

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. 12 DECEMBER 2023

Up to 20 scholarships to help local students study ag

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to students who wish to pursue higher education for a career in an agriculture related field. The applications are for the 2024-25 school year.

College students and high school seniors are invited to apply for these Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION scholarships. Scan the QR code accompanying this article to start the application process, visit www.kanecfb.com or, pick up an application at the KCFB office, Randall Rd and Oak Street in St. Charles. A brochure is also available on the website to assist students in identifying potential careers and areas of ag-related study.

Farm Bureau internships are also available for the 2023 winter, and 2024 spring and summer breaks. A separate Internship application is available on the website.

The KCFB FOUNDATION provided \$25,250 in scholarships to 19 college bound stu-

dents last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students. The success of the Foundation's 2023 Drive-



Nora Thompson of Maple Park is the 2023-24 recipient of the KCFB Foundation President's Scholarship.

Thru BBQ's, Vintage Truck Raffle and Farms & Food Gala has allowed the Foundation Board to increase 2024-25 offerings to 21 scholarships valued at \$38,000.

• **KCFB FOUNDATION President's Scholarship:** (1 at \$5,000) for the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation Agricultural Scholarship from a high school senior.

• **KCFB FOUNDATION Agricultural Scholarships:** (Up to 10, at up to \$2,000 each). For students pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields, or ag related service and support, whose parents are members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing at the scholarship application deadline.

• **KCFB FOUNDATION**

General Scholarship: (2 at \$1,000 minimum) For high school seniors only whose parents are and have been members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing since February 1, two years prior to the scholarship application deadline.

• **John Buck Memorial Scholarships:** (2 at \$1,500) For students from Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, DuPage, Lake or Will county pursuing a degree in an agriculture field with a preference given to students with agricultural mechanics and turf management career ambitions.

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively. The family and friends of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

• **Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship:** (\$1,500 minimum) For a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field.

• **AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship:** (\$2,500) One award for the most outstanding applicant currently enrolled and who has completed at least one full year of college education, pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field of study, residing in the state of Illinois.

• **AGCO Parts Division Scholarships:** (2 at \$1,000) Two awards for students from

Illinois pursuing a degree in an agricultural related career field of study.

• **AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarship:** (2 at \$1,000) Two awards for women from Illinois pursuing a degree in an agricultural related career field of study.

For more information on FOUNDATION scholarship programs, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660, go to www.kanecfb.com and click on "Scholarships & Internships" or scan the QR

code below to start your application today!

Application deadline is February 15, 2024.



December Featured Food

Holiday Hams

The special this month is delicious ham for your holiday dinner. Each ham is individually foil wrapped and boxed which makes them perfect for holiday entertaining or as gifts. They vary in weight from about 10-12 pounds for traditional (\$3.96 per lb. member price) and 7-9 pounds for spiral (\$5.91 per lb. member price). PLUS status members always receive a 5% discount on edible foods and monthly specials.

Order yours today by sending in the form on page 8 or by calling the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 by Wednesday, December 13 no later than noon. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Thursday, December 21.

Tickets available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2024 Vintage Truck Raffle

The KCFB Foundation will sponsor a Vintage Truck Raffle to raise funds for College Scholarships and Ag Literacy programs. The Grand Prize in the 2024 Raffle will be a 1947 Dodge half ton pick-up.

As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor in April 2024 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$20 each or 3/\$50 will go on sale soon. Runs and drives well. Perfect to promote a farm stand or pumpkin patch, as is for car shows or a great

style for a resto-mod. Ticket sales help provide college scholarships and Ag Literacy programs for Kane County students.

Return the form on page 8, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA or MasterCard. Request tickets by December 20 and we'll mail your ticket stubs in time for Christmas gift giving!

The winning ticket will be drawn on October 10th 2024 during our Fay's BBQ drive-thru.

Farm toy of the month

Pint sized farm and truck enthusiasts alike will be driven to play with this toy - A Freightliner semi with grain trailer. This big rig will provide hours of fun hauling harvest to grain bins, rail cars or barges.

Regular price is \$37.82, but during December, this toy is 10% off with your Farm Bureau membership. Truck on in, say hi and get your Big Roads Freightliner today!



Happy Holidays and
Happy New Year

from the Kane County Farm Bureau



Fresh Citrus

Come December 15, KCFB MAY have limited quantities of fresh Citrus available from our bulk truck-load sale to members on December 13. Citrus orders were due in November, but we always try to order a bit extra for those who may miss the order deadline! Perfect for the holidays and for gift giving. Oranges, grapefruit & clementines, (in boxes, or mixed 10 pound bags) as well as limited quantities of nuts & chocolates. Call 630-584-8660 for more information.

KCFB CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

2-5 IFB Annual Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago

11 Young Farmers, 6:30 pm (Ugly Sweaters), Duntzman Farm Shop, 5S195 County Line Rd., Big Rock

13 Holiday Ham Orders Due, 12pm

Citrus Pick-Up, 10am-5pm, Heinz Brothers, St. Charles

14 Board of Directors, 7:00pm

21 Holiday Ham Pick Up, 12-4:30pm

22 County Agriculture Committee, 10am

26 Office closed for Christmas holiday

KCFB November 2023 Foundation board report

To keep Farm Bureau members informed of the activities, discussions and actions of the organization, the report below is provided when space and time permits in the Kane County Farmer. While not official minutes of the meeting(s), these reports are intended to keep members up to date on programs and issues of interest to members and the organization. The KCFB Foundation was formed in 1989 by the Farm Bureau to carry out educational and charitable programs for the benefit of agriculture and farm families. This 501c3 organization is controlled by a Board of eight Farm Bureau leaders, appointed annually.

The success of the KCFB Foundation's 11 2023 Drive-Thru BBQ's, its Vintage Truck Raffle and its September Farms & Food Gala allowed the Foundation Board to increase 2024-25 offerings to 21 scholarships valued at \$38,000. The changes to the scholarship program for 2024 were approved at an October meeting of the 8 Directors of the KCFB Foundation. The most significant changes included increasing the value of the President's Scholarship for high-school seniors to \$5,000 from the previous \$1,750, and increasing the ten (10) KCFB Foundation Agricultural Scholarships to "up to \$2,000 each". Those scholarship were awarded at \$1,250 each in 2023.

