

# 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. 88 NO. 4 APRIL 2023

## Fresh air...farming...FUN

# Touch-A-Tractor celebrates spring & agriculture

You don't have to travel to the country to get a close-up look at farm life. The Farm Bureau invites you and your family to shrug off winter with a visit to Touch-A-Tractor, our annual farm-to-city community event, April 14-16 on the KCFB lawn.

You'll be welcomed to a lawn full of vintage and modern farm equipment, a farm animal zoo, pedal tractors, corn corrals, a percussion string and much more. Volunteers will be on hand to explain modern farm machinery's technology that helps farmers to plant and harvest our nation's food supply. Numerous antique tractors from area farms will be on hand for Mom and Dad to get great photos of the kids for the

grandparents. AGCO Parts employees will have kids games and contests on the lawn and our line up of tractors may include a 1912 Port Huron Steam Engine!

Kids will enjoy make and



take crafts AND Story Time, with ag themed books being read to kids. Kids can also participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, scoop corn in the corn corrals, see farm ani-

mals, pet a baby chick, make their own music at the percussion string, take pictures with farm-themed backdrops, and play and sit in the seat of one of a dozen tractors.

There will be a FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing for kids 8 and under – one entry per child.

Hours are 12pm 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. (see page 8).



Photos, top to bottom:  
This toddler is impressed with the corn head on this massive John Deere combine;  
Lots of photo opps at Touch-A-Tractor, including with farm animals and tractors galore;

These boys take a turn behind the wheel of an antique Allis Chalmers tractor;

Bucket calf gets attention from visitors of all ages;

These parents give their kids a boost onto a Case IH Quadtrac tractor.



See you soon!



March 14-16  
F-noon-4 • Sa 10-4 • Su 10-3

## PARENTS:

Visit and "LIKE" the Kane County Farm Bureau page on Facebook today. Check back on the page on April 8 for an announcement of a "special event" for kids at Touch-A-Tractor on Saturday, April 15!

## Help the hungry with your T-A-T admission

### Food donations welcomed and rewarded

Our 17th annual Touch-A-Tractor on the weekend of April 14-16 welcomes your donation of non-perishable food items with your entry to the event. While you are clambering on combines and admiring antique tractors, your food donation will be stockpiled for delivery to a local food pantry. Your food donation will get you one additional ticket for our Pedal Tractor Drawing and our thanks for your generosity. Touch-A-Tractor 2023 is right around the corner – see you there!

## Farm toy of the month

This month's toy is a farm-tastic playset for farm enthusiasts age 3 & up. The Tomy Case IH playset is a great collection of components to keep the farm running – tractors, trailers, a n h y d r o u s ammonia tank and wagon, grain bin, trucks, combine, and a few horses and fencing for a little equine fun after a long day of spring farming.

The price is regularly \$30.89, but visit our Farm Bureau Country Store during April and save 10%. Supplies are limited – get your playset today!



## April Featured Food

# Bratwurst & 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 St. in St. Charles – during the month of April or while supply lasts.

## KCFB CALENDAR APRIL 2023

- 1 April Fool's Day
  - 4 FFA Acquaintance Day, Northern Illinois Food Bank, 5-7:30pm
  - 6 Ag Safety Day at H-BR HS, 8am-3pm
  - 7 Good Friday, KCFB office closed
  - 13 Board of Directors, 7pm
  - 12-13 Set up for Touch-A-Tractor
  - 14-16 Touch-A-Tractor, KCFB lawn
  - 15 4-H Foundation Pork Chop Fundraiser, Kane County Fairgrounds, 4:30-7:00pm
  - 18 VALEES SPARK Career Extravaganza, Fox Valley Family YMCA, 8am-2pm
  - 21 KC Board Ag Committee, 10 am, County Administration Bldg, Geneva
- (All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 110th 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, 2023, 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, 2022, 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

# Kane County an 'Ally in Agriculture'

The Kane County Board formalized its support for farms and farmers with adoption of Resolution 23-80,

## “PROCLAIMING KANE COUNTY’S SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE”

(below) at their monthly meeting on March 14, 2023. The resolution was first introduced in the Agriculture Committee of the Kane County Board at the request of the Kane County Farm Bureau. It was approved by the Agriculture and Executive Committees before being presented to the full County Board in March.

The Resolution reminds public officials of the County’s long history of historic firsts for the agriculture community enacted by previous County Boards and Administrations. It lays out the economic value of agriculture production, processing, sales

and jobs to the local economy. Perhaps most importantly, it directs the County to “seek land use policies and economic development opportunities to sustain a rural way of life, and to support efforts to accommodate future success of the rural community”, while encouraging “the Kane County Board and county staff to continue its tradition of work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of our county and all its residents.”

“Kane County has long regarded farmers and agriculture as important components of the local economy”, said Mike Kenyon, Chairman of the Kane County Ag Committee and a past-President of the Kane County Farm Bureau. “Farmland is understood to be a resource that pays more in taxes than it demands in services, and

though privately owned, contributes to the quality of life of all Kane County residents.”

Kane County government is more active in support of farms and farmers than perhaps any other local government in the State of Illinois, according to KCFB Manager Steve Arnold. “Through grants and other funding sources that do not increase our property taxes, Kane County continues to find ways to provide voluntary and incentive based programs to support farmers in what they do, and to provide for farmland being a permanent part of the landscape of Kane County”, he said.

The Farm Bureau will recognize the County’s action at an April 15 event where County Board Chair Corrine Pierog will be presented with an Illinois shaped “Ally in Agriculture” plaque for display at the County

Administration Building in Geneva. It will join framed prints of turn of the century farm scenes from local artist

LaVern Kammerude, which decorate the halls outside the County Board Room, a gift of the Kane County Farm Bureau.

*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.

