

# 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. 81 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2016

## Food Hub partners meet December 13th

The Growing for Kane team will be hosting a Food Hub informational meeting and networking event at 4:30 pm on December 13th at Penrose Brewery in Geneva. The gathering is being organized to share information with potential operators and partners looking to play an instrumental role in the launch of the food hub enterprise in Kane County.

The focus of the gathering will largely be to outline the process by which an operator will be identified. Prospective operators and investors for the hub will be encouraged to attend. However, interested persons that may not fall into these categories are also strongly encouraged to attend; including but not limited to community advocates, local farmers, restaurateurs, grocers, wholesale buyers and other stakeholders. These key groups will continue to play an important role in shaping the food hub's function as potential future business partners or advisors. Attendees will also receive a print copy of the recently completed Food Hub Feasibility Study's Summary Report.

The organized portion of the event will be immediately followed by a brief guided tour of the brewery. There will be no cost to attend the event, but attendees should RSVP by December 6. If the attendance numbers greatly exceed capacity, we will schedule an identical overflow event to take place on December 14th. If the overflow meeting is needed and you are available to attend, you will be

notified of the switch by December 7th. Attendees will enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar to sample craft beers.

A link to a video of the project can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD5ZxW3Sf1g>.

To RSVP for the December 13 event or for additional information, please contact Matt Tansley with Kane County Development and Community Services at [tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us](mailto:tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us) or 630-232-3493.

Growing for Kane is an initiative designed to increase production of locally grown fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat. It supports existing businesses that want to expand to meet market demands, new entrepreneurs and young farmers, a

“Grown in Kane” brand, a food distribution hub, and “Meet the

Grower” events to link institutions to Kane growers.

*You are invited to attend...*

**A Convening of Interested  
Food Hub Operators and Partners**

The Growing for Kane team will be hosting a Food Hub informational meeting and networking event with potential operators and partners looking to play an instrumental role in the launch of the food hub enterprise in Kane County.

\*This free event will include complimentary appetizers

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 — 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Penrose Brewing Company — 509 Stevens Street — Geneva, IL

For full information and to register, visit the event page at [hubconvening.eventbrite.com](http://hubconvening.eventbrite.com)

## Harvest for ALL continues to benefit local food pantries

Eight years after the first Harvest for ALL signs appeared in Kane County corn, soybean and vegetable fields, the program is still going strong and new “permanent” signs that reflect the ongoing commitment of area farmers to their neighbors in need are available to replace those made in 2009. Harvest for ALL allows Farm Bureau members to contribute to hunger relief by designating a local food pantry to receive contributions through the Kane County Farm Bureau

Foundation.

“When we called on Farm Bureau members to support Harvest for ALL in 2009, the agricultural economy was expanding and most other sectors of the economy were contracting,” said Steve Arnold, Executive Director of the KCFB Foundation which sponsors the program. “With low commodity prices and a recovering general economy, it would seem the conditions now are reversed.” But the program is still popular with area farmers, who have now provided the equivalent of nearly 2 million meals through the program to local food pantries and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

That continued support motivated the Kane County Farm Bureau, the Foundation's sponsoring organization, to purchase new Harvest for ALL signs in 2016. “When we first began the program, we thought it was a temporary, stop-gap measure for a poor general economy and in the face of declining assistance from public agencies,”

said Arnold. So the signs were temporary too. “Now that some farmers have an 8 year track

record of support, we thought it appropriate to give them a permanent reminder of their commitment to the local community.” One hundred percent of donor's contributions go to the food pantry or food bank of the donors choosing, and in the donors name. And further, according to Arnold, “they always have and always will.”

New Harvest for

ALL signs feature an 18”x24” design with darker colors. They were designed to be more fade resistant and can be used in farm fields or on farmsteads. The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Harvest for ALL efforts have been recognized nationally by both the American Farm Bureau Federation and by the American Society of Association Executives, and locally by the West Suburban Philanthropy Network. For more information contact the KCFB Foundation at 630-584-8660.



Top: KCFB Manager Steve Arnold applies the finishing touch, custom printed farm names, to a score of new Harvest for ALL signs. The new, permanent and customizable 18”x24” signs feature darker colors and were designed to be more fade resistant. They can be used in farm fields or on farmsteads.



2016 program donors who have fulfilled their pledges can pick up a new sign at the Farm Bureau office.

KCFB Director Craig Bradley is proud to display his new Harvest for ALL sign on his Iowa farm. The new signs can be seen popping up in farm fields all over Kane County, but this is the first one we are aware of to go “interstate.” Donors with cumulative donations of \$500 or more are eligible to receive a new Harvest for ALL sign of their own to proudly display on their property.

Tickets are now available for the KCFB Foundation's 2017 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle. The Grand Prize this year is a 1953 Farmall Super C antique tractor with the winner drawn at Touch-A-Tractor on April 9 at KCFB.

New this year will be a \$2 adult or \$5 family donation request at Touch-A-Tractor. Attendees can show their Winner's Choice Raffle ticket stub for FREE admission. Touch-A-Tractor runs April 7-9 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau. See page 3 for a ticket form and a full list of Winner's Choice Raffle prizes.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### December

##### December 1

Board of Directors, 7:30pm

##### December 3-6

IAA Annual Meeting, Chicago

##### December 13

Food Hub Operators & Partners, 4:30, Penrose Brewing Company, Geneva

##### December 14

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

##### December 16

Christmas Ham Orders Due, Noon

##### December 21

Christmas Ham Pick Up

##### December 23-26

KCFB Office Closed for Holiday

##### December 30

CDL Drug Test Applications Due

Happy Holidays!



See page 8 for our December special

## Holiday Hams!

# KCFB Board Review

November 3

The KCFB Board of Directors meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:30 pm by President Joe White. The KCFB FOUNDATION Board was also present for a joint meeting.

Bob Effner, Elgin-St. Charles COUNTRY Financial Agency Manager gave a report about current happenings including claims activity, compliance costs, new representative licensing, and social media advertising. Hurricane Matthew brought in 1,800 claims to COUNTRY Financial, and hail in Pekin on November 2nd brought in 200 claims overnight.