The returns from those fundraisers also allowed the organization to increase its funding for Agricultural Literacy, Continuing Education, Leadership Development and FFA Chapter support by \$6,500 for the coming year, while also setting aside money to fund scholarships for trade and technical school education for those seeking skills to serve in agricultural service and support roles.

At their October meeting Foundation Directors reviewed the results of all fundraisers conducted by the Foundation in 2023, including April's Touch-A-Tractor event, 11 drive-thru BBQ's in cooperation with Fay's BBQ, the Vintage Truck Raffle, Fall Harvest Sales and a September 17 Farms & Food Gala. They also approved continuation of a third-party contract to allow scholarship applicants to apply for 2024-25 scholarships online using a QR code. Those applications and the QR code will be released publicly by December 1 (and appear in this month issue of the Kane County Farmer).

Gala co-chairs Beth Gehrke and Bonnie White presented a de-brief of the September 17 event for the Board. It was the Foundation's largest and most successful fundraiser to-date, with over 250 attendees/supporters present, 65 sponsors and 68 prize donors for silent and live auctions. The Board authorized formation of a Gala Committee

for 2024 to plan a second event to support its scholarship, agricultural literacy and leadership development program.

In other Foundation action, April 12-14, 2024 were selected as the dates for the annual Touch-A-Tractor farm/city open house on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn. The activity is again expected to be complimented by a Legislative Meet & Greet for local public officials and Farm Bureau leaders.

Directors also approved a July 9 date and the Kane County Cougars stadium as the venue for 2024 Scholarship Recognition and Donor Appreciation event, discussed changes to the annual budget to allow for contributions and donations to local agriculture related causes and events and approved a budget for the acquisition of a vintage pick-up truck for a 2024 Vintage Truck Raffle fundraiser.

The final item of business was consideration of changes in the Foundation's bylaws as drafted by the Illinois Farm Bureau's Office of General Counsel. The changes were proposed following a retreat for the Board in July where expanding the Board's governance structure was introduced. A resolution to effect the changes proposed will be acted upon at the next meeting of the Board.



KCFB Foundation Gala Committee Chairs, Bonnie White and Beth Gehrke (left and right, flanking screen in background) present a brief slideshow recap of the September Gala to the KCFB Foundation Board last month.

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.

FarmWeekNow.com
DAILY UPDATE

Sign up for FarmWeekNow's Daily Update and get top Illinois ag headlines in your inbox each morning. Go to farmweeknow.com for more information.

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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. COLLINS	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. DIENST [^]						X	X		X	X	X	X
M. DUMOULIN [^]						X	X	*	*	X	*	*
K. ENGEL			*	*	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
G. GAITSCH	X	*	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	*	*
B. GEHRKE	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. KECK	X	X		*	X	X	X	X				
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				*
A. LENKAITIS		X		*	*	X	*	*		X	*	*
D. PITSTICK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

* Attendance by electronic means. [^] Elected June 2023.

Director candidates sought

The Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking eligible candidates for election to the association's Board of Directors. A Farm Bureau director is an individual who helps provide governance, set policies, and supports the philosophy and actions of the organization. Directors should be willing to dedicate time to make a difference in agriculture and to provide direction, inspiration, and motivation to the largest, most influential and effective farm related organization in Kane County.

Eligible candidates are those classified as "regular" (farmers and farmland owners) and "professional" (those with professions directly related to production agriculture) members residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in in the spring of 2024 to voting members in Kane County. All directors are elected on an at-large basis.

To suggest potential candidates for election, members should call 630-584-8660, or fill out the form below. Farm Bureau leaders will be soliciting

members to serve on a 2024 Nominating Committee, to suggest candidates for election, in December.

KCFB Board of Directors nomination form

TO: Nominating Committee, Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Name (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Township _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Signature _____

Membership # (if known) _____

Form completed and returned by:

Name _____

Mail to this form to: Kane County Farm Bureau,
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174
Return on or before Thursday, February 8.

The Nominating Committee will evaluate candidates and propose a slate to run for director elections. Regular members will receive an election ballot in April or May of 2024.

TRELLIS
PURINA

Your local source for feed, supplies, and so much more!

St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

Illinois Crop Progress as of November 14, 2023

Corn harvested	95
Soybeans harvested	98
Winter wheat emerged	85

Kane County Farmer

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Steven J. Arnold, Editor
Audre Pack, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Polovin, Office Manager
Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator
Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator
Jenna Rowe, Office Assistant
Mike Andresen, Building & Grounds

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38
Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles
PHONE: 630-584-8660
info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com
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Joe White President 47W727 Main St. Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-878-1726	Brett Dienst 815-693-6888 6N077 McGough Rd Maple Park, IL 60151-9367	William Keck P.O. Box 281 Sugar Grove, IL 60554 (630) 466-4030
Dale Pitstick Vice President 2N118 Pouley Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-816-0223	Michelle Dumoulin 847-778-1418 16N393 Walker Rd Hampshire, IL 60140-8228	Mike Kenyon 1250 E. Main St. South Elgin, IL 60177 847-741-1818
Chris Collins Secretary/Treasurer 1143 Anderson Elburn, IL 60119 630-934-4642	Keith Engel 15N587 Walker Rd. Hampshire, IL 60140 630-640-3665	Karl Kettelkamp 47W407 Main Street Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-365-2713
Craig Bradley 37W791 Orchard Lane Elgin, IL 60124 847-888-2380	Gerald Gaitsch 10613 Brittany Ave. Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-2003	Andrew Lenkaitis 6N707 Corron Rd. St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-9980
Bill Collins 1125 Lewis Rd. Geneva, IL 60134 630-484-6852	Beth Gehrke 12N860 US Hwy. 20 Elgin, IL 60124 847-697-2538	Wayne Schneider 721 Lindsay Lane West Dundee, IL 60118 847-428-0488

Come on, travel with fellow FB members

See three “Belles of the South”: Charleston, SC, Jekyll Island and Savannah, GA. Tour Dates: March 15-21, 2024.

The beautiful Spanish Moss-draped oaks, antebellum mansions, lush gardens, and ornate architecture will make you feel

like you’ve stepped back in time! Enjoy southern hospitality while visiting coastal islands, historic plantations, and beautiful cities! Our second travel opportunity will take you abroad. The Danube Explorer tour will visit five countries:

The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary and enjoy a seven night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard an Emerald Waterways Star-ship.