STATE OF ILLINOIS ) SS.  
COUNTY OF KANE )  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-80

### PROCLAIMING KANE COUNTY’S SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, Kane County was Illinois’ first county to protect farms by Ordinance from nuisance lawsuits in 1991, to develop a Stormwater Ordinance to protect and keep farmland productive in 2000, to establish and fund an Agricultural Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection Ordinance in 2001, to assist farmers in maintaining productive soils with a Farmland Drainage Assistance Program in 2003, and, to encourage and prioritize the production of fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy through the Growing for Kane Ordinance in 2013; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have protected the rights of Kane County farmers in their efforts to grow food for increasing local and global populations, permanently protected over 40 farms and 6,000 acres from development, revitalized the Drainage Districts necessary to keep agricultural lands productive, and assisted new farms and farmers in their entry into agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, Kane County has a long history of public policy efforts as well as established land use and planning goals designed to keep agricultural lands productive, prevent scattered and pre-mature encroachment of development on farmland, and to maintain the rural character of western Kane County; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to more than 71,000 farms, 96% of which are family-owned and a third of which include livestock, and Kane County accounts for 605 of those family farms and 1,008 family farmers, and agriculture supports 14,177 Kane County jobs with 7,181 added from livestock; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and related industries in Kane County generate total sales estimated at \$1.450 billion, with \$643.5 million coming from the livestock sector, adding \$402.9 million to household income\*; and

WHEREAS, agriculture occupies nearly one-half of the land base of Kane County, which leads Illinois in Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture and Sod production and ranks among Illinois’ top 5 counties for Christmas Trees, Woody Crops, Other Crops and Hay\*\*; and

WHEREAS, Illinois and Kane County farmers support the food security of our citizens. The international pandemic displayed the importance of American food systems, processing and supply chain weaknesses; and

WHEREAS, new livestock development accounts for additional jobs creating additional economic growth within the county; and

WHEREAS, farmers are dedicated to caring for their animals in ways that also benefit the land. Using tools and technology to better manage soil nutrients, water runoff and air quality on the farm, farmers are using fewer natural resources and reducing their carbon footprint while producing more food; and

WHEREAS, farmland is a finite resource that is vital to agriculture, food production, and the economic well-being of our county; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Illinois and in Kane County face multiple layers of regulation involving state and federal agencies providing a comprehensive, robust regulatory program for all farms including those raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, data and information from state regulatory agencies demonstrates environmental issues from agriculture are an extremely rare occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the County of Kane recognizes the value agriculture contributes to our county, seeks land use policies and economic development opportunities to sustain a rural way of life, and supports efforts to accommodate future success of the rural community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kane County Board acknowledges and supports agriculture within our county. The jobs created, taxes generated, technologies embraced and environmental practices implemented by farmers make agriculture a valuable industry within our county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kane County Board and county staff will continue its tradition of work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of our county and all its residents.

\*2019 Illinois Agriculture Economic Contribution Study, Decision Innovations Group

\*\* USDA National Ag Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture

Passed by the Kane County Board on March 14, 2023

John A. Cunningham  
Clerk, County Board  
Kane County, Illinois

Corinne M. Pierog MA, MBA  
Chairman, County Board  
Kane County, Illinois

### KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2023 THRU DECEMBER 2023

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

\*Attendance by electronic means.

## Kane County Farmer

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## ALL TRACTORS & TRUCKS Welcome!

The KCFB Foundation’s Touch-A-Tractor open house and fundraiser is scheduled for April 14-16 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. We are again looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid’s face, ALL tractors are welcome – and trucks too! The more, the merrier.

If you are interested in bringing a farm tractor or truck to this family-friendly event, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

*Help us make Touch-a-Tractor a success.*

**TRELIS**  
Your local source  
for feed, supplies,  
and so much more!  
Pet Food • Propane  
Salt • Delivery  
St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

# Pierog, Pitstick to represent Regional Economic Development interests

Kane County is joining in the newly created Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP) that brings together a seven-county region and the city of Chicago. The partners are charged with coordinating a global identity which will market Kane County and other regional partners in national and international markets as a place to grow a business.

Kane County's representatives to the Partnership will be County Board Chair Corinne Pierog and Maple Park area farmer Steve Pitstick.

Pitstick, a former KCFB Director and President served on a previous Kane County Economic Development Commission and currently serves as Chairman of the Illinois Soybean Association and on the ISA

Government Relations Committee. Pitstick is a graduate of Kishwaukee Community College, the Illinois Ag Leadership Program, Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow and the ISA Soy Ambassadors program. He has served in not-for-profit and advisory roles with the Illinois Ag Leadership Foundation and Kane County Farmland Protection Commission, and as an advisor to startup agriculture technology companies.



Corinne Pierog



Steve Pitstick

Kane County is the only large county in a 100-mile radius without an economic development organization – but

that's about to change. In addition to the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP), a countywide organization for economic planning is being

use of resources and outreach when attracting businesses and industries to Kane County.

These endeavors are expected to give Kane County high impact with maximum efficiencies when it comes to economic development today, tomorrow and years into the future. We congratulate Steve Pitstick on his appointment and are confident it will increase the focus on agriculture's contributions and potential to attract economic development partners and the jobs they create to Kane County and the greater Chicagoland region.

## Kane 4-H Foundation 14th annual dinner, auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 14th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 15 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Prairie Events Center of the Kane Co. 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 Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson.

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. 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 Kane County 4-H Clubs, Master Gardener volunteers, local Home and Community Education (HCE) groups, and other area supporters.

Proceeds from the dinner and auctions will benefit University of Illinois Extension programs in Kane County including: 4-H Youth Development, Home and Community Education Association, Horticulture, Master Gardener, and Nutrition and Wellness Programs.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at bronze, silver, and gold levels, and all donations are tax deductible. Donors may request a set number of complimentary tickets based on sponsorship level, and they will receive recognition at the event. To donate, contact Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 and Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955.