After the COUNTRY report, the KCFB FOUNDATION meeting was called to order. Financial statements, 2016-17 academic year activities, scholarships and other financial commitments were reviewed. Also discussed were the 2 new AGCO scholarships, the 2017 Winners Choice Raffle fundraiser prizes, Touch-A-Tractor dates for 2017, and the 2016 "31 Days of Christmas" raffle fundraiser. Arnold announced that the Foundation would send a "year-end" appeal letter for contributions to Ag-in-the-Classroom efforts by direct mail to 8,000+ KCFB members in December.

The FB board meeting reconvened following adjourn-

ment of the FOUNDATION meeting. Directors heard local reports from recent meetings of the Kane County Board, Forest Preserve District, Zoning Board of Appeals and County Agriculture Committee.

President Joe White reported on the actions of the IFB Resolutions Committee, saying that they reviewed new resolutions on topics including Direct Marketing and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's). Delegates to the IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago in December will establish policy on a host of production, regulatory, tax, and fiscal issues.

Steve Arnold delivered a report on IFB & Statewide Issues, Activities, and Policies. He spoke about the IFB Annual Meeting to be held on December 3-6 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago. He informed the board about the Young Farmers and FB affiliated company representatives attending the conference. Arnold also reminded board members about AFBF Annual meeting, being held January 7-10, in Phoenix, AZ.

PR & Membership Committee Chair Bill Collins reported on contributions to the KCFB Foundation during the previous month including: Harvest for ALL - Mike & Carol Kenyon to Northern

Illinois Food Bank - Milk 2 My Plate; Marlene & Rick Pump Sr. to Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry and Jim Blickle to the Mary L. Heckel-Blickle Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In the Government Affairs arena Wayne Schneider discussed recent ACTIVATOR "Friend of Agriculture" award presentations for Representatives Peter Roskam and Randy Hultgren. A Nutrient Stewardship Grant Application to the IFB was discussed as well as the proposed Farm Shop "Victory Mixer". The Victory Mixer is an invitation-only event for members active in public affairs arena, to meet and congratulate recently elected public officials. The first event will be held at a local farm shop.

A written report for October of Ag-in-the Classroom (AITC) activities was distributed and directors received an update on the Young Farmers Committee programs and activities. The Young Farmers update included their proposed attendance at IFB Annual meeting, plans for a 2016-17 Young Farmer-FFA Chapter Acquaintance program, and other upcoming social activities.

The meeting concluded with a Manager's Report, including the distribution of COUNTRY Financial updates and a Calendar of Events. The next

scheduled Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, December 1 at 7:30pm.

## An important deadline is coming for livestock farmers

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) takes effect on January 1. It provides oversight on how farmers deliver antibiotics in feed or water to livestock. The goal is to ensure that antibiotics important in human medicine are not used to improve feed efficiency or to promote livestock growth. These classes of antibiotics can be used only under these circumstances:

- Only for treating sick animals
- With veterinarian oversight
- For the prevention and control of a specific disease

### What to do before January 1

Livestock farmers need to establish a working relationship with a veterinarian. Known as a Veterinary Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), it verifies that you and your veterinarian agree to work together on animal health issues. It ensures that the veterinarian knows about your farm and the livestock you raise. It also verifies that you share expectations about how your animals are cared for.

### Beyond January 1

After a VCPR is in place, your veterinarian's written instructions must accompany any antibiotic given by feed or water. Drugs must follow label directions; to treat, prevent or control a disease. The antibiotic cannot be used as "extra label." Your veterinarian will keep the original copy (print or electronic) and will provide copies to you and to the distributor of the VFD drug. Both you and your vet must keep copies for two years.

### What's not covered

VFD does not cover antibiotics given by injection.

For more information, visit

[www.ilfb.org/vfd](http://www.ilfb.org/vfd) or contact Kane County Farm Bureau.

# FB scores big with keynote speakers

KCFB President Joe White will be attending AFBF Annual meeting this year along with several other Kane County Farm Bureau members. White was a part of the Resolutions committee for the 2015-16 year, and has been invited to sit as a delegate for the AFBF Annual Convention as a result. This year, Annual meeting has some big time keynote speakers.

A future Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton Manning embodies what it means to be a professional athlete in this day and age, making a lasting impact both on and off the field. He has championed numerous charitable organizations and foundations to further his positive impact on the community, including the PeyBack Foundation, which he founded in an effort to help underprivileged youth in Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana and Tennessee. The two-time Super Bowl champ quarterbacked for the Indianapolis Colts and the Denver Broncos after complet-

ing his college career at the University of Tennessee.

"In some of his recent television commercials, the NFL retiree seems to be embracing his football retirement, so we're glad to be able to give him something additional to look forward to," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Peyton Manning is a model of success, with a strong work ethic and proven track record of helping others. We look forward to hearing from him about the importance of teamwork and a good game plan. We think the sports star will feel right at home with the superstars of American agriculture."

A member of the College Football Hall of Fame, Archie enjoyed an impressive college football career at the University of Mississippi that included leading his team to the national championship game, finishing top-four in Heisman Trophy voting twice and twice being named to the All-SEC team. Drafted with the second overall pick in the 1971 NFL Draft, Archie con-

tinued his illustrious football career with the New Orleans Saints, Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings. Archie has continued to excel post-football, serving as a broadcaster, restaurateur, endorser, founder of the Manning Passing Academy and philanthropist. In everything he does, Archie remains grounded and true to his "hard work means everything" mentality.

"Our annual convention is like a reunion for agriculture and the Farm Bureau Family," added Duvall, "so we're excited that father and son Archie and Peyton will join us and share some of their family's stories with us."



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 other benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

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

Peyton and Archie Manning will keynote the 2017 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show closing general session on Monday, Jan. 9 in Phoenix.



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### KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2016 THRU DECEMBER 2016

	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
F. CARLSON	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	X
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. KECK	X	X	X	X	X	X	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	X	X	X	X
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. PITSTICK	X	X	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

## Kane County Farmer

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# 13 Kane County teachers awarded Ag in the Classroom grants

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program and the IAA Foundation, along with the Illinois Farm Bureau® recently released the names of the 2016-2017 Teacher Grant Winners. Thirteen teachers from Kane County schools were awarded 11 grants to further promote agricultural education in their classrooms.

Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers is proud to do her part in helping teachers apply for these grants. This year, teachers from both her Summer Ag Institute (held in June) and Get-a-Grant workshop (held in September) were grant recipients. Teachers from each of the six schools that

received grants participated in at least one of these events in 2016.

The Get-a-Grant Workshop, which took place on September 12th, gave teachers the opportunity to earn two PDCH's while learning common core and

The 2016 Summer Ag Institute, which took place in early June, was based on one of these books, *Hungry Planet*. Teachers enjoyed lessons revolving about food resources, and toured different local farm &

schools will benefit from these grants. These schools include Kaneland John Shields School, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary, Rotolo Middle School, Kaneland High School, St. Joseph Catholic School, and Washington Elementary School.

The mission of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program is to bring accurate and authentic agricultural information to the student in grades PreK-12 across Illinois. "Each year our teacher grant program is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum," said Kevin Daugherty, Education Director, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

Susan Moore, Director of the IAA Foundation added, "We are so pleased to support Illinois educators with funds to implement more ag-related lessons, and always look forward to seeing what a positive impression these special activities have in classrooms across the state."

Partner organizations of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program include Illinois Farm Bureau, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Soybean Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In addition, annual donors include many agribusiness partners and event participants with an interest in supporting the future of agriculture. More information on the IAA Foundation can be found at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org).



Brooke Heinsohn, a teacher at Kaneland High School, was a chosen recipient of an IAA Foundation book grant for her classroom. Brooke was a participant in this year's Summer Ag Institute and is shown in this KCFB file photo discussing lesson plans with Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers.

NGSS activities that go with different books offered through the grant program. Some of those books include *What I Eat...in 80 Diets*, *Hungry Planet*, and *What the World Eats*, all of which were written by Peter Menzel.

food facilities to learn how different companies and businesses were doing their part to produce enough food to feed the planet, both now and in the future.

From new books to building grounds beautification, six area

## Agriculture in the Classroom grant recipients

Teacher(s), School, Project Name or Book Grant listed below:

Courtney Ward & Rachael Bergman Kaneland John Shields John Shield's School Grounds Beautification	Garrett Wolf Kaneland High School Book Grant
John Ahearn & Terra Pyfer Kaneland John Stewart Elementary Beautifying the School's Entrance	Christine Zollers Kaneland John Stewart Book Grant
Kelly Cook Rotolo Middle School Put It All Together...Weather	Carol Norman St. Joseph Catholic School Book Grant
Judy Fabrizius Kaneland High School Book Grant	Sue Spiegelhoff St. Joseph Catholic School Book Grant
Brooke Heinsohn Kaneland High School Book Grant	Lenora Wilken St. Joseph Catholic School Book Grant
	Ellen McNett Washington Elementary School Book Grant

## 2017 Certified Livestock Manager Training workshops

University of Illinois Extension has scheduled workshops to provide Illinois livestock producers the manure management training they need to meet the requirements of the state's Livestock Management Facilities Act.

The 2017 Certified Livestock Manager Training workshops will be held in eight locations throughout the state. Workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. and will take 3 1/2 hours with the IDOA exam administered afterward.

The workshop will offer a general curriculum designed to keep producers current on the latest industry practices. The curriculum covers the basics of nutrient management as well as new technologies, research, and

trends, so producers who have completed the training and are renewing their certification will benefit.

The Livestock Management Facilities Act requires facilities with 300 or more animal units to have at least one employee certified in proper manure handling procedures. For facilities with 300 to 999 animal units, the employee must attend a workshop or pass the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Manager exam. Employees of facilities with 1,000 or more animal units must do both to achieve certification.

Registration opens Dec. 1. To register for the workshop or for other dates/locations, call the University of Illinois at 217-244-

9687. The cost is \$35. If more than one employee from the same farm signs up, each additional registration will cost \$25. Lunch will not be offered, but coffee and donuts are provided.

**A local workshop will be held on Feb. 16 at DeKalb CFB at 1350 W. Prairie Drive in Sycamore.**

**Q.** What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

**A.** It's Christmas, Eve.

**Q.** Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden?

**A.** Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!

**Q.** Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?

**A.** They are always dropping their needles.

**Q.** What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

**A.** Thanks, I'll never part with it!

**Merry Christmas from the Kane County Farm Bureau**

*Mark your calendar - to pick up a calendar*

**ANTIQUE TRACTORS**

Believe it or not - 2017 is almost here! Members are invited to pick up a 2017 calendar at the Farm Bureau office in St. Charles. This year's themes are Antique Tractors and Barn Scenes. It's just one more way to say "Thanks!" for being a Kane County Farm Bureau member.

**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
25170 Daniel Rd.,  
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## Thanks to our donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received October 15-November 15, 2016.



Donors	Beneficiary
Gray Urban Farms	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Lenkaitis Holsteins & Jaynes Family	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Dale & Linda Drendel	Northern Illinois Food Bank - Milk 2 My Plate
Ryan & Juanita Klassy	Food for Greater Elgin
DeRaedt Grain Farm	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
CHS Elburn	Elburn Food Pantry

## Tractor Raffle tickets now available

This year's annual raffle for college scholarships will give the grand prize winner the ability to choose between a nicely restored 1953 Farmall Super C, a John Deere X350 riding lawn mower or \$2,500 cash.

The farm, food and fuel theme is rounded out with a second prize of \$500 in groceries, third prize of \$500 in fuel, and fourth prize of \$250 in Kane County Farm Bureau Bucks - good for many products available throughout the year at KCFB.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Stuffing stockings with Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle tickets means you give twice as much. You'll give friends and family a chance to win a great prize and provide funds for college scholarships for area students to become future agricultural leaders. Raffle tickets will also provide FREE family admission to

Touch-A-Tractor on the lawn at KCFB, April 7-9, 2017.

The drawing is Sunday, April 9 at the 12th annual Touch-A-Tractor at Kane County Farm Bureau. Call 630-584-8660 to

### WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE



purchase tickets by phone with VISA or MasterCard or submit the ticket request form below. Request tickets by December 16 and we'll mail your ticket stubs in time for Christmas gift giving! Visit [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) for more information.

