hours are noon to 4pm on Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 3pm Sunday. Admission to the event is a donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per adult (children 18 & under free). Funds will be used for college scholarships and agricultural literacy programs. A Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stub will also gain you FREE entry for your family.

*Families enjoy visiting the calves, goats and chicks and learning about their care, feeding and behavior from FFA volunteers. This calf is only a week old.*



*Kids like this boy relish the opportunity to climb aboard a massive combine or sit in the seat of a tractor, and learn about its operation from a local farmer.*

 Touch-A-Tractor

## Prairie/Pollinator Garden

Visitors at Touch-A-Tractor will have the opportunity to sign-up for notifications to assist with planting of our Illinois Prairie Pollinator/Rain

Garden late this spring or summer.

For those who don't want to "weather" the outdoors during garden planting, a 1,000 piece,

20" x 27", Old Farmer's Almanac "Backyard Garden Flowers" puzzle will be available at Touch-A-Tractor for community assembly!

### COMING SUMMER 2022

**HELP US PLANT... AN ILLINOIS PRAIRIE POLLINATOR RAIN GARDEN.**

SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SPRING/SUMMER POLLINATOR PLANTING AT KCFB.













### Prairie Pollinator/Rain Garden needs— Spring-Summer 2022

- ✳ Garden design services
- ✳ Excavation & site preparation
- ✳ Soil amendments – (sand, topsoil, compost), Mulch
- ✳ Field tile – 4", approx. 100'
- ✳ Hardscapes – field stones, softball - basketball sized; limestone slabs 3+" thick; round river rock 3+"
- ✳ Prairie, Pollinator & Wetland plants in flats, pints or gallons
- ✳ Volunteers!

For more information, 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

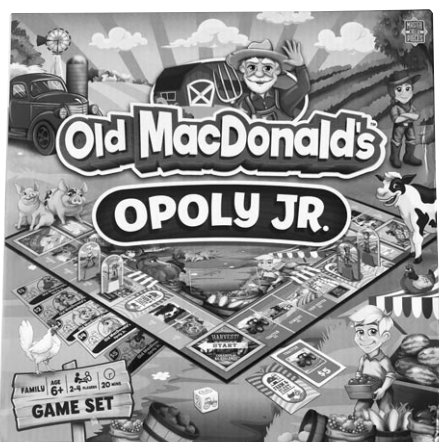
Notice is hereby given that the 109th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2021, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

*Michael Kenyon, Secretary*

**PARENTS: Visit and "LIKE" the Kane County Farm Bureau page today on Facebook. Check back on the page on April 8 for an announcement of a "special event" for kids at Touch-A-Tractor on Saturday, April 9!**

## Farm toy of the month

If your young'ns are game for a game – Old MacDonald's Opolly Jr. is acres of fun! This Monopoly style board game will have kids choosing their favorite farmer, collecting farm equipment and animals, and participating in fun challenges and trading properties as they navigate through planting and harvesting. The game set is geared to age 6+, and fun for 2-4 players or families. The price is regularly \$19.99 with tax, but for the month of April you can save an extra 10% with



your Farm Bureau membership. Stop in and monopolize your game today!

### KCFB CALENDAR APRIL 2022

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 7 Board of Directors, 7 pm
- 7-8 Set up for Touch-A-Tractor
- 8-10 Touch-A-Tractor, KCFB lawn
- 9 4-H Foundation Pork Chop Fundraiser, Fairgrounds, 4:30-7:00
- 15 Good Friday, KCFB office closed
- 21 KC Board Ag Committee, 10 am, County Administration Bldg, Geneva  
(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

### April Featured Food Bratwurst and Hotdog Combo Box

The special for April is a Bratwurst and Hotdog combo. This box contains 10 delicious award winning Inboden's bratwurst and 10 Red Hot Chicago all beef hotdogs – definite crowd pleasers! The member price is \$32.50 and PLUS members always receive a 5% discount! Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau – Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles – during the month of April or while supply lasts.



# Association seeks director candidates

The 2022 Nominating Committee of the Kane County Farm Bureau held its first meeting in mid-February to learn about bylaw and organizational policy changes regarding Director elections, to interview potential candidates for a May ballot and to discuss the needs of the organization from a governance perspective.

KCFB relies on a 5-person nominating committee composed of non-Directors. The organization seeks nominating committee members to provide diversity in geography, age, experience and gender, as well as size and type of farming operations. The committee is encouraged to seek the same in candidates to place on the ballot

for election to the organization's governing Board.

For elections in 2022 and beyond, the organization's bylaws allow for at-large elections, rather than representation by township or district. Up to 5 Directors will be elected for three-year terms from ballots mailed to regular voting (farmer and farmland owner) members

in May.

At their initial meeting, the committee interviewed incumbent directors who wish to seek re-election, as well as new candidates who wish to have their name appear on the ballot. They also identified potential candidates to stand for election and assigned responsibility for making contacts to committee members.

KCFB nominating and electing policies allow for any regular voting member to submit eli-

gible candidate names to the Nominating Committee, up to 45 days prior to the scheduled mailing of election ballots. For 2022, that deadline is April 5.

To recommend potential candidate names to the Nominating Committee, members are encouraged to contact 2022 members; Bob Gehrke, 847-436-2538; Nancy Brackmann, 630-417-8865; Beth Engel, 630-427-6942; Michael Bohlin, 847-417-9992 or Gene Feldott, 630-308-4363.

# Livestock value shared with public

In a February email to state legislators, the Kane County Board, and County elected and appointed officials, Kane County Farm Bureau shared information on livestock's impact at the local level. The information comes from LINK, Illinois Farm Bureau's bi-monthly publication of Local Information, News and Know-how.

The 11-page publication included information on supporting food security, protecting the environment, driving economic growth and strengthening communities. It also shared stories and profiles of livestock farms and meat processors around the state.