Save the date – April 15

## Local farmer donates treasured collection of Deere model tractors

The Kane County Farm Bureau has been gifted a neat selection of scale John Deere tractors from Scott Horton of Horton Farms in St. Charles.

Bottom: KCFB Communications Coordinator Alice Macha chats with farmer Scott Horton about the collectible and toy tractors in his late father Carl's collection. Horton donated the tractors, with original packaging in excellent condition, to the KCFB Foundation to raise money for college scholarships. The tractors will be on display at the KCFB during Touch-A-Tractor and will go on sale after the 3 day farm-city open house in April.

Right: Horton also donated this 1948 John Deere "A" Crankshaft lamp to the KCFB. After years of hearing his father's desire to restore a John Deere Model A tractor left rusting in his fence line, Horton and friend John Swanson secretly pulled the tractor in the farm shop and restored it in 1995 as a surprise Christmas gift to Horton's father. The "spare" crankshaft, as heavy as a boat anchor, was fashioned into a table lamp on a thick walnut base. KCFB will mount a scale model John Deere and a commemorative plaque to the lamp, and it will greet visitors to Kane County Farm Bureau's Country Store for years to come. Thanks Scott!

The tractors are from the collection of his late father, Carl Raymond (Ray), who passed away a year ago.

Ray spent decades collecting



the model tractors, which were proudly displayed in his home, and were a big hit with his children and grandchildren. After his passing a year ago, and his wife Edith's passing in December of last year, some tractors were given to grandchildren, but the remainder have come to KCFB with the comment from Scott Horton that his children received KCFB scholarships and he wanted to give

(continued on page 6)



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Join **KANE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION** for great food and support U of I Extension, which serves Kane County communities with local education & volunteer programs, including:

4-H Youth Development | Home & Community Education | Master Gardeners | Master Naturalists | Nutrition & Wellness

For more information about local Extension programs | go.illinois.edu/extensiondkk

*14th Annual*

## PORK CHOP DINNER

### FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023**

**4:30-7 PM**

Kane County Fairgrounds | Prairie Events Center | St. Charles

**All dinners include sides, dessert & beverage. Choose from:**

- Two Chop - \$15
- One Chop - \$13
- Pulled Pork Sandwich - \$10

*Thank you to the Elburn Lions Club for grilling!*

**50/50 Raffle - Silent Auction - Live Auction**

Silent Auction bidding ends 7 p.m. | Live Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Get your tickets by March 31 through:

- Kane County 4-H Families or call Bill at 630-484-6852 or Karen at 815-784-2955
- U of I Extension office, 535 S. Randall Road, St. Charles
- Limited tickets available at the door for an additional \$1 per meal

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, contact the Extension office at 630-584-6166. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating  
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

## 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 abun-

dant 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 prac-

tices 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.*

## Win a pedal 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 16th. Return the form at right to KCFB by April 16th or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 14-16. 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 at Touch-A-Tractor

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

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

Return by Sunday, April 16th to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

# AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



## Hello Kane County!

As you may recall I joined the KCFB tribe during a unique time in the fall of 2020. Large gatherings and face to face interactions were frowned upon and confusion about what was "right" or "acceptable" was running high. Many of my "normal" events and activities were cancelled due to restrictions and/or low enrollment during that stretch of time. I will admit, it was discouraging, but I kept trying to persevere and remain optimistic. It was all a learning curve and I knew eventually it would all work out. Little did I know, that day would come as a BIG surprise to us all!

I had the opportunity in March to host my first Teacher Institute Day for Kane County teachers since joining the Farm Bureau family on March 3, 2020. The planning and prep work had been done from the guest speaker lineups, topics, and timelines. All that was left was to wait and see how many actually registered once the portal opened online.

Anxiously waiting to hear my sign-up numbers, I reached out to my contact at the Kane

County Regional Office of Education. They brought to my attention that there was a small error that made my stomach drop – I was expecting 15-20 teachers, but it was doubled and then some – I had a whopping 52 teachers sign up! Yes, you read that number correctly! It's a good problem to have, especially after not being able to host for almost 3 years! In true KCFB fashion, we created a plan of attack to accommodate and make magic happen!

It was one of those good news/bad news situations but I felt like the previous road blocks I had encountered finally paid off and we had our breakthrough! While not all 52 teachers showed up, we still had a 36 teachers on Institute Day!

I kicked off the event with a brief presentation about pollinator and soil resources that teachers have access to. In addition, with the help of three energetic volunteers, we demonstrated the importance of pollinators with a hands-on activity called Throw & Grow, in which students learn about seed germination and plant growth as they watch their flowers grow. What I love about the Ag In the Classroom lessons and

activities is how they take the guesswork out of lesson planning and illustrate the target grade level, subjects, length of lesson, objectives, material needed, education standards and guidance from beginning to end such as supplemental readings, background information, and additional learning ideas.

I had the pleasure of hosting a great line-up of guest speakers to inform teachers all about Bee Keeping, Pollinators, and Our Environment. Retired D129 school teacher, Harry Patterson informed teachers about bee keeping and teaching in his 20+ years of experience. In addition, Patterson also brought in some of his products made from his own honey! Kane County Farm Bureau Manager, Steve Arnold gave a presentation about the recently installed Illinois shaped Pollinator Rain Garden and the efforts that went into planning and facilitating the project.

Master Gardeners from the University of Illinois Extension Office of Kane County, Bob and Anne Herrmann, teamed up to inform the group about what flowers and plants to select, why, and when to plant at their homes. Nancy Cinatl from the Conservation Foundation spoke about native plants that support wildlife and water quality. Director, Jodie Wollnik, P.E., of the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources wrapped up the day with a presentation about water quality and ag water testing.