**KCFB Foundation Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle**

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

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## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



December is a very special month in many ways. It is a time of hearing from friends across the miles, family traditions, celebrations with friends, and a time of personal reflection.

We usually begin the month with lists ... lists of what we need to do, of what we need to buy, of presents bought and to be bought for those special people in our lives, and lists of things to be put on the calendar. The time that remains 'til our special holiday celebration is a hectic time. We schedule so many things with our family and friends. Schools and churches have special concerts; any extracurricular activities our children participate in also have a holiday show or party. The calendar is so full that sometimes it becomes overwhelming. We tend to eat and drink too much, spend more money than we should, and begin to get a bit tense. Our goal is that everything be perfect ... the best ever.

Does it need to be like the above description? Many articles, posts and other forms of communication say a resounding "No!" How? Here are a few of the ideas:

Discuss with your family the intention you want for the holiday. Ask yourself and other family members these questions:

1. What do you remember most about last year's holiday season?
2. What did you like best?
3. Was there something you didn't like about the holiday season? How would you change it?
4. If we could only do three things to celebrate the holiday season, what would they be? Prepare to be surprised at the

answers. Chances are, family members will bring a new perspective to the question of "What's the right holiday for us?" Listen, learn and let the family lead the way. The surest path to a stressed-out season is to insist on giving life-support to traditions that have run their course, so call an end to ho-hum activities that don't make the cut for anyone. Focus, instead, on those activities that bring the family closer – however silly, however small. Better a family movie night with popcorn and pajamas than a forced march to the Nutcracker, neckties dragging. Put your energies where the meaning is.

Holiday time can be a wonderful time to enjoy nature; nature has a calming effect. Walk with children and look around at all the seasonal beauty. Make a Snowman Kit and keep it handy. Collect and store together coal pieces, rocks, or buttons for eyes, and woollens such as a knit cap, scarf, mittens and even an old pipe. Have carrots handy in the fridge. When the snow hits, take your kit outside and create your snowman, adding branches, twigs, evergreen boughs, and other items.

Celebrate the winter solstice. The winter solstice provides a special opportunity to slow down during the hectic holiday season. Take a walk or have a family game night on the year's longest night. Celebrate the sun's return by making or eating sun-colored foods, such as oranges and frosted yellow cupcakes. Place gold-covered toys or chocolate coins in bags and surprise the children with them at night or during the morning after the solstice. Take a walk together at sunrise to greet the

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

return of longer days.

Say no to some activities. As you're saying yes to some new, fun activities, you might find yourself needing to say no to others. Do you really have to attend every office, school, and neighborhood party or event?

Decide which activities truly give you pleasure and try to guiltlessly skip the ones that don't. The same goes for holiday cooking, decorating, and other activities. If something isn't pleasurable, no matter how much it fits into your idea of a

## Book of the month

This true story is a perfect one to exemplify the spirit of the holidays. Gail (Hal) Halvorsen, a young pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, was assigned as a cargo pilot to the Berlin Airlift. He was dropping flour and other supplies into Soviet-blocked Berlin.

One day, he noticed a group of children had gathered by the fence surrounding Tempelhof Air Force Base. He went over to speak with the children, who had many questions concerning the flying of the planes and spoke of hopes for freedom. His father had always told him, "From little things come big things." Hal took the two pieces of chewing gum that he had in his pocket, tore them in half, and gave them to the children. The children, in turn, tore the gum into even smaller pieces and shared with each other. This gave Hal an idea; he would "bomb" the area with candy. He told the children of his plan and

that he would "wiggle" the plane's wings so they'd know it was him. They promised to share any candy they retrieved with others.

He used his own rations of gum and chocolate to make small handkerchief parachutes to drop down to the children. His crew joined in the plan and gave up their rations also to make the small parachutes.

With the precision of bombardiers, the airmen pushed the candy out the flare chute, and the white candy parcels floated to earth. This act continued daily, growing in number of men donating their rations.

The children gathered to catch the parachutes and share the candy with each other. They sent hundreds of thank you letters. The candy brought peace and renewed hope to the children and their families.

Eventually Americans heard of the "Candy Bomber" and sent more candy and handker-

"perfect" holiday, opt to do something you enjoy instead.

Maybe these hints can help you simplify your holiday season without guilt and enjoy it more. I am wishing that you and your families find the joyful and peaceful spirit of the season.

chiefs for the cause ... by December they collected 18 tons of candy from American candy makers and 3 tons from private donors.

On Christmas Eve, the men dropped many small parachutes signifying Christmas joy and generosity. Many feel that this was one of the most memorable Christmas Eves of their lives.

We have a copy of this inspirational book as well as other winter holiday books available for check out from our agricultural library here at the KCFB.



Christmas from Heaven—The True Story of the Berlin Candy Bomber by David T. Warner

## Women's Corner

By Louise Johnson  
Women's Committee Chair



*Hey! Hey! Cubbies! What a team! What a year!*

Now that Halloween and Thanksgiving are both past, I am in the Christmas decorating mood. Craft and hobby stores need to get out holiday items early, but I hate the early start in other stores!

Do you want to keep children from guessing what is in their Christmas present? If you do not want to hide the packages, here are three possibilities for wrapping packages: 1. Put marbles or pebbles in the packages, so shaking is confusing. 2. Pack items in boxes that are a different size and shape. 3. Mark the package tags with numbers instead of names; however, be sure to keep your master list in a safe place! If you would prefer to hide the packages, here are two suggestions: 1. Put the wrapped presents inside suitcases; 2. Ask friends, preferably without children, to store a large item for you.

When you are cooking, if

you are wearing a scarf, be very careful. If the trailing ends the scarf touch gas jets, or a hot burner, you could be severely injured. You should either remove the scarf while cooking, or tuck the ends into your clothing or at the very least, throw the ends over your shoulder.

Magic Cookie Bars (also called 7-Layer Bars) are a very popular treat at Christmastime. Instead of a recipe this month, here are suggestions to alter this recipe for the holidays. (Remember to use butter, not margarine, to enhance the flavor.)