The publication comple-

ments a recent Farm Bureau effort to help provide FREE training and certification to small meat processors to meet HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) safety guidelines and requirements. That training was offered by Illinois Farm Bureau in cooperation with Texas A&M University in January and February to encourage local meat processing and to help defray the costs of area meat processors. Farm Bureau will evaluate the need to repeat the training, or host in-person training at the local level, over the coming months.

Farm Bureau also shared information culled from the USDA Census of Agriculture and other sources on the value of agriculture (including live-

stock) to the Kane County economy. Kane County's 1,008 farmers produced a farm gate value \$181.3 million in farm products in 2017. However, those products also provide 14,177 local jobs. The farm products, processing and other jobs they create add \$1.450 billion to the economy. And did you know, Kane County is Illinois' leading producer of Nursery and Greenhouse crops, floriculture and sod?

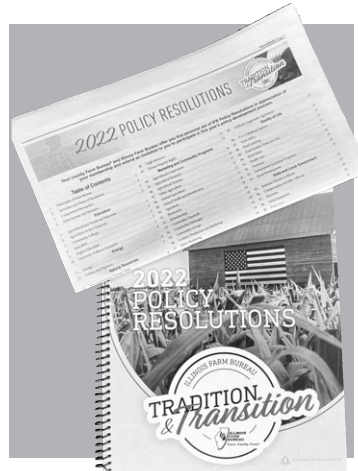
Past issues of LINK have covered topics including Farmland Assessments, Local Government Efficiency, Transportation Issues, Government Rescue Plan Act and many other topics of interest to local officials. To be added to the distribution list, contact Steve Arnold at [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com).

# FB policy available

Farm Bureau policy is developed from the ground up by the farmer-members that are the heart of the organization. Where few "interest-groups" are willing to divulge their leadership-developed, closed-door policies, Farm Bureau publishes the results of its annual delegate

session resolutions, uses them to establish or influence public policy, and makes them available to members upon request.

To obtain a newsprint copy of our 2022 Policy Resolutions, members are asked to stop by our office on Randall Road at Oak Street in St Charles.



# Government Affairs Leadership Conference



Photos, left to right:

KCFB Young Farmer and Illinois Farm Bureau Agriculture Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT) participant, Brett Dienst, Steve Arnold, and Senator Dave Syverson socialize and share stories with one another during the Illinois Farm Bureau's recent Government Affairs Leadership Conference in Springfield.

Smile everyone! Pictured left to right, Senator Dave Syverson, Brett Dienst, Steve Arnold, Kelcee Miller, Joe White, State Representative Dan Ugaste, Senator Donald DeWitte, and Beth Gehrke pose for a group photo during GALC event in Springfield, Illinois.

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APRIL 8 - 10  
**Touch-A-Tractor**  
See you there!

**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE**  
**JANUARY 2022 THRU DECEMBER 2022**

	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	^								
G. GAITSCH	*	X	*									
B. GEHRKE	*	X										
W. KECK	X	X	*									
M. KENYON	X	X	X									
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	*	X									
D. LEHRER	*	*	*									
A. LENKAITIS			*									
N. LONG	*	*	*									
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X									
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X									
J. WHITE	X	X	X									

\* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Attending IFB Leaders to Washington program.

**Kane County Farmer**  
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
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# Time is tickin'— get your entries in before it's too late!

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 22nd, 2022 and National Agriculture Week March 20-26, 2022 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee is sponsoring a coloring contest. Deadline for entries is April 11th, 2022. All entries need to be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 11th.

To receive a coloring sheet, check your March *Kane County Farmer*, email Kelcee Miller, [aic@kanecfb.com](mailto:aic@kanecfb.com), or attend Touch-A-Tractor April 8-10, where coloring sheets and crayons will be available. The contest is open to all children ages 3 through 11. Categories are as follows: Ages 3-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each category.

The entries will be judged on originality, neatness and true-

ness-to-life. The picture should be the sole work of the child with no parental help or assistance. No pictures will be returned to the children unless requested. Parents/teachers, please have the children fill out the address form completely with their home addresses.

All entries collected prior to April 8 will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's April 8-10 Touch-A-Tractor event. No child's address or phone number will be exhibited at the display ... only their name and age. Play a part in helping the Young Farmers committee in saluting the agricultural community. Get a child, grandchild or a student to participate in the contest.

**Mail all entries to: Young Farmers Coloring Contest 2022 Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.**

**Coloring Contest 2022—  
calling all colorful kids!**

# Protect your farm, join FB ACT

Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking farmers and members willing to stand on the frontlines and protect their farms, families and way of life. Members who join FB ACT, Farm Bureau's Agricultural Contact Team are better informed about the issues that affect agriculture at the local, state and national level. They are also asked to respond, through phone calls and text messages, when proposed legislation or public policy initiatives harmful to agriculture arise in the halls of government.

For 2022, KCFB has plans to host two exclusive events for FB ACT members. Both will be designed to give FB ACT members exclusive access to public officials that represent Kane

County in an informal setting, to learn more about Farm Bureau priorities and to provide the opportunity to discuss concerns one-on-one with elected representatives.

2022 Kane County Farm Bureau FB ACT members will also receive a special gift to help them publicly display their support of Farm Bureau policies, farms and food. Our first FB ACT member event is coming soon!

Please feel free to call Steve Arnold, 630-584-8660 with questions, and be sure to mention FB ACT.



# Kane Co. 4-H Foundation sponsors 13th annual dinner & auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 13th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Prairie Events Center of the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles.

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it helps support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension services," said Bill Collins, treasurer of the



**Save the Date  
for the April 9  
Fundraising  
Event**

Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson. "Prior to 2020, the annual event raised about \$20,000, and the goal this year is to match that."