Tour Dates: August 24-September 3, 2024.

Please call for more information – 630-584-8660.

Northern Illinois Farm Bureaus have TWO great travel opportunities



A panoramic view of Prague, Czech Republic

Honey, it’s time to stuff the stockings!

Christmas is coming whether you’re ready or not, so why not get a jump on stocking up on stocking stuffers? The Kane County Farm Bureau is featur-

ing a collection of “the perfect stocking stuffers” for the people who have made it onto your “nice” list.



Illinois grown popcorn and local honey are just a few of the treats available at KCFB.

Mini, 2 oz. honey bears from White Farms in Elburn are sweet little bear-shaped jars of local honey. We have 16 oz. and 24 oz. jars of White Farms honey also. Honey is the natural sweetener that everyone loves, and pure local honey has many healing properties as well. \$1 from each mini-

honey bear sale will benefit the KCFB FOUNDATION. Besides mini-honey bears, we have a collection of local Illinois treats including peanuts and pecans, chocolate covered or salted; local Rollicking Buckaroo pepper jam in mild, medium or hot; cute little stocking stuffer honey or lavender lip balms and glosses, Teple Barn collectible coffee mugs (\$5); Pilot Knob blue or red “hull-less” popcorn; and the ever-popular Pork BBQ Spice.

We also have a selection of charming, fun and inexpensive ag-themed children’s books including *A Wish to be a Christmas Tree*, *Deck the Walls – a Wacky Christmas Carol* and *Making Butterfly Gardens*.

Whatever your holiday needs, the Kane County Farm Bureau’s Country Store has something for everyone. Stop in and visit us Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm @ 2N710 Randall Rd, cross street is Oak in St. Charles.

From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference

Save the date for the second annual From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference, Jan. 17-19, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

This combined Illinois Food, Farmers Market and Specialty Crop Conference is a collaboration among the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association and Illinois Farmers Market Association to bring together more people than ever from across Illinois’ local food, specialty crop and farmers market supply chains. Available in both in-person and virtual formats, this unique gathering combines the best parts of the events previously known as the Illinois

Specialty Crop Conference and the Live Local: Local Food and Farmers Market conference.

This one-of-a-kind event brings together farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state with other partners throughout the Illinois local food supply chain. By more efficiently connecting the supply chain, more income is generated; fewer businesses handle the product in processing and transit; and the products are harvested and packaged at a fresher stage. These improvements benefit the local economies and food opportunities of communities across the state.

You asked, and we listened. Producers want to know more

about getting the most from their farms. Local food interests and farmers markets want to work with excellent producers to promote our state’s local food systems. These efforts to build relationships don’t stop at the fencerow or market gate. So, we’ve found a way to connect the right people to enhance the robust Illinois local and specialty agriculture system.

Don’t Miss Your Chance

Make your connections at this year’s From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Hybrid Conference. For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



We are the 96 Casey’s gift card give-away

The following folks are winners of our November “We Are The 96%” promotion and their \$25 Casey’s gift cards are in the mail. “We Are The 96%” is the theme of a promotion coordinated by Illinois Farm Families, a coalition that included Illinois Farm Bureau and all major commodity groups, with the aim of reminding consumers that 96% of Illinois farms are family owned and operated. In October the campaign was assisted by Casey’s stores throughout Illinois by affixing a photo of an Illinois farm family to all carry-out pizza boxes.

Our thanks to all the winners for reading the *Kane County Farmer* each month. Enjoy your gift cards and remember the huge contributions Illinois farmers make to our dinner tables, the products we use, our economy and food security.

- Lena Harris, Aurora
- Matthew Hulsey, St. Charles
- Helen Boor, Maple Park
- Lena Ramm, DeKalb
- Leanne Snyder, Maple Park
- Joel Wyeth, Aurora
- Patricia Blaida, Aurora
- Kathy Konishi, Carpentersville
- Regina Kurth, Geneva
- Carol Gunn, Elgin
- Lori Johnson, Sugar Grove
- John Damisch, Northbrook
- Cecile Benson, Geneva
- F. P. Rosenberg, Hampshire
- Matt Lobben, Elgin
- Carol Herra, Elburn
- Brenda Patton, Montgomery
- Peggy Fetting, South Elgin
- Chris Heine, Hampshire
- Nancy Heine, Hampshire
- Joanne O’Brien, St. Charles
- The Klug family, Hampshire
- Craig Spohr, South Elgin
- Janet Spohr, South Elgin

The Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden

A mid-November aerial shot of the garden came to us from Patrick McPartlan, Resource Conservationist with Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District. His drone did a mid-November flyover showing the fall colors of foliage, the carpet of leaves, and

the long shadows of late autumn afternoon. The too tall, flopping asters were cut back but other plants have been left standing to provide winter interest and habitat. Our thanks to Patrick for this great shot of the IPPRG.

We look forward to seeing the garden in the spring!



Kane-DuPage SWCD seeks board candidates

Kane County residents are encouraged to help serve our local community by running for Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District’s board of directors. All persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation district are encouraged to apply.

Nominations for the two year term of the office of Director may be obtained at the District’s office at 2315 Dean St., Suite 100, St. Charles, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

To obtain a petition, you must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located

within the boundaries of the District. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 25 persons who are of voting age and who reside or own land within the boundaries of the Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District.

Completed petitions must be returned to the District’s office no later than 4:30 pm on January 15, 2024.

The Kane-DuPage SWCD’s mission is to support residents’ quality of life by leading efforts to ensure healthy soil, clean water, sustainable land development and regenerative agriculture. Learn more at their website: kanedupageswccd.org.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County and happy holidays!

Crazy to think it's already December and the holidays are just around the corner! Going right along with our theme this month about holiday traditions, I wanted to reflect on some of my memories and lessons I've learned over the years.