Consider replacing the chocolate chips with red and/or green M&M's®, and replacing the butterscotch chips with white "chocolate" chips. Very festive!

Change the flavor by using crushed candy canes or peppermint candies in place of the chocolate; and replacing the butterscotch chips with white "chocolate" chips. Yum!

*Have a Merry Christmas!*

## Helping you protect what matters most



 <b>Bob Effner, CLF®, LUTCF</b> St. Charles – Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001	 <b>Paima Chitambo</b> Geneva 630-262-1128	 <b>Dominick Davero</b> Elburn 630-365-3737
 <b>Bobbi Boston</b> St. Charles 630-485-5155	 <b>Steve Spoerl, Jr.</b> Geneva 630-262-1078	 <b>Bob Riedel</b> West Dundee 847-428-5434
 <b>Keith Eakins</b> St. Charles 630-762-1324	 <b>Bob Baty</b> Geneva 630-492-5317	 <b>Gary Bolger</b> West Dundee 847-531-6110
 <b>Todd Wilcox</b> St. Charles 630-762-1326	 <b>Michael O'Brien</b> Geneva 630-762-0852	 <b>Dan Cooper</b> Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 <b>Donna Tonovitz</b> St. Charles 630-549-7694	 <b>Bob Kearns</b> S. Elgin 847-888-3200	 <b>Ted Schuster</b> Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 <b>Orazio Difruscolo</b> St. Charles 630-549-7696	 <b>Luke Fawkes</b> Elgin 847-742-0001	 <b>Sonny Ellen</b> Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 <b>Ashraf Gerges</b> Aurora 630-898-3750	 <b>Jonathan Gonzalez</b> Elgin 847-742-0001	 <b>Chuck Quick</b> Hampshire 847-683-2100
 <b>Edward Stuehm</b> Geneva 630-845-8245	 <b>Sherry Lochen</b> Elgin 847-742-0001	 <b>Josh Austin</b> Hampshire 847-683-2100
 <b>Rowena Ortac</b> Geneva 630-262-1061	 <b>Sherri Schramer</b> Elburn 630-365-9500	 <b>David Murray</b> Montgomery 630-897-2364



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Hot Hearty  
Savory Unique  
Sinus-clearing

## Horseradish!

### How did horseradish get its name?

Horseradish is believed to have originated in Central Europe, the area also linked to the most widely held theory of how horseradish was named.

In German, it's called "meerrettich" (sea radish) because it grows by the sea. Many believe the English mispronounced the

German word "meer" and began calling it "mareradish." Eventually it became known as horseradish. The word "horse" (as applied in "horseradish") is believed to denote large size and coarseness. "Radish" comes from the Latin radix, meaning root.

### Easy horseradish holiday recipes for kids to help make

#### Yule Log

Number of Servings: 10

#### Ingredients:

- 1 8-oz. package of cream cheese
- 3 Tbsp. sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 Tbsp. prepared horseradish
- 1/3 cup sliced stuffed green olives with pimentos
- 1 Cup (2.5-oz. jar) finely cut dried beef

#### Instructions:

Blend together cream cheese,

cheddar cheese, horseradish and olives. Place on waxed paper and refrigerate. When chilled, roll the waxed paper around the mixture and roll into a log. Roll in dried beef slivers. Coat ends. Refrigerate overnight for flavors to season cream cheese. Serve with crackers.

— OR —

#### Bologna Wedges Ingredients:

- 1 3-oz. package cream cheese
- 1 heaping Tbsp. horseradish
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 6 slices bologna

#### Instructions:

Combine cheese, horseradish and milk. Spread on 5 slices of bologna. Stack together and top with the unspread slice. Chill until cheese is hard. Slice wedges for appetizers.

### Slow-cooker beef roast with horseradish gravy

Prep time 25 min, Total time 9 hr 25 min, Servings 6

Horseradish comes out of the jar and into the recipe for this long-simmering roast, with plenty of potatoes to soak up delicious juices and flavor.

#### Ingredients

- 1 garlic clove, slivered
- 3 lb. boneless beef rump or tip roast, trimmed of fat
- 3 Tbsp creamy horseradish
- 1 (.87-oz.) pkg. brown gravy mix
- 3 medium carrots, cut in half lengthwise and into 2 inch pieces
- 6 to 8 small red potatoes (1 lb.) scrubbed and quartered
- 1 medium stalk celery, cut in half lengthwise and into 2 inch pieces

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash coarse ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons water

#### Directions

With tip of knife, make cuts in top of beef roast; insert garlic slivers. Spread beef with 1 tablespoon of the horseradish. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of the gravy mix.

Place beef in 3 1/2 or 4-quart slow cooker. Arrange carrots around beef. Top with potatoes and celery. In small bowl, combine 1/2 cup water, remaining

gravy mix, salt and pepper; mix until well blended. Pour over vegetables.

Cover; cook on Low setting for 8 to 9 hours.



Just before serving, remove beef and vegetables from slow cooker; place on serving platter and cover to keep warm. In medium saucepan, combine cornstarch, 3 tablespoons water and remaining 2 tablespoons horseradish; blend well. Pour juices from slow cooker into cornstarch mixture; mix well. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring constantly. Cut beef into slices. Serve beef with vegetables and gravy.

### Make a holiday votive candle holder

Have the children in your life make a simple votive candle holder out of an old jar, tissue paper and glue. No artistic talent

is needed for this project and they turn out well, even little ones can make them. These are great to have glowing around the house or to give as gifts from the children to Grandparents, or other family members or friends.

#### What You Need:

- Colored tissue paper (green/red for Christmas, blue/white for Hanukkah, red/green/black for Kwanzaa)
- Pressed flowers or leaves (optional – these are harder to do, since they don't adhere as easily as just tissue paper, so I would not use with younger children).
- White school glue
- Small plastic bowl or disposable container
- Paintbrush
- Glass jar
- Markers

#### What You Do:

1. Give your child a few sheets of tissue paper and ask her/him

to rip it into small pieces (2-3 inches).