Tickets are on sale now, with the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$15, a 1-chop dinner for \$13, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$10. The pork will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club and served by 4-H Foundation, clubs, families, and other Extension volunteers and supporters.

Tickets may be purchased through your local 4-H club or 4-H Foundation volunteer, or by contacting the dinner co-chairs Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955. Tickets will be available at the Kane County Farm Bureau until April 1. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an additional \$1 per meal.

The event also features a silent auction of popular items and themed baskets donated by supporters. Silent auction bidding ends at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction.

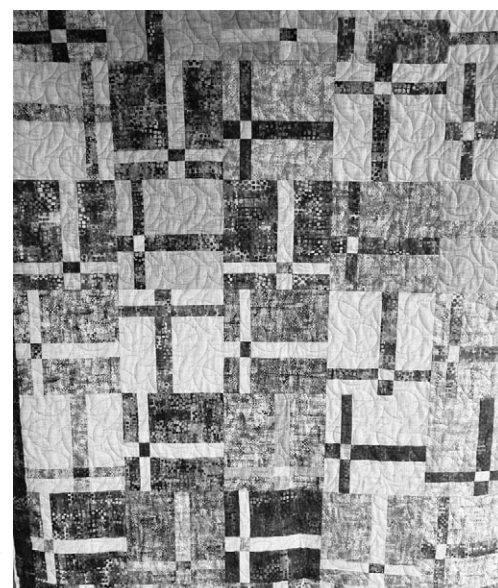
# KCFB Foundation to offer Mother's Day quilt raffle

The KCFB Foundation will be conducting a quilt raffle with proceeds to benefit Scholarship and Ag Literacy programs. Raffle tickets are now available for purchase with the quilt viewable at the KCFB office or during the 3-day Touch-A-Tractor Open House on April 8-10.

The handmade 55" x 75" throw quilt has a super soft "Cuddle" back and is blue and grey with a "Forge New Paths"

pattern. It was made and donated to the Foundation by Bonnie White of Kaneville and Patty Pallansch of DeKalb.

The winner will be drawn on Friday, May 6th – just in time for Mother's Day! For tickets call KCFB at 630-584-8660.



*Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift this spring? Look no further than this large throw quilt, handcrafted and donated by Bonnie White and Patty Pallansch. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20.*

# Funding available thru April 15 from Partners for Conservation

The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) is accepting applications for their Partners for Conservation cost-share program. There are \$8,000 remaining in funds for this year.

Projects eligible for funding include best management practices, such as; cover crops, no-till/strip till, conservation cover, critical areas planting, grassed

waterways, grade stabilization structures, pollinator habitats, raingardens and much more. The program pays for up to 75% of a projects total cost or the state average cost (whichever is lower).

The project must not have started work, and must be complete by December 31, 2022. Projects are not eligible for PFC if other cost-share dollars are

being received. All interested applicants should email [patrick.mcpartlan@kanedupageswcd.org](mailto:patrick.mcpartlan@kanedupageswcd.org) for the application form and state average costs for each practice.

The application deadline is April 15th. All applicants will be presented to and selected by the KDSWCD Board of Directors.

# Volunteers thanked *Thank you!*

In March, KCFB put out several calls for volunteers and other needs for upcoming spring and summer programs. Our thanks to the following for their commitments made to provide their talents, resources, labor or volunteer time to make KCFB and KCFB Foundation programs a success.

To **Mike Meuer** for volunteering to undertake the building of an outdoor, barn-shaped Ag Literacy Library to help in free distribution of ag-friendly books to the public. And to **Mike**

**Johnsen and Mike Petingalo** for offering the same.

To **Ryan White** for the manufacture of custom "interpretative sign" bases for our expansion of Pollinator/Rain Garden in the summer of 2022.

To **Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis** for committing young calves for our Touch-A-Tractor program, **Karl Kettelkamp** for sheep, and **Beth Gehrke** for providing a home for the chicks hatched for the same purpose.

To **Bruce Nagel, Joe White, Dan Kocher, Karl Kettelkamp,**

and **Dale Pitstick**, for being the first to volunteer tractors and farm equipment to delight children at Touch-A-Tractor.

To **Mike Kenyon, Dale Pitstick, Joe Engel, Michael Bohlin and Bob Gehrke** for supplying straw and other necessary materials for Touch-A-Tractor.

To **Bonnie White and Patty Pallansch** for making a quilt for our Foundation Mother's Day Quilt Raffle fundraiser.

To **Bob Gehrke, Nancy Brackmann, Beth Engel, Michael Bohlin and Gene Feldott** for serving as our 2022 Nominating Committee.

There's still time to volunteer time, talents or resources to help us make Touch-A-Tractor a success, help us build our Prairie Pollinator Rain garden as a community and environmental resource, or read agriculture-friendly books to local classrooms through SPROUTS. We succeed based on the commitment of volunteers, and we very much appreciate all the efforts!

*Thanks*

**KANE COUNTY**  
CORN GROWERS  
GROW WITH US

**APPLY NOW  
FOR 2022  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

The objective of the Kane County Corn Growers scholarship program is to assist students pursuing higher education. Focused on agriculture but open to all majors. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and college students whose parents/guardians are members of the Kane County Corn Growers. Scholarship determinations will be announced by June 1, 2022.

Download an application at [Kanecountycorngrowers.com](http://Kanecountycorngrowers.com)  
Applications must be received by May 1st, 2022. Contact Jeff Laczynski @ [Jefflacz1@gmail.com](mailto:Jefflacz1@gmail.com) or 630-330-7832 with any questions.

Return completed application to [Kanecountycorngrowers@gmail.com](mailto:Kanecountycorngrowers@gmail.com) or mail to Kane County Corn Growers, P.O. Box 781 Elburn, IL 60119

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### AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



#### Hello Kane County!

For those of you who recall from my previous columns, I grew up on the east side of Sycamore out in the country with parents and three siblings. Joanie Stier's column this month (page 6) has me reflecting on the country roads that I grew up on as a kid and the appreciation and comfort they continue to provide to me now as an adult.