Ever since I was little, decorating and getting the house ready for the holidays is something I always look forward to. One special tradition I always loved was joining my dad and older sister to go pick out a fresh-cut Christmas tree. My dad would provide the muscle power and help us in the selection process by holding the tree straight up and rotating it around so we could get a good look at it and make our decision. Over the years of tree picking, I learned it's not all about finding the perfect tree. It's about the people you are with and the memories made in the process. Every year holds something new and exciting to look forward to because no two trees or seasons are the same. One thing that does stay the same for me though is the anticipation of

seeing everything come together and the joy of spending quality time with my loved ones as we make memories together decorating and preparing for the holidays.

Another holiday lesson I've learned to appreciate more as I have gotten older is the value of time. I think all too often we get in a rush during the holidays or our lives in general that we sometimes forget to actually slow down, be present and enjoy the time with our friends and family. Time is a gift we can never get back so why are we always trying to rush it and wasting time by stressing ourselves out? Or we miss out on moments because our noses and fingers are glued to our phones. My challenge to you reading this during this holiday season is to disconnect with technology, and truly connect and be present with your loved ones. Set your phone aside and immerse yourself in the gift of present. Take pictures, play board games or puzzles around the table, share stories, bake those holiday tasty treats, and create lasting memories with your loved ones while you can. It will be a gift that keeps on

giving every year and will hold a special place in your heart no matter the season!

As a kid growing up, receiving gifts, especially the ones you wished and hoped for all year long was definitely something to look forward to during the holidays! However, as I've gotten older I've realized I don't need gifts to make me happy or feel special during the holidays. Now I get to see the same excitement through my nephews and being able to provide them with the same joy I had growing up! I find more fulfillment and joy in giving to others whether it has a price tag on it or not. It could be in small moments such as paying it forward in the coffee line and making the day of the person behind you, holding the door open for a stranger and bringing a smile to their face, or surprising my grandparents by arriving early to the party to help set-up. It's about intentionally putting others before yourself, the magic of giving and acts of kindness that truly mean the most.

Similar to my column from last month and gifts that keep on giving, I've learned that daily intentional gratitude truly is one of the most powerful gifts you can give yourself and ultimately give others as well. When you trade your expectations for appreciations your whole life will change for the better! We all have the capacity to find what we love at any given moment and the more we train

our brain to choose love and gratitude the more abundant they will become in our lives. I encourage you to not just do this during the holiday season, but all year round too!

However you spend your holidays, I hope you are able to

slow down and be present with your loved ones. There is so much to be grateful for especially during this holiday season. Enjoy the memories in the making!

Happy December!

Book of the month

Did you hear the news?! Santa Claus is coming to town! No, really, Santa. Is. Coming. In just a few short weeks the man in the red suit with his reindeer and sleigh filled with holiday toys for every good little girl and boy will be coming to town! Have you been good? Santa and his elves are packing up their presents and will be heading our way soon!

Have you ever wondered the route Santa takes when he visits Illinois? See how in our book of the Month for December is *Santa is coming to Illinois*, written by Steve Smallman and illustrated by Robert Dunn and Amerigo Pinelli. This is the holiday tale of Santa's journey from the North Pole to Illinois on a starry Christmas Eve. Readers will see the magic that occurs throughout Santa's travels from rooftop to rooftop all over Illinois delivering packages of all shapes and sizes to the good little girls and boys in Illinois.

To see the eventful and fes-

tive journey Santa and his reindeer take when they visit Illinois, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a FREE library! –



Santa is coming to Illinois by Steve Smallman, illustrated by Robert Dunn & Amerigo Pinelli

And check out *Santa is coming to Illinois*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Library was made possible by KCFB members Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. The Ag Literacy Library and the outdoor, 24/7/365 barn shaped Little Lending Library, located on a pedestal under the windmill on the KCFB parking lot are both supported by annual gifts from the Konen Family Foundation.

Little Lending Library

Every month our Little Lending Library will have a special feature, book, resource or all of the above! This is 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 we can help bridge the gap between consumers and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our young readers will be *Pick-A-Pine Tree* by Patricia Toht and illustrated by Jarvis and as

an added bonus, check out the NEW Farm Bites from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom all about Christmas Trees! And hey – while you're here check out Mark's Christmas Trees on the KCFB lawn before they're gone!

Supplies are limited and there are no guarantees!



Lesson-In-A-Bucket

Are you an elementary teacher in Kane County looking for fun and innovative ways to bridge the gap between agriculture and your classroom?

Look no further than Lesson-In-A-Bucket! KCFB will be offering monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes just like the ones you would find on the farm! Complete with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags about given topics such as apples, pumpkins, or corn!

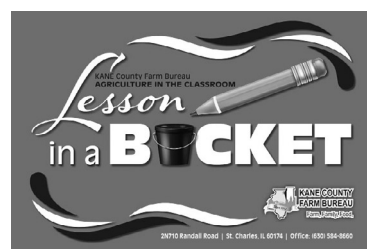
This month's theme is all about specialty crops with a twist of the seasons! Inside the chore bucket, K-5 teachers will find a classroom Specialty

Crops Ag-Mags and Seasons Ag-Mags that pairs perfectly with the Seasons Ag-Venture that helps students apply their science and literacy skills along

with some fresh fun! In addition, teachers will find specialty crops themed activities such as Tops and Bottoms which

is a hands on activity that deepens students understanding of how different vegetables grow and learn about different parts of the vegetables we eat! In addition, students will stay in the holiday spirit with a science activity where they will learn about poinsettias with pH Poinsettia that challenges stu-

(continued on page 8)



Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman
Agency Manager
St. Charles
630-584-0001



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Chris Regula
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
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



Luke Fawkes
Flgin
847-742-0002



Victor Alvarado
Flgin
847-742-0003



Miryam Cabrera
Flgin
630-762-1329



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer
Flburn
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero
Flburn
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





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Oh, Tannenbaum

You may not associate agriculture as having strong ties to Christmas, but many Illinois farmers provide one of the most popular Christmas items your family probably loves – Christmas trees!

A holiday tradition for many, Christmas trees include different species of firs, spruces, and pines, all of which stay green year-round. These trees are grown and harvested in 45 different states. Across the country, over 300,000 acres are dedicated to growing a traditional holiday sight, the Christmas tree. Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees are grown on farms, and unlike artificial trees made from plastics, real Christmas trees can be recycled to provide benefits to the environment.