2. In the small bowl or container, mix half cup of white glue with 1-1/4 cups of water. It should form a thin white solution. Give your child the paintbrush and have her/him cover a section of the jar with a thin coat of glue solution. Stick pieces of tissue onto the jar. Repeat, overlapping the tissue paper pieces, until the entire jar is covered. When the entire jar is covered, overlay a few pressed leaves or



flowers (if you're using them), and cover each with a thin coat of glue solution.

3. If she/he would like, let your child add some final touches with markers – a personal message, name, or some drawings.

Then place a votive candle (real/battery operated) inside your new candle holder and light it. When the candle glows, it will illuminate the tissue paper and designs, allowing light to shine through them.

### Did you know?

- Horseradish is a root ... Illinois grows more horseradish than any other state.
- Horseradish is still planted and harvested mostly by hand.
- Sales of bottled horseradish began in 1860, making it one of the first convenience foods.
- In the American South, horseradish was rubbed on the forehead to relieve headaches.
- Horseradish is added to some pickles to add firmness and "nip".

### Congratulations

James Long of Elburn! His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives bag of cranberry goodies! Thank you, James for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

### Horseradish

I Y H W S H Y L N E H P D C F T E S S U  
 B I I A G N A I L O C D A A B T L V K K  
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BLONDIE  
COLLINSVILLE  
CONDIMENT  
CONVENIENCE  
DAGWOOD

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GERMANY  
GREEKS  
HEADACHE  
HORSERADISH  
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SEDER  
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 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by December 15, 2016 to be entered in our drawing for a horseradish-themed prize.

# Young Farmers receive high honors

Congratulations to the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers committee on being named the winner of two prestigious Illinois Farm Bureau awards – the Most Outstanding Project Award and the Harvest for ALL Award.

In June of 2016, Kane County Farm Bureau established a new program to provide trial memberships for 2016-17 KCFB Scholarship recipients. The goal of the trial memberships was to encourage students with Ag related interests to utilize KCFB membership benefit

offers and to provide them with the opportunity to grow and interact with other young farmers in the area. This project was selected as the most outstanding Young Farmer project for membership group 5 for the 2015-16 program year.

For the 15th consecutive year, the KCFB Young Farmers also received the IFB Harvest for ALL award for their membership group. This award is presented to the committee with the highest achievements in helping feed the hungry through Illinois through a combination

of Pounds of food donated, dollars donated and volunteer hours worked. Young Farmers play a key role in encouraging farmers and community members alike to donate and help restock the shelves of local food pantries as well as through the own donations and service hours. Over 50 families and area agribusinesses made pledges to 14 local food pantries with over \$14,142 in donations for the project year through September 1. Only one county committee each of the five membership groups in Illinois can receive

these awards. Membership groups are based on total county members, with group 1 having the lowest number of members, and group 5 having the highest. Kane County is a part of membership group 5, along with 19 other counties, including nearby Cook, DuPage, DeKalb, Lake and McHenry counties.

Projects are submitted by the end of August, and then evaluated blind by 3 evaluators. Those

selected as most outstanding projects or project winners will be recognized at the IFB Annual Meeting in the Exhibit Hall, during a December 4 Awards Ceremony and with a certificate.

Heather Pierson, 2015-16 committee chair, will be presented with these awards at the 2016 IFB Annual Meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago on Sunday, December 4th. Congratulations Young Farmers!

# Legislative Committee hosts 'Victory Mixer'

Photos, top to bottom:

The KCFB Legislative Committee's first "Victory Mixer" cocktail reception was hosted by Pitstick Farms in their farm shop near Virgil on November 21. The post-election gathering of the Legislative Committee and FB ACT (Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team) volunteers offered the opportunity to meet and mingle with public officials, some newly elected in the November 8 General Election.

Committee volunteers and staff poured local wines from AcquaViva Winery and craft beers from 5 breweries in the Fox Valley, while guests mingled with public officials and snacked on hot hors d'oeuvres.

Local farmer Jami White (left) chats with Nick Nagele (right), one of the principals in Whiskey Acres

Distilling Co. of DeKalb. Nagele was on hand to mix signature cocktails with Whiskey Acres Bourbon, Rye and Vodka from the areas first estate distillery, and talk to farmers and public officials about this unique vertically integrated, 5th generation family farm.



# Livestock and tractors needed for Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau's 12th annual Touch-A-Tractor will be held Friday – Sunday, April 7-9. We're making preparations to bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It could be your first chance to get the kiddies out of the house this spring.

Kids get to touch and even sit in seats of big machines they normally only see from the road. They can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and visit animals such as baby chickens, sheep, a calf and a miniature

horse at the farm zoo.

Area moms tell us their kids ask them to come back year



Touch-A-Tractor – the name says it all! Well almost. There are dozens of hands-on activities and fun for the family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 7-9, 2017.

after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2017 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB Foundation's biggest community event and fundrais-

er. New for 2017, T-A-T will have a requested donation amount for adults & families, but offers FREE admission to holders of a Winners Choice Raffle ticket.

Please call us if you have an antique tractor or farm animals that you could bring to the event. We also need farmers, or retired farmers, to explain how the equipment works, volunteer to take tickets and staff kids games, make popcorn, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or have tractors or equipment to share, please complete and return the form below.

## Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 8 or Sunday, April 9)

\_\_\_\_ I would like to bring the following farm equipment or livestock to display for your guests

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/livestock. For tractors, include year, make, and model.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## 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.