I felt incredibly grateful and excited to have the opportunity to host and serve teachers with a variety of agricultural topics and educational resources. It would not have been possible without the support of the KCFB team, awesome and wise guest speakers, and the Kane ROE assisting with promotion and registration efforts. While there are always lessons to be learned and room for improvement in everything we do, I am thankful for pushing through the hard times, remaining positive, and the great network of people who share the same passion

of promoting agricultural education.

Much like planting, both rain and sunshine are needed for growth. Sometimes it may feel like the stormy or tough days last for years, but weathering the storms make us stronger and wiser. As we all know, the sunshine comes after the rain and truly beautiful things bloom and grow!

Happy April!



For the first time in nearly 3 years, KCFB hosted a Teacher Institute Workshop for teacher in Kane County! On Friday, March 3rd teachers from all across Kane County gathered at KCFB to learn all about Bee Keeping, Pollinators, and our Environment.



Top to bottom: Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator, Kelcee Miller and her worker bee volunteers demonstrating one of the many hands-on and interactive pollinator lessons available to teachers such as Throw & Grow.

Harry Patterson, retired Kane County teacher and current Bee Keeper, shows teachers the difference between the Queen Bee and the Worker Bee.

Jodie Wollnik, P.E., Director of the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources asking follow-up questions to teachers at the end of her presentation and rewarding the correct answers with branded goodies from the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources.

## Helping you protect what matters most



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St. Charles  
630-584-0001



Bob Effner  
St. Charles  
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf  
St. Charles  
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Jeff Jones  
St. Charles  
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Norma Grathoff  
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Laura Osters  
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630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes  
Elgin  
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen  
Elgin  
847-742-0004



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

## Book of the month

We are celebrating our 17th Annual Touch-A-Tractor event later this month on April 14, 15, and 16 here at the Kane County Farm Bureau with a few new activities for kids and the return of Story Time, which will take place at noon, 1:00pm and 2:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

One of the story time titles is a perfect fit for this month's Farm, Facts, & Fun theme of planting – *Seed, Soil, Sun – Earth's Recipe for Food* by Cris Peterson.

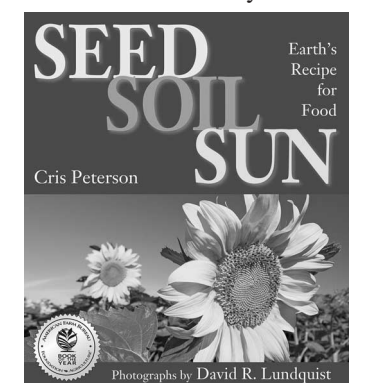
The three key ingredients needed to grow the food we eat are seed, soil, and sun. Peterson explains easily for readers to follow and understand how seeds, soil, sun, air and water all work together as Earth's recipe to create the foods people and animals eat. And by keeping our animals fed, they can continue to provide us with milk, meat, eggs, and other products.

Peterson describes in detail the process seeds undergo before they sprout into plants and the makeup of the soil and explains how "each handful of soil contains more living things than all the human beings on Earth." In addition, Peterson explains the roles of other amazing creatures that live in

the soil and their participation in keeping the soil fertilized and maintained so plant roots can grow and breathe. The final key ingredient is the mighty sun. Did you know that plants are the only living things that can use the sun's energy to grow?

To learn more about how seeds, sun, and soil work together to create tasty foods and products we all know and love, come on out to the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE KCFB Ag Literacy Library check out *Seed, Soil, Sun, Earth's Recipe for Food*.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.



Seed, Soil, Sun – Earth's Recipe for Food by Cris Peterson

"COUNTRY Financial" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.

1220-509HC\_07683-1/17/2023





# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

## Celebrate National Grilled Cheese Month Prosciutto Grilled Cheese

### Ingredients

- 2 slices of bread
- 1 tablespoon salted butter
- 4-8 slices fresh mozzarella
- 4-6 slices tomato
- 2 teaspoons basil pesto
- 2 slices prosciutto (thinly sliced)
- Salt and pepper

### Directions

Butter each slice of bread on one side, all the way to the edges then set aside.

Place one slice of prosciutto onto your work surface, then place one slice of buttered bread on top – butter side face down.

Top the bread with sliced mozzarella, then spread the basil pesto (2 tsp) roughly over the cheese.

Top with sliced tomato and season with salt and pepper, then top with an additional layer of sliced mozzarella.

Place second slice of buttered bread on top, butter-side up.

Place the second slice of prosciutto over each other to enclose.

Heat a panini press or stove top, then grill sandwich until cheese has melted and the prosciutto is crisp.

This recipe & other grilled cheese creations may be found at: <https://www.chefnotrequired.com/pesto-grilled-cheese/#recipe>.



## Climate Change Impacts on Illinois Agriculture

Agriculture is a critically important aspect of economic and social life across much of Illinois, with the market value of products sold totaling over \$17 billion in 2017. Key crops include corn, soybeans, hay, wheat, pumpkins, sweet corn, beans, oats, and horseradish. Animal agriculture is focused primarily on hogs, beef, and dairy cattle.

In 2017, Illinois was 2nd in the nation for grain and oilseed production and ranked 4th in the nation for hogs. Agricultural productivity is particularly vulnerable to weather and climate variability.

In 2015, central Illinois received nearly double the usual rainfall from May-July, which had serious consequences for the pumpkin harvest, leading to shortages for consumers nationwide.

In recent decades, Illinois' climate has been changing in various ways, a trend which is projected to continue and intensify. These changes are resulting in significant impacts on the state's agricultural sector.