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up surrounded by rural roads, the people along them, and the endless life lessons learned along the way that have definitely shaped the woman I am today. As you may have guessed, I, like my family, like to stay busy so there was always something to do, especially outside, no matter the season. Whether it was practicing that specific season's sport and having to add more layers to stay warm, riding my bike alongside my mom while she went for a run, or riding on the back of my dad's four-wheeler supervising him while he did his evening pig chores, there was

always a reason to get outside.

Once the time came for me to go away to college, adjusting my scenery and comfort-zone was a learning process. While it was good to step outside my comfort zone for that moment of time, the appreciation I had for the roads I grew up on was made stronger. There was nothing like coming home for a short weekend visit and hitting the corner of Old State Road, being comforted by the sight of open fields, fresh air and feeling of, "Ah... I'm home!"

I can recall right around this time, two years ago when the country roads provided a whole new world to me. It can be easy sometimes to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and stress of everyday life when we are constantly surrounded by 24-7 news outlets and glued to our cellphones with hours of endless distractions. The feeling of being able to step outside into a world where none of that noise mattered and being able to disconnect was just what I needed. When it felt like the world was upside down, stepping outside provided a whole new sense of

comfort and reassurance that everything was going to be okay. Every single day, rain or shine, I looked forward to taking the dogs for a walk. Just us and the open road. Out there the world was quiet, the scenery was picture perfect, and company was even better. My daily



Picture credit to Kelcee's younger brother, Maxx Miller, teaching their nephew, Hudson Petrizzi of Geneva how to walk his first ever show pig, Gorilla around their family's farm in early August 2020 and Hudson's younger brother, Bennett along for the ride and moral support.

walks provided such a sense of relief from all of the unknowns of the world at that time and allowed me to center myself again. That kind of feeling is indescribable and I am forever thankful my parents decided to plant their roots on a little plot

of land on the east side of town away from the hustle bustle of the world.

Now today, as an older adult, anytime I have to go away for a short period of time or if I stop over at my parent's house I still get that feeling of home anytime I hit my familiar streets. There is something so relaxing about being out in the wide open that still provides the same amount of comfort and familiarity that will never be replaced.

What makes things even more special is being able to share the same childhood memories and activities with my three young nephews. Any farm kid knows, there are some tough life lessons to be learned along the way of raising and showing live-

stock just the same way any athlete knows the characteristics and lessons learned and developed through sports carry over into other areas of your life. It is so fun for me to see them learn and grow in a similar fashion that we did growing up along these rural roads. Whether it was teaching my first nephew Hudson how to hit a ball, watching Bennett fall in love with caring and tending to the animals, or seeing the joy on their little faces when they go for a "ride" it fills me with me so much happiness to see them learn, explore, and make lasting memories that will forever shape them as it did with my family and I.

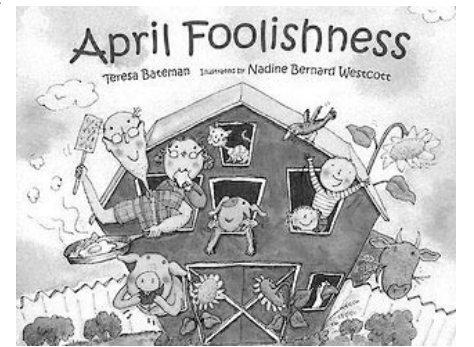
Happy April!

### Book of the month

As you may know, we are celebrating our 16th Annual Touch-A-Tractor event later this month on April 8, 9, and 10 here at the Kane County Farm Bureau with a few new activities for kids, such as Story Time every hour on the hour both Saturday and Sunday.

We could not contain our excitement for this new activity and decided to highlight one of the 19 books to give you a little sneak peek of the fun! Without further ado, the book of the month for April is *April Foolishness* written by Teresa Bateman and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott.

In this playful book, it's a spring morning on the farm and grandma is thrilled that the grandkids are coming over to visit - they've indeed picked the perfect day! When the grandkids arrive grandpa is in the kitchen fixing his breakfast when suddenly the grandchildren shout, "The cows have gotten loose! I think Big Brown Bessie just stepped on a goose!" But this news doesn't make grandpa flinch not even an inch and he continues to pour himself some milk in a tall frosty glass. Then the chickens are out of their pen running all over squawking and squabbling



April Foolishness by Teresa Bateman, illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott

waiting on the edge your seat and you cannot wait to see how the story plays out, come on into the Kane County Farm Bureau office and check out our FREE KCFB Library check out *April Foolishness*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

### Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute beginning June 6.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 3 days, beginning on Monday, June 6. Educators will also meet on June 7, and 9. The Institute will be 8 am to 4 pm each day.

Kane County Farm Bureau will be the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agribusinesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours will reveal the essentials of research, production, processing, marketing, transportation and

retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They will learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields and a crew of dedicated volunteers who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

Topics may include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today. For more information or to register, contact Kelcee Miller at 630-584-8660 or [aic@kanecfb.com](mailto:aic@kanecfb.com)



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Geneva  
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes  
Elgin  
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochan  
Elgin  
847-742-0004



Bob Kearns  
Elgin  
847-888-3200



Bob Riedel  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer  
Elburn  
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero  
Elburn  
630-365-3737



Charles Quick  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



David Berreles  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

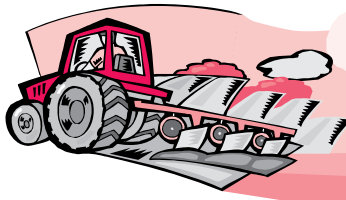


Ted Schuster  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

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# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## Rural Roads

**K**ane County's roads criss-cross a patchwork of towns, subdivisions and farm fields. Most of the gravel roads have been paved but still carry urban traffic and farm planting equipment. We all must share the roads and practice patience white following farm equipment or waiting for the first hint of green to emerge in recently planted fields. We wish everyone a green and happy spring!