A Christmas tree can take up to 15 years to grow to 6 feet tall, so for each tree harvested, Christmas tree farmers plant one to three more seedlings for each tree harvested. While it may seem like these trees grow in the perfect Christmas tree shape, it probably required shearing and/or trimming during their growth to look that way.

So, while your family is picking out that perfect tree this year, remember to thank the farmers that planted and cared for it so you can bring a fresh-cut tree home to decorate.

Fill up with festive Christmas crunch

Ingredients

- 2 bags popcorn
- 6 tablespoons salted butter
- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 3/4 cup white chocolate candy melts
- Mini M&M's candy (red & green)
- Peanut M&M's candy (red & green)
- Red & green sprinkles
- 1 cup pretzels, broken in half

Instructions

- Line a 11x17 baking sheet with parchment paper
- Pop the popcorn bags per package instructions
- Spread popped popcorn over the parchment paper and set aside
- In a medium saucepan over

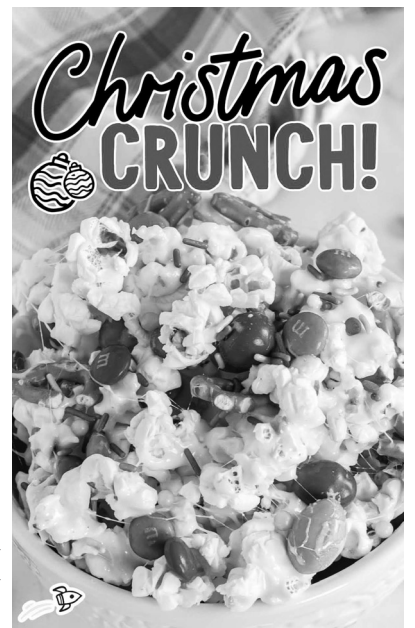
medium-low heat, melt the butter. Add the mini marshmallows and white chocolate to the butter mixture. Stir until melted and no lumps remain. Remove from heat.

Pour 3/4 of the butter mixture over the popcorn and toss to coat.

Pour the remaining butter mixture over the popcorn and sprinkle the mini M&M's candy, peanut M&M's candy, sprinkles, and the broken pretzels over the butter mixture.

Let cool before serving – then enjoy!

Recipe provided by: <https://spaceshipsandlaserbeams.com/christmas-crunch/>



Salt dough footprint reindeer ornament

Materials

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 6-8 pipe cleaners (cut up into pieces)
- Acrylic paint
- Hot glue
- Puff paint/sharpie

- Ribbon
- Mod podge
- Mini pom pons

Instructions

Pre-heat oven to 250 degrees
In a mixing bowl, add water, salt, and flour to combine. Knead with your hands to get it all smooth. Use a rolling pin and roll it out flat.

Have your child press their foot into the dough then use a knife and cut around the edges.

Bake in the oven for 2 hours

then let them cool. Once cooled, paint them with brown acrylic paint. Let them dry a bit and put together the antlers with pipe cleaners.

Hot glue the pipe cleaners on the back and use the nose. Use black puff paint or sharpie for the mouth and eyes. Make a loop for the ribbon and hot glue that to the back as well.

Finish with a coat of mod podge or a clear coat spray to seal it.

Once dry, hang and enjoy!
For more festive ideas and inspiration, check out: <https://www.craftymorning.com/salt-dough-footprint-reindeer-ornaments/>



JOKES

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
They always drop their needles!

What did one Christmas tree say to another?
Lighten up!

Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?
He was feeling crummy!

Why is it so cold at Christmas?
Because it's in Decemberrrrrr!

Christmas on the Farm & holiday traditions

W	R	I	C	P	N	T	H	S	S	V	Z	V	B	N	S	G	B	S	Z	Balsam
G	Y	S	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	F	M	U	Q	G	I	Barn
W	N	K	D	S	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	E	A	V	S	U	F	Blizzards
W	F	I	B	R	Q	E	P	D	O	T	Y	R	V	X	V	M	X	J	G	Christmas
M	Q	O	P	C	A	A	L	X	Y	Y	B	E	F	G	G	M	I	Q	M	Christmas Eve
H	U	R	D	P	R	Z	Y	L	S	O	S	C	A	W	N	I	V	L	B	Decorations
N	R	A	B	T	O	D	Z	L	X	A	N	R	I	O	Q	J	T	A	Y	Family
D	Y	K	Y	T	R	H	Y	I	M	L	L	P	F	N	L	C	L	M	T	Farm
G	V	V	J	A	R	B	S	T	L	A	I	H	S	S	O	S	W	E	U	Garland
B	O	S	K	A	W	D	S	M	N	B	Y	G	O	G	A	G	Y	M	N	Gatherings
G	S	R	T	R	X	I	I	D	E	X	R	J	H	M	E	I	U	O	E	Gifts
N	A	S	D	B	R	M	B	N	Q	E	E	K	Y	T	J	Y	P	R	S	Greenery
H	M	I	B	H	Z	L	R	E	J	R	N	I	A	Y	S	C	H	I	I	Holiday
U	T	L	C	X	W	O	A	E	Z	P	E	U	F	O	V	J	Z	E	K	Illuminates
O	S	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	T	E	V	A	T	T	K	Y	S	G	Lights
I	I	W	W	R	R	R	G	K	E	H	R	P	R	E	R	A	U	D	A	Memories
X	R	P	Z	S	O	N	N	H	Y	D	G	D	M	S	D	E	S	S	L	Party
O	H	I	L	L	U	M	I	N	A	T	E	S	S	I	T	C	E	R	R	Scalehouse
V	C	E	S	U	O	H	E	L	A	C	S	F	L	D	L	F	Q	S	U	Shopping
T	D	D	P	Z	D	B	F	V	P	S	J	O	Z	S	N	M	I	V	T	Snow
H	G	W	T	Z	Y	J	W	Q	F	A	H	S	G	I	P	U	X	G	D	Star
																				Stocking
																				Trees
																				Tunes

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

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

Happy holidays

from Kane County Farm Bureau

Congratulations

Joanne O'Brien of St. Charles – the November 2023 word search winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's word search puzzle. For her participation, she receives a harvest themed prize to be picked up at the Farm Bureau within the next 30 days (prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Joanne, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

December is ...