### observed changes to Illinois' Climate Temperature

Average annual temperatures have increased by 1.7°F between 1979 and 2021. The number of days with nighttime minimum temperature at or above 70°F has been generally above average over the last decade and steadily increasing over the last 5 decades. Winters and springs have warmed the most compared to their long-term averages, resulting in nearly two additional weeks of the growing season. Average annual precipitation has risen significantly (+5.7"), with the greatest increases observed during the spring and summer months. Extreme precipitation events (greater than 2 inches) have become more frequent.

Statistics compiled by the USDA and compiled in: *Climate Change Impacts on Illinois Agriculture, October 2022*

## JOKES

How excited was the gardener about spring?  
So excited he wet his plants!

What did the alien say to the garden?  
Take me to your weeder!

What do you get when you cross a garden worm and young goat?  
A dirty kid!

## Spring planting & weather

I	H	N	K	S	L	T	O	R	Z	I	H	P	F	A	P	M	S	T	G	Adapt
O	Z	B	F	E	T	Z	E	J	M	U	X	G	Q	A	S	H	U	P	N	Crops
Q	Z	K	J	P	C	H	C	P	Z	Y	S	M	R	P	R	E	I	A	I	Drainage
P	L	A	N	T	T	C	R	A	H	M	S	S	O	E	Z	M	Y	D	R	Farmers
I	A	A	O	A	Y	O	D	N	I	L	R	I	C	Y	P	E	A	P	Fields	
V	Q	V	E	S	V	F	G	Y	Q	O	C	Q	C	N	F	R	J	R	S	Improvement
F	V	W	T	E	C	C	X	V	L	E	D	G	I	A	I	E	T	Y	S	Livelihoods
Y	C	I	M	O	J	U	V	R	Q	Z	J	L	E	N	E	C	E	T	M	Machinery
I	R	E	S	D	O	H	I	L	E	V	I	L	E	L	I	C	I	T	Maintenance	
S	N	E	C	W	Q	Z	T	E	S	U	P	I	T	T	D	P	H	L	L	Management
T	D	W	N	P	S	I	B	C	C	R	L	N	J	N	S	I	N	I	Z	Plant
M	F	Q	A	I	L	M	I	D	O	N	E	E	Z	I	Y	T	O	B	B	Precipitation
V	M	K	E	L	H	T	Z	T	Q	M	E	K	L	A	N	A	L	A	R	Protection
C	T	Y	A	U	S	C	E	Y	E	V	R	I	X	M	C	T	O	I	E	Research
W	W	G	Q	I	G	C	A	G	J	M	B	L	L	I	E	I	G	R	Y	Resilience
S	E	O	T	L	T	W	A	M	T	V	S	O	S	I	F	O	Y	A	F	Spring
V	X	A	S	I	C	N	H	C	R	A	E	S	E	R	S	N	T	V	M	Statistics
T	T	A	O	J	A	I	F	U	U	Q	I	F	E	D	K	E	Z	U	S	Systems
S	A	N	N	M	C	W	D	R	A	I	N	A	G	E	I	G	R	O	D	Technology
Y	Q	V	L	R	S	Y	S	T	E	M	S	K	N	T	C	S	Q	A	G	Tillage

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by April 15, 2023 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.

## Craft a DIY eggshell chia pet

Don't let those expensive eggshells go to waste this spring! Rinse them out and try this cute DIY Eggshell Chia Pet activity and watch it grow!

### Supplies

- Egg shell (rinsed out)
- Dirt
- Grass seed
- Googly eyes
- Marker

### Instructions

Place your rinsed and empty egg shells in an empty egg carton.

Add googly eyes and draw in a nose and

mouth to create the face for your egg head.

Fill the eggs about 3/4 with dirt or potting soil, sprinkle in some grass seed, and then cover the seeds with a thin layer of topsoil.

Use a spray bottle with water to lightly mist the soil, place in a sunny spot, and watch the hair (grass) grow!

This craft & more ideas are found at: [https://www.123homeschool4me.com/scratch-east-eggs-decorating-idea\\_92/](https://www.123homeschool4me.com/scratch-east-eggs-decorating-idea_92/)



## Congratulations

**Gerald Bundgard** from St. Charles – this month's word search 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, Charles, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

### April is ...

National			
April Fool's Day	1	Cherry Cheesecake Day	23
Sourdough Bread	1	English Muffin Day	23
Peanut Butter & Jelly Day	2	Library Week	23-29
Chocolate Mousse Day	3	Pigs in a Blanket Day	24
International Carrot Day	4	Zucchini Bread Day	25
Caramel Day	5	Prime Rib Day	27
Deep Dish Pizza Day	5	Blueberry Pie Day	28
Fresh Tomato Day	6	Oatmeal Cookie Day	30
Burrito Day	6	Raisin Day	30
Farm Animals Day	10	Distracted Driving Awareness Month	
Cheese Fondue Day	11	Fresh Celery Month	
Peach Cobbler Day	13	Garlic Month	
Gardening Day	14	Grilled Cheese Month	
Glazed Spiral Ham Day	15	Pecan Month	
Eggs Benedict Day	16	Soft Pretzel Month	
Cheese Ball Day	17	Stress Awareness Month	
Banana Day	20	Volunteer Month	
Chickpea Day	21		
Tea Day	21		
Earth Day	22		

Courtesy of: <https://nationaltoday.com/april-holidays>



**Farmers adapt to weather**

“We have always been able to plant,” I reassured Mom while seated at my desk that faces hers. We should have been seated in a tractor. The season was spring and the year 2019, when it rained.

And rained.

And rained.

I took screenshots of weather forecasts, showing seven days of clouds and rain. It seemed unbelievable, and mentally, an out-

of-body experience that endured. By May 30 of that year (past our typical planting season), we had 80% of our acres yet to plant and had dumped 10-plus inches from the rain gauge. The guys used the rainy days to start maintenance on harvest machinery. They had faith that we would have a crop to harvest.