### Egg Carton Flowers Craft

April may bring showers, but who says you can't brighten your day with flowers before May? And you can even re-use your egg cartons after you've dyed and painted your Easter eggs! Try this easy egg carton flower craft & make someone's day today!

#### Supplies

- Canvas: 9x12
- Mod Podge Sparkle
- Egg Carton (not foam)
- Paint
- Scissors
- Pipe Cleaners (green)
- Ribbon
- Buttons
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush

#### Instructions

Paint the canvas with any color of your choice, paint several coats and let dry. Cut up the egg carton. Each egg container is going to be a flower bud. Cut right down the middle and remove the



excess areas. Trim the edge of the carton to create petals.

Paint the egg carton "flowers" with the paint colors of your choice. Paint several coats and set aside to dry.

Once they are dry, coat with Sparkle Mod Podge.

Trim pipe cleaners to the right length and tie them together for a stem. Glue to the canvas with craft glue.

Glue a button in the center of each flower, then glue the flower to the canvas on top of the pipe cleaner stems and let it dry.

Let the canvas dry completely before hanging & admire your floral creation!

This craft & more ideas are found at: <https://www.candystore.com/blog/diy/craft-ideas-keep-kids-busy-rainy-day/>

Why are people always so tired on Earth Day? • Because they just finished a March  
 Why is grass so dangerous? • Because it's full of blades!  
 Why did the sun go to school? • To get brighter  
 What did the little tree say to the big tree? • Leaf me alone!  
 Why are recycle bins optimistic? • Because they're full of cans!

Have I got a joke for you



### Rural roads

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

- Activity
- Asphalt
- Blacktops
- Concrete
- Connected
- Country
- Curves
- Destinations
- Durability
- Dusty
- Expressways
- Fieldwork
- Gravel
- Highways
- Infrastructure
- Narrow
- Remote
- Roads
- Rural
- Traffic
- Unstriped
- Urban
- Wave
- Restrictions

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by April 15, 2022 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.  
 Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

### Easy pigs in a blanket

April 24th is National Pigs in a Blanket Day and what better way to celebrate than with this Easy Pigs in a Blanket recipe!

#### Ingredients

- 1 (12oz) package of cocktail franks
- 2 (8oz) tubes of refrigerated crescent dough
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 6 tablespoons salted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 375°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Unroll the crescent dough, lay it on a work surface and brush the whole thing with Dijon mustard. Cut each triangle in half lengthwise to create two skinner triangles.

Place one frank on each wide end of the dough, then roll up and arrange on a prepared sheet in two concentric circles making sure all of the piggies (the dough) on both circles touch

each other.

Combine the melted butter with the Italian seasoning and garlic powder. Brush the butter mixture on the pigs in blankets. Bake until golden brown, 18 to 22 minutes. Serve with ketchup and mustard and enjoy!

Recipe & other slider options found at: <https://www.recipegirl.com/easy-pigs-in-a-blanket/>



### April is ...

April Fool's Day	1st	Prime Rib Day	27th
Sourdough Bread	1st	Blueberry Pie Day	28th
Peanut Butter & Jelly Day	2nd	Arbor Day	29th
Chocolate Mousse Day	3rd	Oatmeal Cookie Day	30th
International Carrot Day	4th		
Deep Dish Pizza Day	5th		
Burrito Day	7th		
Farm Animals Day	10th		
Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day	12th		
Peach Cobbler Day	13th		
Pecan Day	14th		
Gardening Day	14th		
Garlic Day	19th		
Banana Day	20th		
Tea Day	21st		
Earth Day	22nd		
Cherry Cheesecake Day	23rd		
Pigs in a Blanket Day	24th		
Zucchini Bread Day	25th		
Pretzel Day	26th		

### Congratulations

**Dale Hartmann** from Maple Park is this month's winner! His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives a fun prize. Thank you, Dale, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

### Win a pedal tractor at Touch-A-Tractor



The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the conclusion of Touch-A-Tractor on April 10th. Return the form below to KCFB by April 6th or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 8-10. 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 Touch-A-Tractor. Food items will then be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.

#### 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 10th to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.





here in the heart of farm country, few roads are lined. Certain stretches of our rural roads may become impassable in winter. Road curves can measure nearly

90 degrees, and some intersections of narrow gravel roads lack stop signs, relatively common in Illinois' most rural, low-traffic settings. That's just a fact of living in rural, more remote areas.

Urban and rural alike, Illinoisians try to get from point A to point B for jobs, school, business and social events. Road infrastructure proves important to all Illinois businesses with goods to move, families with places to go, and workers with jobs to complete. In an urban setting, people most commonly travel lined asphalt or concrete highways. In rural areas,

unstriped blacktops and dusty gravel road connect us to destinations, including the fields that produce food, feed, and bio fuels.

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

About a mile south and a bit east of our wiffle ball game, the one-lane bridge sits crooked to the road. The Laura Blacktop near town has a crumbling shoulder. And you'll want to avoid my road in the thaw of

March unless you desire the unofficial title of "most deserving" in the car wash line. While in high school, I wrote well wishes in the gravel grime on my car for our state-bound basketball team. I'm not sure that I made my city cousins jealous.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.

**Dusty Truth**

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

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

Back home in the city, my cousins travel well-lit residential streets and expressways. Out

# Young Farmers 17th euchre tourney

On Friday, March 11th Young Farmers from Kane gathered for pizza and conversation to discuss upcoming events and activities such as the finalized blueprint of their Free Little Library that will be placed in the KCFB parking lot underneath the windmill, Touch-A-Tractor needs, and their Young Farmer's youth coloring contest.