### FOR SALE

J D 265 lawn tractor 50 pound wheel weights(2) and chains. Rear tire size is 23x10.5 by 12. Rim is 12x8.5. Great Cond. \$125.00 or OBO. Call: 847-846-0735

### SERVICES

Autumn / Winter Tree Pruning & Removal. Ask about my no-haul-away DISCOUNT. www.ArborJoe.com – ISA Certified Arborist Joe. Call: 224 789 8773

Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. – Tree removal, tree trimming, & stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured – Free Estimates – Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730

### WANTED

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

Will pick up for free unwanted or old snowmobiles; weeding; mowing; Bobcat work; deliveries of black dirt/topsoil, sand, limestone, gravel, or anything else you need hauled in or out; sod and seeding. Call Jon @ J.P. Ripplinge – 630-254-9446

### HELP WANTED

Entry Level Position, 30-35 hrs. weekly, Must be a self-starter & team player. Applicants should be computer literate with pleasant phone voice & manner. Some overnight travel required. Office is located on St Charles, east side. Call Bob to discuss this position – 630 377 5807

*Your Farm Bureau membership means Value*

## Several Kane County farms and businesses offer Christmas Trees.

### These locations include:

Abbey Farms – Aurora  
630-966-7775

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse – St. Charles  
630-377-6288

Klein's Farm & Garden Market – Udina  
847-683-9647

Kuipers Family Farm – Maple Park  
815-827-5200

Lee's Trees – Lily Lake  
630-365-2116

Spring Bluff Nursery – Sugar Grove  
630-466-4278

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse – Huntley  
847-669-3421

Trellis Farm & Garden – St. Charles  
630-584-2024



## Recycle

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## Have a very merry Holiday Season!

By Kristi Van Oost



Being born and raised in northern Illinois, I am no stranger to the cold. While this season has brought mild weather, I know winter is just around the corner. While fall will forever be my favorite season, winter is actually a close second. When most people think of winter, it is all about how cold it will be and how much snow we will get. While these are all valid concerns that cross my mind, I often see it more valuable to instead focus on the beauty in the cold season.

The way freshly fallen snow sparkles in the morning sunlight and the way icicles twinkle on frozen branches when the sun hits them just right. Of course, there is always the added merriment of the holiday season to look forward to in winter as well.

The winter holidays have always been something I largely looked forward to as they have always been a big celebration with my family. Like a lot of families, most of our Christmas celebrations are around a brightly decorated tree directly from a Christmas tree farm.

While Christmas trees are sold in the winter months, maintaining and growing them is a year round responsibility for the

farmers. A large variety of pine and fir trees are grown on these farms, although the three most popular are Balsam fir, Douglas fir and Scotch pine. It can take up to eight years for one tree to reach a height of 5 feet. That means that tree farmers must tend to their trees for a whole eight years before they can even make one penny off of them.

While I have never had the opportunity to dabble in the art of Christmas tree farming, I have been to a few farms to pick out the perfect family Christmas tree. Things are a little different for me this holiday season, as it is the first time I have a space of my own to decorate with holiday cheer. Luckily for me, Harold and Denise Marks will be bringing up a wide selection of Christmas trees and other evergreen creations to help me out! The Marks family set up a Christmas tree lot on the front lawn of the KCFB building, and Kane County Farm Bureau members receive \$10 off their Marks' Christmas tree purchase! In my mind, that is a win, win.

So, as the weather continues to get colder and the nights get longer, I would like to wish everyone a very merry season!

# Urban Farm in Aurora

Triple Threat Mentoring has received a 3-year grant from the Dunham Fund to upgrade a 5,000 square-foot tire shop in Aurora into a state-of-the-art Urban Farm, for food production, teaching and youth mentoring. The building is cleverly named "The Farm" and is managed by Nick Marasco, a high school teacher on sabbatical with a keen interest, and many years' experience, in hydroponic farming. The Farm grows sustainable food without soil using a method called hydroponics.

The farm is the first of its kind in the area. In addition to being used to educate the public on urban agriculture, The Farm

will help provide healthy food for low income families in the community.

Currently, The Farm has partnered up with local restaurants and bars, including Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora, to serve fresh and locally grown products at their locations. It participated in Aurora's farmers markets in 2016 and drew a huge response from the community. Future plans include a possible CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) stand, in which families can purchase stocks in the urban farm in exchange for fresh products.

KCFB Staff got the opportunity to learn first-hand about the new facility and how hydroponic vegetables are grown in an urban environment during an October 26 visit and tour to the facility. Marasco and KCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers are currently collaborating on the development of an Institute Day for local teachers to adapt the lessons and methods Marasco teaches for local classrooms.



1. Seeds are grown in special soilless mediums called peat plugs. The peat plugs are flexible and aerated and are designed for faster root development and plant establishment. They help the plant retain moisture and allow roots to grow through them, making them ideal for hydroponic growing.

2. Once seeds germinate, peat plugs are placed in hanging hydroponic towers to grow. Fertilized water is circulated through the towers and LED lights are used to simulate sunlight, providing the plants with all the necessities to grow.

3. Grown crops (with peat plugs intact) are harvested directly from the growing medium called Matrix Media. Here Urban Farm Director Nick Marasco removes lettuce while (left to right) KCFB Development & Program Coordinator Kristi Van Oost & Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers look on.

## Recruiter of the Month

Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. This month the honor goes to Bobbi Boston. Bobbi has been a financial representative with COUNTRY® Financial since October 2004. She serves clients from her office at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, and may be reached at 630-485-5155. Thank you all for

your continued support of Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Bobbi Boston

*Happy Holidays from the Kane County Farm Bureau*

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

Ashraf Gerges has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for October 2016 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Ashraf has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance and financial security needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home,

Life/Disability/Health/Annuities/Long Term Care, Retirement Planning, Business and Investments. Let Ashraf's expertise help you! His contact information is: 896 S. Frontenac St., Ste. 104, Aurora. Phone 630-898-3750, email ashraf.gerges@countryfinancial.com. Congratulations, Ashraf!

### Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Cornell Shaw, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for October 2016. Cornell began his career with COUNTRY Financial in August of 2015 and services clients out of his office located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542 – (630) 423-9885.

Cornell's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Cornell!

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**Choose a fresh cut Christmas Tree this year**

**KCFB members receive a \$10 discount**

Marks' Tree Farm, which has been doing business in St. Charles for three decades, has set up a Christmas tree lot on the lawn of the Kane County Farm Bureau. Through the week of Christmas, Marks' provides quality, fresh cut Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Spruce and White Pine fresh from their farm amid the north woods of Wisconsin. All trees on the lot will be tagged with a price and Kane County Farm Bureau members will receive a \$10.00 discount. We hope you take advantage of this convenient and money saving member service. And, while you are at the Farm Bureau, stop inside for holiday gift ideas including toy tractors, and a selection of meat, poultry, BBQ spice, pecans and more!