For generations, farmers have endured weather stresses that impact farm production and livelihoods, and they can name those most-adverse years like sports statistics. Thankfully, technology and modern research give us an adaptive edge, building resilience in the

face of weather variability.

Our planters hold more seed in one fill than Grandpa could plant in a single day in the 1970s. Bigger and faster planters plant crops quicker and more precisely, necessary with larger farm sizes today. Smartphones show live subscription weather forecasts and field-specific precipitation totals. Tile drainage systems improve water management within fields.

Data shows that over time weather comes with greater

variability and extremes from cold to hot and dry to wet. Since 1980, the number of days it has rained more than two inches has doubled in Illinois, a statistic cited in a docuseries at *WatchUsGrow.org*. More rain in a shorter time can trigger crop losses and soil erosion, but farmers have adjusted to protect crops and the environment.

More than ever on our farm and farms across the state, farmers use cover crops, or ground-cover between primary crops.

They install grass filter strips along streams and use reduced tillage practices to slow and filter water flowing across the land.

When the weather finally cooperated in June 2019, we had a full crew and machines ready to act. The air conditioning stopped working in a tractor, but my brother sweated it out. We planted four times more acres in a day than in the prime of Grandpa’s career and dutifully planted every acre we could.

**Items sought for T-A-T**

Touch-A-Tractor is coming your way! April 14-16 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.
- 2. **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 purposes.
- 3. **Gently used Farm Toys** for the kids to play with during the event.

- 4. **Farm animals** – sheep, lambs, pigs, goats, baby calves, chickens, etc. We have the pens, we just need the critters!
  - 5. **Gates** – any length, aluminum, steel, or wood!
- Call Steve at the KCFB (630-584-8660) or e-mail him for more information (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!**



**Story Time at T-A-T – sign-up to share stories**

Have you heard the moos ... I mean news? Story-Time is coming back to Touch-A-Tractor this year! At noon, 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, (weather permitting)

volunteers will read a book from the list below to children and their families. Are you or someone you know interested in helping bring these books to life and help promote Ag Literacy?

**— Story Time title list —**

*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

I would like to participate in Story Time readings of farm friendly books to kids.

Sat. \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm. Sun. \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm

Book(s) preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau  
 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

**Summer Ag Institutes**

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn 2 college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute beginning June 5th.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days, Monday, June 5th through Thursday, June 8th from 8 am to 4 pm each day. Teachers in Kane County will have an opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers, and earn college graduate credits St. Francis University this summer – yes, in person! Teachers will be able to see how local farms run, agri-businesses and manufacturers work, and get a clear

picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives and how agriculture can be easily integrated into the classroom setting.

Kane County Farm Bureau is the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses 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 learn from farmers,

growers, experts in various fields and a crew of dedicated volunteers who share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

Topics will include GMO’s, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today.



**Lesson in a Bucket**

Kane County educators NEED Lesson-In-A-Bucket! KCFB has monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, dairy, and corn.

April’s Lesson-in-a-Bucket

theme is all about soybeans. Stimulate students with a bucket of lessons about soybeans and its importance to agriculture including a classroom set of Soybean Ag-Mags and Soybeans Ag-Ventures. Students will learn how seeds germinate with this hands on activity called, “Beanie Baby”.

Also included is a Multidisciplinary Agriculture

Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lesson in which students will germinate seeds and graph their growth with “Percent Germination for a Soybean Sample.”

Bring agriculture and a bucket full of soybean fun and knowledge into your classroom this April with Lesson-in-a-Bucket. Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve your bucket today.

**Local farmer**

(continued from page 1)

something back. The tractors include old cast iron models, 60 series, 20 series, and a tractor with a clock in the wheel, and range from scale models to tiny desktop tractors.

Scott Horton is a lean, quiet, lifelong farmer, and with his wife, Michelle raises shorthorn beef cattle on his Town Hall Rd., St. Charles farm, and farms grain to feed the cattle. He currently has 35 head of cattle, and offers frozen ground beef periodically from the farm to local consumers. Horton Farms beef

is also served at The Office restaurant in St. Charles. Scott also sells his cattle for breeding stock to local farmers.

Our thanks for Scott Horton for this generous “gift of green” and our newfound collection of classic John Deere model tractors.

**Young Farmers March meeting recap**

KCFB’s Young Farmers group gathered for smoked BBQ and conversation on March 13 at the Bohlin Farm Shop in Elgin to hear about Farm Bureau updates and upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

The group learned about Kane County Farm Bureau updates as well as details regarding the Illinois Farm Bureau’s Young Leader’s Ag Industry Tour to California on July 10-15th, 2023.

Upcoming events the group will most include their annual

Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day with local FFA Chapters in Kane County on Tuesday, April 4 at 5pm at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, where the group will have a brief meeting learning about Young Farmers/Young Leaders as well as scholarship opportunities and then group as a team will sort, pack and assemble meals for our hungry neighbors. Assisting with Ag-Safety Day at Hinckley Big-Rock High School on April 6th as well as assisting with Touch-A-Tractor

festivities on April 14-16th at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Our next gathering will be Thursday, April 13th 5:00pm at the Kane County Farm Bureau in St. Charles. Dinner will be provided. Farm Bureau members from 18-35 are welcome and encouraged to attend and get acquainted. If you are interested 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!

Last month, the Kane County Young Farmers met at Michael Bohlin’s farm shop in Elgin. All eyes were on Social Chairman, Wayne Gehrke as he finalized the plans for the group’s next social outing event to attend the Blackhawk’s Ice Hockey Game on Thursday, March 30th in Chicago. Pictured clockwise from left: Brett Dienst, Kelcee Miller (hidden), Seth Roberts, Jonathon Klein, Tommy Christensen, Trent Pierson, Alex Olson, Joseph White, Michael Bohlin, Wayne Gehrke, Scott Dienst, Tyler Fabrizius, Will Kuipers, Matthew Randall, and Carolyn Brummel.