Following the brief meeting Young Farmer members from Kane and surrounding counties participated in the KCFB 17th Annual Euchre tournament. Six teams of two competed in three rounds

to determine the 2022 Euchre Champions along with the 2022 pair who were awarded the Trophy of Dubious Distinction.



Young Farmers from Kane and surrounding counties gathered on Friday, March 11 at the KCFB office for the 17th annual Euchre Tourney. Six different teams competed in a round robin competition at 6:30pm with a \$5 buy-in for pizza, snacks, and free lessons. The 2022 Euchre champs were Joseph White (Kane) & Wayne Gehrke (Kane) and the winners of the Trophy of Dubious Distinction (T.O.D.D.) were Tommy Koebel (Kane) & Ben Long (Kane).

Our very own Joseph White and partner Wayne Gehrke of Kane County took home the cash

prize and Tommy Koebel and Ben Long of Kane County were crowned the winners of the Trophy of Dubious Distinction.

Thanks to all of our Young Farmers for participating in a little fun competition and if or someone you know is between the ages of 18-35 with an interest in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agriculture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet stop on by the office to become a member today!

# Apply now for IFB Nurse Practitioner Scholarships

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its 30th year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered

Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at [RIMSAP.com](http://RIMSAP.com), or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at [dgallivan@iffb.org](mailto:dgallivan@iffb.org).



See YOU at Touch-A-Tractor APRIL 8-10



Are YOU a current VET STUDENT?

Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau's iVET loan program today.

- Loan for food animal vet students
- No interest on loan while you're in school
- Up to \$40,000 loan distributed over three years

**STUDENT TIMELINE:**

- Applications due May 15
- Interviews are conducted in April
- Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

[www.iffb.org/iVET](http://www.iffb.org/iVET)

Apply online today.



# Scholarships to drive agriculture forward

Truck drivers are critical for transporting farm commodities, inputs and food throughout Illinois and the nation. The IAA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, is pleased to administer the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship to help offset the cost of needed commercial truck driver training and ensure more well-trained, safe drivers are available.



IAA Foundation adds truck driver scholarships

"We are pleased to diversify the types of scholarships available through our program," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation. "We are encouraged by the insightfulness of donors who choose to support all facets of agriculture." In late 2021, the Illinois Farm Bureau committed to funding the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship. This donor agreement will continue for the next five years.

Applicants enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a commercial driver training program at an Illinois Community College are encouraged to apply. Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded every three months and are based on the Illinois Farm Bureau region where the applicant resides.

All applicants must be Illinois residents and must provide proof of enrollment in during the corresponding award cycle. Additionally, an endorsement is required from a farmer, County Farm Bureau leader, agribusiness, or food processing business.

Full eligibility guidelines and the link to apply is available on the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). For more information, contact the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@iffb.org](mailto:jsmith@iffb.org).

# Wayne Wackerlin Memorial offers 10K for ag entrepreneurs

The Board of Directors of the Wayne Wackerlin Memorial Fund are excited to announce the launch of the WWMF's 4th annual grant in the amount of \$10,000 which will be preferably awarded to young, Midwestern agricultural entrepreneurs who embody the late Wayne Wackerlin's spirit, strong work ethic, and his love for farming.

The purpose of the WWMF is to award yearly grants (?-\$5,000) to entrepreneurs needing capital to fund their dreams. Preference will be given to entrepreneurs living in the Midwest applying for the purpose of enhancing or developing an agricultural focused business.

There is no age restriction for applicants, and all who fit the qualifications are encouraged to apply, including those who applied in previous grant cycles.

The deadline for submitting grant applications for the current cycle is Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 11:59 PM (CST).

More information about the Memorial Fund may be found on the program webpage, [https://www.facebook.com/WWMFGrant/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/WWMFGrant/?ref=page_internal).

For general questions or to request a paper copy of the application, please call 815-501-6067.



We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.

We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at [www.luckysenergy.com](http://www.luckysenergy.com) Growing To Serve You Better

# IAACU IS HERE FOR you!



IAACU is another great benefit of the Kane County Farm Bureau! We were created exclusively to serve the Farm Bureau and its members - it is our mission to serve YOU! Join today and start receiving higher interest on your deposit, lower costs on your loans, and great personalized service.

Contact IAACU today to take advantage of this exclusive IFB membership benefit!

309.557.2541 or visit [www.iaacu.org](http://www.iaacu.org)





# What's new at COUNTRY?

## St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Victor Alvarado**, who has been named the February Agent of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Victor is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, and Business products and services. Let Victor's expertise help you! You may reach Victor at 847-742-0003, or [victor.alvarado@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:victor.alvarado@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives>.

[CountryFinancial.com/Victor.Alvarado/](https://CountryFinancial.com/Victor.Alvarado/). Congratulations, Victor!

## Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Lulu Medina, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for February 2022. Lulu began her career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2017 and services clients out of her office located at: 2000 W. Galena Blvd., #207, Aurora, 60506, (630) 449-0910. Lulu's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, and commercial products make her a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Lulu!

# Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August, 2011. His office



**Felipe Rocha**

is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

# Quick inducted into COUNTRY Hall of Fame

After 20 years of designation by COUNTRY Financial as an All American, KCFB congratulates and salutes Chuck Quick for his recent induction to the COUNTRY Financial Hall of Fame.

Chuck joined Country Companies as an agent in the Ford-Iroquois Agency in September 1974, and made his 1st All American in 1975. Chuck then became part of the Elgin Agency and in 1984 served in the capacity as their Agency Manager. He joined the COUNTRY St. Charles Agency team in 1997, which later was combined

with the Elgin Agency.