CONNECT WITH US



# Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference

The Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference (ISCAOC) will be held January 11-13, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The conference, which features nearly 100 speakers and 60 trade show exhibitors, will again host four concurrent preconference workshops, general sessions and breakout sessions aimed at helping Illinois specialty growers cultivate their operations.

Wednesday, January 11, participants may attend one of the pre-conference workshops, including Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, and Soil Health, Digital Marketing Strategies for Your Farm, Growing and

Marketing Tomatoes and Peppers, and Designing and Operating Irrigation Systems for Illinois Vegetable and Fruit Crops.

Also on Wednesday is the Farmers Forum program. This traveling annual event gives farmers, ranchers, and others funded by NCR-SARE grants the chance to share information about their sustainable agriculture research, demonstration, and education projects.

Thursday, January 12, the convention's keynote speaker, Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau's Director of National Legislation will provide insight into the challenges agriculture is faced with in developing nation-

al agricultural policies under a new administration.

Participants also are invited to attend breakout sessions on Thursday, January 12 and Friday, January 13 featuring: agritourism and marketing, fruits, vegetables, herbs, organic foods and emerging issues and opportunities

Following Thursday's breakout sessions, the annual banquet will include a keynote speech titled, "Why Your Story Matters," by Chris and Audra Wyant, Finding Eminence Farm, Lexington, Illinois. They have a growing number of readers following their weekly blog, and will cover how sharing their story helps drive business to their farm.

The 28th annual Apple Cider Contest and 15th annual Hard

Cider Contest will again be held in conjunction with the conference, with winners being announced during Thursday evening's banquet.

To receive registration mate-

rials or to obtain exhibitor information, please contact Charlene Blary at 309-557-2107 or cblary@ilfb.org or register online at [www.specialtygrowers.org](http://www.specialtygrowers.org).

**January 11-13  
2017  
in Springfield**

## 2017 CDL Random Drug/Alcohol Testing Pool set to begin

Kane County Farm Bureau is renewing the Random Drug/Alcohol Testing Pool for individuals or businesses with Commercial Driver's Licenses to comply with Federal Highway Department of Transportation regulations.

If you have a commercial driver's license, you are under the Federal Highway Department of Transportation regulations for drug and alcohol testing. Owner/operators and small companies with drivers must join an existing consortium for the random testing. Farmers and certain family members have been exempted in certain instances.

Each person who has a CDL will be required to pay a \$125.00 or \$145.00 for on-farm testing consortium fee for fixed or location testing to be included in the pool. We also require each person in the pool be a member of the Farm Bureau. (Farmer memberships are \$37.00/year and Associate Memberships are \$20.00/year). The program will run from Jan. 1, 2017 – Dec. 31, 2017.

The consortium fee covers the setup fee and random drug and/or alcohol tests during the year no matter how often your name is drawn. We will also provide one free supervisor training manual. If your name is not pulled, you will not receive a refund on pool money. A special feature of the Kane County Farm Bureau pool is a mobile unit that provides on-site testing. This mobile unit, with certified testing equipment and specialists, will add convenience and time saving elements to the overall program.

Foley Carrier Services, the management company that we have contracted to provide consortium services, provides other services in relation to the regulations. However, the consortium fee does not cover any of the non-random expenses.

**To participate in the 2017 consortium, complete the enrollment application and mail a check for \$125.00 or \$145.00 payable to the Kane County Farm Bureau by Dec. 30, 2016. Please renew your Farm Bureau membership if you have not done so. We must have your renewal payment as soon as possible to continue the random selection process.**

For more information about the CDL pool, please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

## Fair Oaks Farm tour snapshots



Top to bottom: KCFB's bus trip to Fair Oaks Farm on October 29th proved to be both a fun and educational experience for people of all ages! Attendees got the opportu-



nity to learn more about the dairy industry through interactive displays as well as guided and self-guided tours through Fair Oaks Dairy and Crop Adventures.

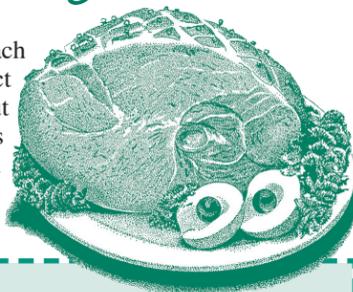
The group got a guided bus tour of one of Fair Oaks large dairy farms and milking parlors while learning how cows turn grain and hay into milk. One of the highlights of the tour was watching this state of the art 72-cow milking carousel.

Fair Oak's newest tour is the self-guided Crop Adventure. The building featured various interactive learning activities and games, including this grain bin. This hands-on demonstration of a grain elevator lets crop adventures Lauren and Matthew Polovin (pictured) load oversized corn kernels onto a conveyor that takes them into a grain bin.



## December Special – 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 and 7-9 pounds for spiral. Order yours today by sending in the form below or calling the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 by Friday December 16 at noon. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Wednesday, December 21.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate quantity:

**Spiral Slice**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Plus Mbr. (\$4.49/lb)      \_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$4.99/lb)      \_\_\_\_\_ Non-mbr. (\$5.74/lb)

**Traditional**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Plus Mbr. (\$3.36/lb)      \_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$3.74/lb.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Non-mbr. (\$4.30/lb)

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS NOON. Friday, December 16.**

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

### 2017 Kane County Farm Bureau Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Consortium Enrollment Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm Bureau Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Setup Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prescription Medicine Name or Names \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 CDL License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Pool participation price: \$125 per driver for fixed location testing, \$145 per driver for on-site testing. All pool participants must be an "MM" or "A" member of the Kane County Farm Bureau. The program runs Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017.

Make checks payable to: Kane County Farm Bureau and return by December 30, 2016.

Drop off check and application or mail to:  
 Kane County Farm Bureau  
 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

I understand that the fee includes my name in the Kane County Farm Bureau pool to cover the random drug and alcohol testing requirement including the setup fee and the random alcohol confirmation test as mandated by the U. S. Department of Transportation. I further understand that non-random tests such as reasonable suspicion return to work follow-ups, missed appointments, after-hours charges, and post-accidents tests are not covered by the pool money and those charges will be my responsibility.

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