## FLYWAYS, HIGHWAYS AND FARMLAND

By Alice Macha  
Communications Coordinator



I took an interesting long weekend trip in early March to see Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska. Early March is the midst of their spring migration along the central flyway in Nebraska. The birds travel north, stopping along the Platte River to roost at night on the sandbars and in the shallows, and dispersing daily to glean the thousands of acres of corn fields near the river.

The trip was a fascinating look at the estimated 70,000 sandhill cranes passing through at that time, a variety of ducks including pintails and green-winged teals, and many thousands of snow geese. Wave after wave of migrating birds flew over, small flights of ducks, and great skeins of sandhills, sandhills salted with white snow geese, and vast Vs of mostly snow geese peppered with sandhills. Their raucous calls filled the air and it was a thrilling visual and auditory spectacle.

Equally pleasing, though, were the huge expanses of farm

land. We drove through mile after mile of farm fields dotted with houses, outbuildings, machine sheds, fenced pastures and grazing cattle. I think north-eastern Illinois got cheated in the landscape department. Iowa was full of gently rolling hills, neatly scribed with furrows and stubble from last year's corn. The smooth hills are one of my favorite topographies; my heart seems to travel happily in rolling hills with tidy tucks of woodland and flourishing farms dotted on high points, proudly surveying earth and sky.

Nebraska was flatter and the fields were all corn, underlined with train tracks. Beef stock grazed among the unfenced fields, foraging contentedly in the corn stubble, and sometimes sharing their space with flocks of sandhills, teals or snow geese. Even this landscape yielded fun things to observe. We were near the busiest freight line in North America – the Union Pacific mainline hosts 100 trains a day,

following the path of the old transcontinental railroad. We traveled Route 30 parallel to the tracks, alongside idled trains that stretched out of sight, blocking several rural crossings at once. I imagined those cars filled in autumn with freshly harvested Midwestern corn and soybeans dispensed from the numerous grain elevators and warehouses along the tracks.

We shared I-80 with semi after semi hauling farm equipment – planters, tractors, and combines getting in position for spring planting and lending splashes of John Deere green, IH red or Kinze blue to the drab highways, Spring agriculture is right around the corner!

Also right around the corner is the time for the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn to be dressed in spring red and green. Our 17th annual Touch-A-Tractor brings antique tractors, modern giant farm equipment, bucket calves, goats, fun and fellowship to our more urban landscape. It's a chance for local folks to get out in the fresh air, chat with farmers, enjoy crafts, and climb onto tractors and combines for photo ops and memories. It's an encounter with agriculture and farming in our little corner of the bustling Fox Valley. See you there!

KCFB Director Mike Kenyon of South Elgin completes the final online Certification module required to be named a Farm Bureau "Certified Director" as KCFB Office Manager Liz Polovin looks on. This professional development program was launched in 2022 to provide a program and online portal to help build the knowledge base of Farm Bureau leaders and help them better understand Farm Bureau history and their role in governance, advocacy, issue management and public policy. KCFB Directors who have completed the voluntary Certification program, since its inception in 2022, include Jerry Gaitsch of Huntley, Beth Gehrke of Elgin, Sec.-Treas. Chris Collins of Elburn and Pres. Joe White of Kaneville.



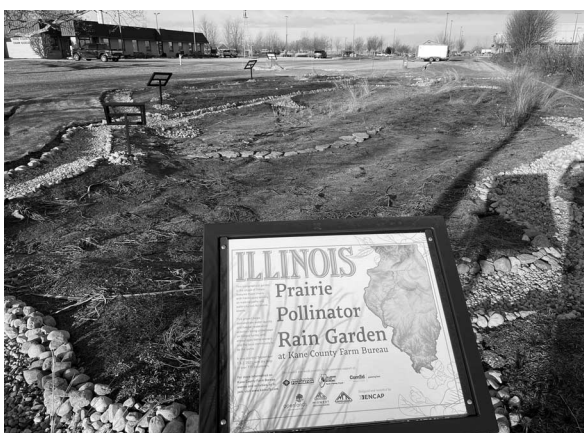
## Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month go to **Israel Lopez** of Elgin, the April winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time he stops in our office, Israel will receive a FREE combo box of bratwurst and hot dogs from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we offer each

month. Israel and ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered each month in a drawing for the monthly *Kane County Farmer* featured food product or seasonal prize, as well as receiving discounts and premiums. For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

The Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden at Kane County Farm Bureau will be an area of focus for some Touch-A-Tractor visitors this spring. Weather and garden center stocks permitting, we will allow volunteers from area FFA Chapters and the public to assist with infill plantings of additional flowers and ground-covers in the garden and around trees planted on the KCFB property in late 2022. Feel free to bring along a garden trowel if you're coming to Touch-A-Tractor, April 14-16!



## Kane Co. Corn Growers scholarships

The Kane County Corn Growers are offering scholarships to assist students pursuing higher education. These scholarships are available for both high school seniors and colleges students whose parents/guardians are members of the Kane County Corn Growers. For more information please visit

[www.kanecountycorngrowers.com](http://www.kanecountycorngrowers.com). Application deadline is May 15, 2023.

NEW this year, KCCG is offering a CDL Scholarship for students pursuing an Illinois Commercial Driver's License. Applicants must be actively enrolled or signed up for the CDL Training Course.

Scholarships are available for anyone who is a member of the Kane County Corn Growers or whose parents/guardians are members. Applications may be received at any point during the year.