National			
Peppermint Bark Day	1	Cookie Exchange Day	22
National Eat a Red Apple Day	1	Date Nut Bread Day	22
Green Bean Casserole Day		Christmas Eve	24
Cookie Day	4	Eggnog Day	24
World Soil Day	5	Christmas Day	25
Cotton Candy Day	7	Pumpkin Pie Day	25
Letter Writing Day	7	Kwanza	26
Brownie Day	8	Candy Cane Day	26
Pastry Day	9	Fruitcake Day	27
Gingerbread House Day	12	Chocolate Candy Day	28
Poinsettia Day	12	Bacon Day	30
Cocoa Day	13	New Year's Eve	31
Horse Day	13		
Ice Cream Day	13		
Roast Chestnuts Day	14		
Cupcake Day	15		
Ugly Sweater Day	16		
Wreaths Across America Day	16		
Maple Syrup Day	17		
Bake Cookies Day	18		
Oatmeal Muffin Day	19		
Crossword Puzzle Day	21		

National Month of:

- Month of Giving
 - National Volunteers Month
 - Worldwide Food Service Safety Month
 - Safe Toys & Gifts Month
- <https://nationaldcalendar.com/december-national-months/>



Christmas Crazy Ready to celebrate the season on the farm

"I'm sorry; I'm a little Christmas obsessed," I texted our farm's scale operator...

I was born to love this holiday. A Christmas Eve baby, my parents celebrated Christmas in the hospital...

Today, I have more Christmas tunes than country songs in my playlist. I own a half dozen full-sized, decorated trees...

During a harvest rain-out in October, I bought cow-themed

wrapping paper and balsam-scented air fresheners. I started shopping lists and volunteered to help with our church's Christmas Eve service...

In preparation for these four-generation events, the guys pause machinery maintenance, remove the farm equipment and scrub the concrete floor...

At the scalehouse, a Christmas tree sits covered in a back corner waiting for its post-Thanksgiving appearance near the front windows for highway travelers...

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

Young Leader Conference

It's that time of year again! We are excited to announce the annual Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference will be held on February 2-3, 2024 in Springfield!

February 2-3, 2024 in Springfield

Registration is now open and

will close on Friday, December 15 at noon. Space is limited and the Conference is expected to reach capacity quickly.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau

office at 630-584-8660 as soon as possible!

Registration will cap at 575 participants.

Registration is available ONLY by contacting Kane County Farm Bureau 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...



Table with 2 columns: Donor and Beneficiary. Donors include CHS Elburn, Theodore & Teresa Grommes, Micheal Wurtz. Beneficiaries include Harvest for ALL, KCFB Foundation, Gordon Gehrke Memorial Fund.

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!

Thank you to all the generous donors and volunteers who support Kane County Farm Bureau!

Biofuels, renewable energy policies on deck for delegates

By Timothy Eggert, FarmWeek

Illinois Farm Bureau's policy book may feature expanded positions on biofuels and renewable energy, after the Resolutions Committee on Nov. 8 advanced a set of proposals for final consideration at Annual Meeting.

Topping the list of submittals approved by both the Natural Resources Subcommittee and full Resolutions Committee is a trio of policies that would establish support for elements around sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and other biofuels made from agricultural feedstocks.

Specifically, a submittal from

LaSalle County Farm Bureau would support using the Greenhouse Gasses, Regulated Emissions and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model for scoring the carbon intensity of biofuels made from inputs like soybean oil or corn grade ethanol.

Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Argonne National Laboratory, the GREET model is the aviation and biofuel industries' favored model for lifecycle greenhouse gas calculations of transportation fuel like SAF.

Ag groups and most farm-state lawmakers in Congress

also support the U.S. Treasury Department using the model when awarding tax credits for SAF, for instance, because it utilizes updated data around land use and accounts for conservation practices used by farmers.

"The GREET model for carbon scoring in the biofuels area seems to represent agriculture the best. It takes into account some things that some of the other models don't, so we think it's the most accurate for agriculture," said David Isermann, chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee and LaSalle County Farm Bureau president.

Kane Co. Forest Preserve District to reintroduce bison to forest preserve

The American bison was nearly extinct in the 19th century. Thanks to conservation efforts, bison are no longer an endangered species. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County is planning for the reintroduction of a small bison herd in Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve in 2024.

Before Kane County was developed, Indigenous Peoples

of America, fire and grazing habits of wild animals, such as bison, provided critical grassland management. Many years ago, KCFPD reintroduced a key element - controlled burns - to the preserves. Now they play to reintroduce bison to Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve in honor of National Bison Day

The district is planning for construction of a six-foot electric

fence for the 60-acre enclosure, which will safely hold a small herd of roughly 15 animals. Construction is slated to begin in 2024. In addition, a portion of proceeds from the 2023 Native Plant Sale, hosted by the Kane Forest Preserve Foundation, helped to secure a spotting scope that will provide excellent viewing opportunities! Big thanks to everyone who supported the sale!

Young Farmer Notes

The Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers next meeting will be an Ugly Christmas Sweater theme and will gather on Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm at Jessica Dunteman's family farm...

If you 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 and join the fun today!

Several Kane County Farm Bureau member farms & businesses offer Christmas Trees & some offer wreaths and roping/garland.

These locations include:

- Heinz Brothers Greenhouse - St. Charles 630-377-6288 • (trees & wreaths)
Klein's Farm & Garden Market - Udina 847-697-4910 • (trees & wreaths)
Kuipers Family Farm - Maple Park 815-827-5200
Lee's Trees - Lily Lake • 630-365-2116
Spring Bluff Nursery - Sugar Grove 630-466-4278 • Trees & wreaths
Randy's Vegetables - Sleepy Hollow (Dundee) *Heiden's Christmas Trees 906-280-1897
Theis Farm Market & Greenhouses - Maple Park 815-761-8374
Christmas trees (limited supply - open weekends starting Nov. 20th) & wreaths
Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse - Huntley 847-669-3421 • Christmas trees
Trellis Farm & Garden - St. Charles 630-584-2024 • Christmas trees & roping

Young Leader Conference 2024 CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2-3, 2024 PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN HOTEL & BANK OF SPRINGFIELD CENTER SPRINGFIELD, IL KEYNOTE SPEAKER ERIC SNODGRASS

Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month to Ronald Seyller of Hampshire, the December winner of our Plus (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time Ronald stops in our office, he will receive a FREE box of pork chops from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we

offer each month.