For his efforts Chuck is invited to stop in the KCFB to get his well deserved reward, a gift box of our new New York Strip steaks, a gift card and KCFB/Country logo wear. Congratulations Chuck and Thanks for a job well done.



**Chuck Quick**

flats, pints or gallons; Volunteers! Call Steve: 630-584-8660

Wanted by kids: Farm and antique trucks, farm and antique tractors, farm implements, farm animals, pedal tractors, straw in large round, large square and small bales - for Touch-A-Tractor event April 8-10 at Kane County Farm Bureau. Be a hero to a kid - call Liz or Kelcee, 630-584-8660

CUSTOMER SERVICE-30-35 hours weekly, M-F. Applicant must be a computer literate, self-starter, with pleasant voice and manner. Some travel possible. Office located east side of St. Charles. We offer vacation pay, self-directed savings plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for stay-at-home-mom or college student. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview.

Want to buy vintage & used tools. Also, we do cleanouts. Call Chris: 630-550-7182

### FOR SALE

2000 New Holland Manure Spreader. Rebuilt. Great Shape. Bed chain great shape, works well. Ready to go. PTO driven. Call for a test drive - 630-940-6778

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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.

### WANTED

Barn help needed. Wayne area. Approx 10 hours weekly. Call: 630-940-6778

Wanted farm employee. Operate equipment. Some experience necessary. Full and Part time. CDL helpful. Call: 630-951-9238

Wanted: Kane County Farm Bureau Prairie Pollinator/Rain Garden needs, in the form of contributions or services for hire: Garden design services; Excavation & site preparation; Soil amendments - (sand, topsoil, compost), Mulch; Field tile - 4", approx. 100'; Hardscapes - field stones, softball - basketball sized; limestone rocks, slabs 3+ thick; round river rock 3+"; Prairie, Pollinator & Wetland plants in

# BEING A KID AGAIN

By Alice Macha  
Communications Coordinator



Adulthood is great. I've been an adult for a long time now and it has its perks. The one thing I truly miss about childhood is that ephemeral quality of losing oneself in the moment, to focus on the moment to the distraction of all else. That's hard to do as an adult. There are always thoughts whirling in one's head - bills to pay, chores to complete, health concerns, world problems to ponder.

The constraints of adulthood make me appreciate Touch-A-Tractor all the more. It's really fun to watch kids stream onto the KCFB lawn, exuding energy and excitement in the crisp spring weather. They don't care about the cool temps or the car

ride or pending homework. They throw themselves into the moment and dither between the diversions - visit with the wee, peeping chicks? Ride the pedal tractors? Climb through culverts? Hop aboard antique tractors? Climb the massive combine and peer like giants over the farm scape spread like a quilt below?

It's just an easy, encompassing, inexpensive event for kids and adults alike, and families spool memories of tractors and farmers and fun. I enjoy seeing their enjoyment of all things farm - bucket calves, goats, crafts and camaraderie between Kane County families, farmers, FFA students and the staff here

at KCFB. I enjoy the smiles and laughter spilling across the lawn. For a brief time, families put their concerns on hold and just have ... old fashioned FUN! So join us at Touch-A-Tractor this year, shrug off your responsibilities, and act like a buncha kids. We look forward to seeing you!



*Petting the head of a soft, downy chick is pure pleasure for this little Touch-A-Tractor visitor.*

# Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received February 15 - March 16, 2022.



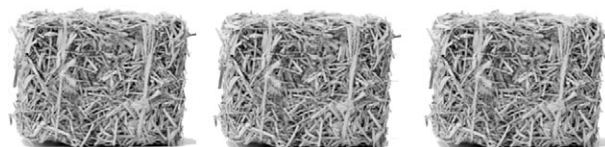
Donor	Beneficiary
Jean Feltes	KCFB Foundation AITC
Deborah Stob <i>in Memory of Guy Macha</i>	KCFB Foundation AITC
The Fidler Family <i>in Memory of James Michael Fidler</i>	KCFB Foundation Scholarships
<b>AGCO Corp., Batavia employees</b>	
Frank Achermann	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Michael & Shannon Long	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Greg & Helen Taptich	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Sean & Amanda Dieter	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Kevin & Pamela Bolander	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
William & Hannah Huber	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Jessica Pall	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Forrest & Katherine Wagner	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Rita Williams	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
David & Patricia Rotolo	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
James & Sandra Enockson	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Jan & Judy Schuett	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Jeffery & Lynne Turk	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Bradley & Kimberly Stone	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Christopher Mansour & Rana Dar-Ayyad	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Helen Anderson	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Vanessa Zamiar	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Juventino & Laurie Cantu	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Anthony & Belinda Meyer	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships
Stuart Neave & Annamarie Smith	KCFB Foundation AGCO Scholarships

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to help support agricultural education, scholarships, leadership training, and community youth education as well. We could not do it without your support!

# Items sought for T-A-T

Touch-A-Tractor is coming your way! April 8-10 marks our farm-to-city celebration of everything "farm": larger-than-life vintage and new tractors, farm equipment, farm toys, farm animals, pedal tractors, corn corrals, and so much more.

Each year our volunteers and



donors help to make this event happen. Items we need for Touch-A-Tractor include:

1. **Tractors** - gas, diesel (or steam!); large or small; waxed & polished or muddied & rusted, new, old or antique - it's all the same to a kid.

1. **Hay/Straw bales** - round, square, large or small, to use as barriers, for traffic patterns, social distancing and to add to our Touch-a-Tractor children's activities area to be used for climbing and recreational pur-

poses.

1. **Gently used farm toys** for the kids to play with during the event.

1. **Farm animals** - sheep, lambs, pigs, goats, baby calves, chickens, etc.