For more information, please visit <http://www.kanecountycorngrowers.com>.

## Welcome to the next level

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

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,

### Regular Members

Kay Clancy	Geneva
Todd Gray	Hampshire
Allen Grischow	Hampshire
Scott Grischow	Hampshire
Jeff Morris	Hampshire
Seth Roberts	Hampshire

education and hunger relief:

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to *FarmWeekNow.com*
  - KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
  - Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
  - Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide

conferences

- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel
- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods

\*KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.

## 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 16 – March 15, 2023.



### Donor

Micheal E. Wurtz

### Beneficiary

KCFB Foundation

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

## What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Bob Effner**, who has been named the February Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman.

Bob 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, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Bob's expertise help you! You may reach Bob at 630-588-2002, or [Bob.Effner@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:Bob.Effner@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Bob.Effner/>. Congratulations, Bob!

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Brandon Kopf! Brandon has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since June 2005. His



Brandon Kopf

office is located at 450 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora and may be reached at 630-801-4977.

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

## Volunteers wanted

There's still time to volunteer time, talents or resources to help us make Touch-A-Tractor a success, help us infill 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.

## 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.

### SERVICES

**MASSAGE THERAPY:** Treat yourself to 60 or 90 minutes of relaxation, pain relief, or both. Deep tissue, acupuncture, or Swedish. Certified, experienced. Call Susanne Marshall, L.M.T. 630-699-5610

### WANTED

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

### FOR SALE

2008 Chevy Silverado, C3500 Dump Truck. 37 miles, nice condition. 23k, located in Geneva. Call: 630-232-0123

L171 Kubota mower tractor. 1970 vintage. Call 847-334-0190.

# Time is tickin' – Enter our coloring contest

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 22nd, 2022 and National Agriculture Week March 21-27, 2023 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee is sponsoring a coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received is April 10th, 2023. All entries need to be dropped off at the Farm

Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 10th.

To receive a coloring sheet, check your March Kane County Farmer, email Kelcee Miller, aite@kanecfb.com, or attend Touch-A-Tractor April 14-16, 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.

Entries collected prior to April 10th will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's April 14-16 Touch-A-Tractor event. No child's address or phone number will be exhibited at the display...only their names and ages. 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 2023  
Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174

## KCFB, KC Cougars & summer fun

Kane County Farm Bureau is pitching a fun idea this summer – Kane County Cougars tickets available to members at discounted prices! Enjoy an all-American ballgame with friends or family with one of these options:

### Sunday Feast tickets

Eat for FREE with your \$15 ticket purchase and receive \$15 of concessions money. Tickets are available for June 11th or 18th, July 16th, and August 6th or 20th games.

### Game tickets

We also have \$10 tickets available for June 27th or August 1st that include Taco Tuesday treats.

All games are at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva.

Summer and baseball are calling...get your tickets today for guaranteed fun with KC Cougars baseball! Call 630-584-8660 today to reserve your tickets or stop by our office.



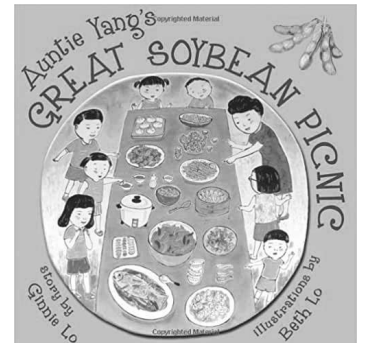
## Little Lending Library Spotlight

Every month our Little Lending Library will have a special feature, book, or resource or all of the above! This will be our way of helping connect with the community whether they are KCFB members or not. No matter who you are or where you are from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. It is our hope that through our (not so) Little Lending Library that we can

help bridge the gap between consumer and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our young readers will be Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic by Ginnie Lo and illustrated by Beth Lo. In addition we will have copies of our Soybean-AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure as well! Supplies are limited, so

get them while you can!



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

One of the biggest events of the year is coming up April 14-16 right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor!

By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle, you are not only supporting Ag in the Classroom learning and scholarships for students with agriculture-focused studies, you can get yourself AND your family into our Touch-A-Tractor event for FREE. It's a win-win.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn September 17. The winning ticket will take home a 1965 International Harvester D900 step-side pickup. Second prize is a 1960's vintage chain-drive Murray pedal tractor with spark plugs.

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, MasterCard or Discover at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

Since 1989 over \$500,000 in tuition assistance has been provided by the Foundation. Your contributions through the annu-



al 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.

### THE REWARDS OF FARMING

with Andy & Sarah Lenkaitis of Lenkaitis Holsteins in St. Charles



"Every summer we love to show cattle and enjoy family fun at the fair! We love that our son has a front row seat to learn about the role we fill bringing healthy, nutritious food to our table and other families' tables."

## 17th Annual Touch-A-Tractor

Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of spring!

### Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

Bring the whole family!

**Friday-Sunday, April 14-16**  
Friday noon-4pm Saturday 10-4 Sun. 10-3

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

- Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- 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!
- Free IFB zip sandwich bag with grilling guide and recipes

**Kids Story Time every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday.**  
Fun, FREE, hands-on activities including marshmallow catapults, paper origami and garden in a glove.  
Bring non-perishable food items for one additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.

**Continuous viewing of**

**Sustaining Our Future**  
A Farm Family Story  
Illinois Farm Bureau's first ever documentary

**Find out why ...**

**WE ARE THE 96%**

**VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE**

**2023 Grand Prize: This 1965 International Harvester D900 stepside pickup truck**

Tickets are \$15 each / 2/\$25 / 5/\$50

Proceeds benefit college scholarships & ag literacy programs.

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

Find us on **Facebook**

2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION**

Your Agriculture Company

### Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

Please send me \_\_\_ tickets (\$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 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  Discover:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

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