In addition to the discounts and benefits of Plus membership, ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered in a monthly drawing for a featured food product or seasonal prize.

For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Orazio Difruscolo**, who has been named the October Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Orazio 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 Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696 or *Orazio.Difruscolo@CountryFinancial.com*, or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Orazio.Difruscolo/>. Congratulations, Orazio!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Jeff Jones! Jeff has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since November 2019. His



Jeff Jones

office is located at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles and may be reached at: 630-492-5293. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.

THE NEW OLD TRUCK IN TOWN

By Alice Macha
Communications Coordinator



Kane County Farm Bureau has announced our Vintage Truck Raffle prize for 2024 – a 1947 Dodge pickup truck. It's a handsome beast, 76 years old and still going strong. It was manufactured just a year after Dodge resumed civilian vehicle production after WWII. That got me thinking.

Dodge began producing "pickup trucks" in 1918. In 1921, Dodge teamed with Graham Brothers Company in Indiana to manufacture 1.5 ton trucks with mechanical parts from Dodge and body parts from Graham Brothers. The trucks were sold through Dodge Brothers dealerships.

In 1928, Dodge sold to the newly formed Chrysler Corporation, and that gave Dodge the advantage of fitting their vehicles with engines developed by DeSoto, Chrysler and Plymouth. This, paired with the introduction of the 6-cylinder engine, gave pickup trucks more power, more prestige, and more cachet with the public.

Dodge pickup truck production progressed through the 1930s with a brand new pickup dedicated production facility in Warren, MI, a line of dedicated pickup truck chassis and the introduction of a new style line that was inspired by the popular Art Deco arts movement.

During the 1930s, Dodge also produced some specialty vehicles for the U.S. government for military use, including an experimental 4-wheel drive truck. That niche military mar-



ket came to prominence after December 7th, 1941 and on January 1, 1942, when the United States Office of Production Management ordered a complete stop to the manufacturing of all automotive parts and automobiles unless given special permission by local authorities. All American auto manufacturers ceased production and "retooled" for the production of military vehicles.

Dodge became the U.S. Army's main supplier of half-ton trucks and the sole supplier

of 3/4-ton and 1-1/2 ton trucks during WWII. Over 250,000 units were built through August 1945.

After the war ended in 1945, Dodge promptly converted back to civilian vehicle products, and in 1946, produced its five millionth vehicle. They continued the pickup truck style line that had been introduced in 1939, with sleek horizontal lines, smooth curved fenders and an Art Deco grille. That year, our Vintage Truck rolled off the production line in Warren, MI, and began its 76 year journey to Kane County Farm Bureau to become the star of our 2024 Vintage Truck Raffle.

1947 was the last year for the Art Deco styling, in 1948 Dodge introduced its B-Series truck with styling more in keeping with the approaching 1950s. Our Vintage Truck may look downright petite next to its modern Ram counterparts, but it has a fascinating lineage and holds its own proud spot in history.

It's currently parked at our KCFB entrance, serenely surveying the bustle of holiday shoppers. Bustle on by, visit the truck, Marks Tree Farm and our Kane County Farm Bureau Country Store. Get your Vintage Truck Raffle tickets by sending in the form on page 8 or calling us at 630-584-8660. The tickets make great stocking stuffers and if you call before December 15th, we'll get 'em to you before Christmas.

Happy holidays, KCFB friends.

I wish you a truckload of happiness and joy!

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, acupressure, 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

Miscellaneous household items. Collector toy tractors, small rocking chairs, wood boxes, Singer sewing machine. Please call with questions and pictures. Call: 331-642-4818

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 support-

ing KCFB's efforts at advocacy, 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 registra-

tion at one of seven 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.

Regular Members	
Charmaine Bhattacharya	Schaumburg
Irish Eyes Farms LLC	North Aurora
Donna Riggs-Griesinger	Maple Park
Scott Rocha	Elburn
Mike Thran	Centerville
Bryan VanBogaert	Elburn

Have a farm product to sell?

The Kane County Farm Bureau Country Store is in search of local cottage food products from members. We are looking for unique items that will add a special flavor to a meal, make the perfect sauce, or are the snacks that you just can't put down!

Please contact us with your non-perishable or shelf-stable items either in person, via e-mail, or give us a call to discuss. Here is our contact information:

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

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ESI

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Touch-A-Tractor set for April 12-14

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 18th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will tentatively be held Friday – Sunday, April 12-14. We will bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It could be your first chance to get the kids out of the house this spring!

Kids get to touch and even sit in the seats of big farm machinery they normally only see from the road. They can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, frolic in the corn corral, crawl through culverts, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and see farm animals. Area moms tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2024 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's

biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2024, a Vintage Truck Raffle ticket will get FREE family admission all 3 days, all others will pay \$2 (adult) or \$5 (family) admission. Proceeds from Touch-A-Tractor and the Vintage Truck Raffle benefit the college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This year, we are 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 – the more, the merrier!

If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, or have tractors or equipment or outdoor games of activities to share, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.



General Assembly passes measure to protect landowners

By Erin M. Henkel, FarmWeek

During fall veto session, the Illinois General Assembly passed a measure brought by Illinois Farm Bureau requiring wind and solar developers to plan for and repair agricultural damages, including subsurface issues, a legislative priority for the IFB Board.

Senate Bill 1699, sponsored by state Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, and Rep. Larry Walsh, D-Elwood, passed unanimously in both chambers on a vote of 107-0 in the House and 51-0 in the Senate and will be sent to Gov. J.B. Pritzker for final approval.

According to Walsh, the bill addresses concerns about a law passed in January preventing county ordinances from restricting wind and solar development, but the law did not include provisions for drainage and Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements (AIMA).

Cunningham said the new bill responds to concerns over previous damage done to tile drainage by wind and solar projects and ensures renewable energy companies would be liable to repair any agricultural damages.

"About a year ago, the Senate passed a new law regarding renewable energy projects and at the time of that bill's passage the (Illinois) Farm Bureau pointed to some concerns regarding specifically, a potential damage that could be done

to property when renewable projects are installed," Cunningham told FarmWeek.