We have the pens, we just need

him for more information ([steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com)) if you could donate or loan any of the above to us for the event or if you know anyone we can contact. We appreciate your help!



the critters!  
Call Steve at the KCFB (630-584-8660) or e-mail



Like us on Facebook for a weekly helping of humor - our Friday Farming Funnies. You'll also find the latest info about ag education, local farming folks and news and upcoming events and specials at Kane County Farm Bureau.



See YOU there!



# Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service the Farm to make sure your soil is ready for spring planting. Three different tests available and results are sent by e-mail or mail directly to you. For a soil test form, visit [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) and click on benefits and services, or pick one up at the KCFB office. Deliver samples to Kane County Farm Bureau with payment. Prices listed are for Kane County Farm Bureau members, non-members, and PLUS status members. Ask us how to save even more when you upgrade your membership to a PLUS status.

Call 630-584-8660 for more details.

**Why test your soil?** Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

**When is the best time to test soil?** Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should

not be sampled either.

**How often should I test?** Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for the best comparison.

**Why does Farm Bureau provide this service?** Kane County Farm Bureau was founded in 1912 as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, to help farmers improve their production practices and increase the fertility and productivity of their soil. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

Additional help for your lawn & garden is available through the University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Contact them at 630-584-6166 or visit their office at 535 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles.

### Soil test costs

#### Basic PH Test

\$20 per sample for members, \$30 non-members  
This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

#### Lawn/Garden Test

\$30 per sample for members, \$40 non-members  
This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

#### Lawn/Garden Plus

\$50 per sample for members, \$60 non-members  
This test includes the Lawn & Garden test plus nutrients, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur and boron.  
This test also includes recommendations.

# Breeze through the T-A-T line with your Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stub

Your purchase of raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2022 Vintage Truck Raffle supports Ag in the Classroom learning and scholarships for students with agriculture focused studies. It also carries a nice bonus for you – FREE admission to this year's Touch-A-Tractor.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn on October 9th, 2022. The winning ticket will take home a 1971 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck. Or \$10,000 cash.

Tickets are \$20 each, or 3 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 2021, over \$22,500 in tuition assistance was provided to local students by the Foundation. It also provided over \$21,000 in support to local FFA Chapters last year! Since 1989 nearly \$500,000 in tuition assistance has been 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](http://www.kanecfb.com) or contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.



## Winner's Choice Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (\$20 each, or 3 for \$50)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visa  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

# Readers needed for story time at T-A-T

Have you heard the moos! I mean, news! An all-new Story-Time is coming to Touch-A-Tractor this year! Saturday and Sunday, every hour, on the hour, volunteers will read a farm-themed book from the list below to children and their families. Are you or someone who know interested in helping bring these books to life and promoting Ag Literacy? Call Kelcee Miller at 630-584-8660 or email [aitec@kanecfb.com](mailto:aitec@kanecfb.com)

Readers will have their choice of reading from the following books:

- April Foolishness* by Teresa Bateman
- Clarabelle* by Cris Petersen
- Extra Cheese Please!* by Cris Peterson
- Leah's Pony* by Elizabeth Friedrich
- Pizza for the Queen* by Nancy Castaldo

- Pod to Plate* by Julie Blunier
- Pumpkin Jack* by Will Hubbell
- Right This Very Minute* by Lisl H. Detlefsen
- Seed, Soil, Sun* by Cris Peterson
- The Apple Orchard Riddle* by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas
- The Barn at Night* by Michelle Houts
- The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza* by Philemon Sturges
- The Reason for a Flower* by Ruth Heller
- Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
- Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto and Ed Martinez
- Water Dance* by Thomas Locker
- Who Grew My Soup?* by Tom Darbyshire
- With Love, Little Red Hen* by Alma Flor Ada
- You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees!* by Alex Woolf

# New this year at Touch-A-Tractor— a make-and-take craft for kids

This year Touch-A-Tractor visitors under the age of 12 can make a hand-made, farm or Easter themed, wool felting project in a fun, easy, make-and-take project workshop. The result will be a lovely, hand-made gift for a friend or Mother's Day.

The project will be under the direction of Farm Bureau member, Fiber Artist and Educator Natasha Lehrer-Lewis, of Esther's Place in Big Rock.

Esther's Place, a fiber arts studio is known for its harmonious integration of art and education using agricultural products.

Kids will roll merino wool, decorate, dampen and roll to create a farm or Easter themed keepsake to take home. The project takes about 15 minutes to create and complete. All project materials will be supplied.

Make and Take kids workshops will be offered on the

afternoon of Saturday, April 9th only, on the half hour between 1:00-4:00. (1:30, 2:30 and 3:30) The workshops are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.



## Celebrate Agriculture & the coming of Spring!

16th ANNUAL

ADMISSION:  
A donation of  
\$2—Adults,  
\$5—Families  
or  
show a  
Vintage Truck Raffle  
ticket stub for FREE  
family admission all days



# Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

An outdoor farm-city & community open house & fundraiser that brings a little bit of the farm to the city. Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION welcomes urban & suburban neighbors to learn more about farming.

### Bring the whole family!

- ▶ Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- ▶ Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- ▶ Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- ▶ Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- ▶ See technology that makes America's farmers the most productive and efficient in the world, side-by-side with machines of days gone by
- ▶ Learn about America's most essential industry ... Agriculture!

**Kids Story Time:**  
Every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday.  
Bring non-perishable food items for one additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.



### Friday-Sunday,

**April 8-10**  
Fri. 12 - 4  
Sat. 10 - 4  
Sun. 10 - 3

Kane County Farm Bureau  
**Randall Road**  
at Oak Street,  
St. Charles, IL

## Vintage Truck RAFFLE



2022 Grand Prize: 1971 Chevrolet C-10  
V8, 3 speed Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50

Kane County Farm Bureau  
**FOUNDATION**  
for the future of farms & food



Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION  
2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174  
[info@kanecfb.com](mailto:info@kanecfb.com) 630-584-8660 [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com)