IFB Director of State Legislation Chris Davis said if the measure is signed by the governor, it will require wind and solar projects to file a farmland drainage plan with the county and impacted drainage districts, outlining what the facility will do to repair any subsurface or surface damage as soon as reasonably practicable.

"It also adds a layer of accountability for the renewable companies that these hearings are held," Cunningham said referencing county board approval. "Laws can be embedded right into the zoning code that ensures that the renewable companies live up to their end of the agreement."

The measure also clarifies a vegetative ground cover and vegetative management plan shall follow provisions outlined in the AIMA, which is supported by IFB policy, unless the landowner negotiates a more stringent standard in agreement with the developer.

"If a developer comes in and wants to put 180-acre solar farm on somebody's property, they have to go and they have to do a drainage study, they have to put that drainage plan in," Walsh said. "They have to submit that to the county."

Walsh said the bill also protects landowners long term

through a provision aligning financial protections for decommissioning a wind or solar facility with the financial protections also required by the AIMA.

"Most of these entities come in and actually lease a property, they don't buy it and if they decommission, they have to return it back to its original state," he said. "It was more protections for the farming community and the land and specifically drainage to make sure that anything that is done is not forgotten about."

The measure also clarifies the responsibility of wind and solar facilities in compensating landowners or repairing the damage for crop losses or other agricultural damage caused by drainage issues when the facility was constructed.

Cunningham said if a company is not responding and repairing damages, landowners would be able to take the company to court. While he acknowledged the potential court costs for the landowner, Cunningham said he believes companies will want to prevent court cases that damage public reputation and would discourage future landowners from entering into voluntary agreements with developers.

Davis said IFB supported a measure introduced during spring session to address these concerns, but the measure was amendatory vetoed by Pritzker,

due to a controversial late amendment allowing electric transmission companies in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) territory to have the right of first refusal to build a transmission line in the power company's territory.

Walsh said that despite challenges to pass the legislation, there was a commitment to work with IFB to protect landowners and agriculture.

"This was negotiated with the

Farm Bureau and the other parties involved, this was agreed-to language. If there's other issues we need to address in the future, I am sure they'll be brought to our attention and we'll address them," he said.

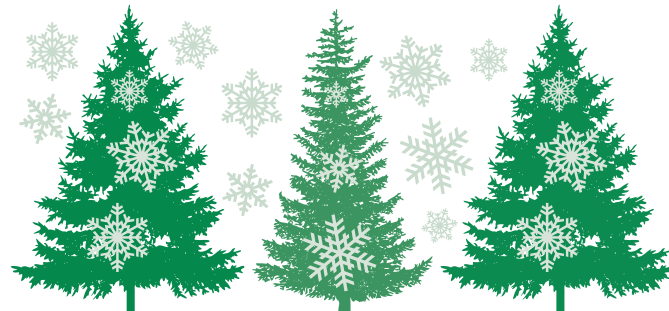
"It is a good first step to put those protections and make sure our ag mitigation that we adopted years ago for pipelines and utilities are enforceable within this new industry as it continues to grow."

Christmas tree discount for KCFB members

Marks' Tree Farm, which has been doing business in St. Charles for three decades, has established a Christmas tree lot at the Kane County Farm Bureau, and will sell between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, or until the trees sell out. Marks' provides quality, fresh cut Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Spruce and White Pines grown on their farm in Northern Wisconsin. They also offer evergreen wreaths and crosses,

perfect for doors or walls that need a little "sprucing" up!

Kane County Farm Bureau members will receive a \$10.00 discount on all trees on the lot. We hope you take advantage of this convenient and money saving member service. And, while you are at the Farm Bureau, stop inside for holiday gift ideas including farm toys, puzzles, branded apparel, and a selection of local meats, honey, seasoning, and much, much more!



Farm Bureau 2024 calendar gifts to members

In appreciation of our Kane County Farm Bureau members, we have 2024 wall calendars featuring antique tractors, barns or agriculture.



Pick up your FREE calendar at our St. Charles office while supplies last – the new year is almost here!

Lesson

continued from page 4

dents to think deeply about acidic and basic solutions. Keep things festive in your classroom this holiday season with Paper Poinsettia that tests students' literacy and art skills while learn-

ing about the different parts of a poinsettia plant!

Santa stuffed this stocking – I mean bucket full of a variety of interactive plans about specialty crops and seasons that go hand-in-hand and lay out the learning blueprint including target grade, subject, length of lesson, objective, materials needed, stan-

dards, suggested readings (yes – some you will find in the bucket!) as well as instructions from beginning to end.

We hope you select us as the specialty grower this season and allow us to help bring agriculture into your classroom!

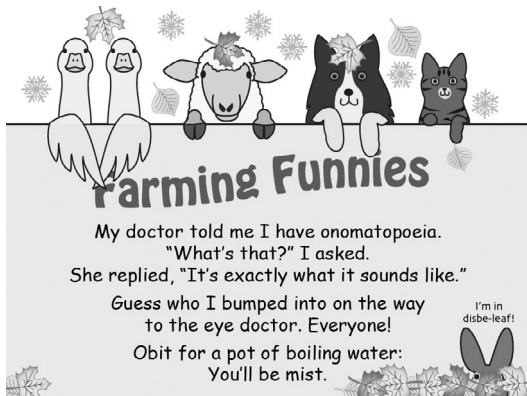
Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve yours today!

Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarships are available. Application deadline is February 15, 2024. See page 1 for details.

Scan the QR code below to start your application today!



Like us on Facebook for the latest KCFB info about upcoming events, deals, Ag in the Classroom and a dose of Farming Funnies humor on Fridays to start your weekend with a smile.



VINTAGE TRUCK 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 Discover: _____ Exp ____/____

Signature _____ Date _____



December Special Holiday Hams!

Name: _____

Member number _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email _____

Please indicate quantity:

Traditional	Spiral Slice
Plus Mbr. (\$3.76/lb) _____	Plus Mbr. (\$5.61/lb) _____
Member (\$3.96/lb.) _____	Member (\$5.91/lb) _____
Non-mbr. (\$4.95/lb) _____	Non-mbr. (\$7.38/lb) _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS NOON, Wednesday, December 13.

Payment is due at pickup at Kane County Farm Bureau (Randall Rd. & Oak St., St. Charles) on Thursday, December 21.

