

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 85 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2020

February 17 Shopping Spree to provide hunger relief

On Monday, February 17th, Kane County Farm Bureau will host its 19th annual Food Check-Out "Challenge," a Shopping Spree to benefit local food

pantries. The public is invited to come watch this fast-paced, friendly event as State Senator Jim Oberweis (25th District) and State Representative Dan Ugaste

(65th District) race to collect food to help restock the shelves of two area food pantries. The pantries they have chosen to represent are Hesed House in Aurora and South Elgin Food Pantry, respectively. The contest will once again be held at the Batavia Jewel-Osco, on Randall Road at Main Street at 10:30 am.

Food Check-Out Week teaches Americans how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. Typically, consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food. This low number is thanks to the efficient efforts by America's farmers

and ranchers, who work hard every day to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food supply.

All of the groceries collected during the five-plus minute spree by each contestant will be purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the respective pantries. Many State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County, local Mayors and elected officials have competed in the event, raising thousands of dollars in groceries for local food pantries.

"I am excited to participate this year and represent not only the great people of the 65th district, but South Elgin Food Pantry that greatly helps our community here in Kane County. This event is a fun way to help those in need and I am looking forward to doing my part to contribute!"

— State Representative Ugaste



State Representative Jeff Keicher collected a mountain of groceries for Hinckley Area Food Pantry in the 2019 Shopping Spree.

Through this and other KCFB sponsored hunger relief efforts, including last year's 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE, Harvest for ALL and 2013's Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of more than two million meals to area food pantries.

Shopping Spree contestants have raised nearly \$40,000 for local Food Pantries while competing in the Farm Bureau sponsored contest at the Batavia Jewel-Osco. Many organizations have been represented over the years. See page 2 for a list of contestants and beneficiaries from previous years.



Senator Jim Oberweis



Representative Dan Ugaste

KCFB is ready for the challenge!

The 19th annual Food Check-Out Shopping Spree features 2 contestants from local government competing against the clock. The event is 5+ minutes of fun, excitement, and a race to collect the most groceries for their designated Food Pantry. Each contestant is awarded a traveling trophy to display in their respective offices for the year, showcasing their participation. Pictured above are 2020 contestants State Senator Jim Oberweis representing Hesed House in Aurora and State Representative Dan Ugaste representing South Elgin Food Pantry.

IFB & COUNTRY Financial to host farm legacy seminars

Seventy percent of U.S. farmland will likely change hands during the next two decades. With estimates as high as half of American farmers operating without an estate plan, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and COUNTRY Financial are set to provide valuable Farm Legacy Seminars to aid them as plans are made for the next generation.

The two organizations will host three regional farm legacy information meetings in February of 2020. The seminars will provide current and prospective IFB members and COUNTRY Financial clients with tools, protection and ongoing support essential to legacy planning, in

order to allow them to keep their farm in the family amid today's financial challenges.

"Illinois farm families face a series of issues, including rising costs in agriculture and surviving financial stress year to year, that may pull their focus away from planning for the future of the farm," said IFB President Richard Guebert Jr. "This meeting series will realign that focus in sharing the resources and knowledge they need to have those conversations and preserve their farm legacy."

Each meeting will include a keynote presentation by Dr. Ron Hanson, Harlan agribusiness professor emeritus at the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln and professional speaker on farm legacy planning.

"It is never too early for farm family members to begin a legacy planning process for their farm," said Dr. Hanson. "Most often, farm families make the mistake of waiting until it is too late or after something unexpected happens. That is never the best time to make good objective decisions. It's important to develop and implement a business succession plan now to continue a family farming legacy for future generations."

Hanson has been a recipient of 31 university and national

(continued on page 2)

KCFB CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2020

7 Food for Thought meeting, 10:30am

13 KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm

14 Valentine's Day

15 KCFB Foundation scholarship applications due

17 19th Annual Shopping Spree, Jewel-Osco, Batavia, 10:30am

President's Day

18 Government Affairs Leadership Conference, Springfield

20 Soil & Water Management Webinar, 9 am, U of I Extension

24-29 Pick up Well Water Testing kits

28 Kane County Teacher's Institute Day

(All meetings/events are at KCFB unless otherwise indicated)

FEBRUARY FEATURED PRODUCT

Seasoned Pork Chops

Our featured product for this month is Inboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops. Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. (10 per box) or 10 oz. (8 per box) and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop comes in a vacuum sealed plastic bag. Just thaw, cut it open and you're ready to cook up a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. It's a Farm Bureau favorite! Price is (not including tax) \$24.90 per box for members, Non-members pay. \$28.63. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

Scholarship applications due by Feb. 15

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is offering several scholarships to members or dependents of members pursuing college degrees. The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2020.

There are hundreds of careers in the agriculture industry and hundreds of students from Kane County studying in schools across the country to prepare to

take the lead in providing food, fiber and fuel for us all.

Applicants may qualify for KCFB General Scholarships, Ag Scholarships, the KCFB President's Scholarship, Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholar-

ship, the John Buck Memorial Scholarship, the Ruth & Frank Carlson Scholarship, AGCO Platinum Scholarship and/or the AGCO Parts Division/AGCO GWN Scholarships. Applications and details on

scholarship requirements are available at www.kanecfb.com and at the KCFB office, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. Call 630-584-8660 with questions.



2018 KCFB Foundation scholarship recipients

Farm Toy of the Month

Junior farmers will have plenty to love with February's red toy – A Farmall 1206 tractor with hay wagon and bales. It's a lot to haul, distribute and re-stack with this workhorse tractor/wagon ensemble. Reg-

ular price is \$41.71, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country

Store during the month of February and you can save an extra 10% by downloading the IFB Benefits app from Abenity OR showing us the app on your smart phone.

Supplies are limited, so we'll see you soon!



Previous Shopping Spree contestants

Year	Contestants	Beneficiary	Year	Contestants	Beneficiary
2002	State Senator Chris Lauzen State Rep. Pat Lindner	Holy Angels Food Pantry Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry	2012	State Rep Bob Pritchard	Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grove
2003	U of I Extension Leader Lala Williams Kane County Board Chairman Mike McCoy	Salvation Army, Elgin Marie Wilkinson Found., Aurora		State Rep Christine Johnson	Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2004	State Senator Steve Rauschenberger State Rep Linda Chapa LaVia	Salvation Army, Elgin Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry	2013	State Treasurer Dan Rutherford State Senator Karen McConaughay	Batavia Interfaith Food Panty Food for Greater Elgin Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
2005	State Rep Tim Schmitz State Rep John Millner	South Elgin Food Pantry Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps	2014	Mayor Jeff Schielke, Batavia State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry Elburn Food Pantry
2006	KC Board Chair Karen McConaughay KC State's Attorney John Barsanti	Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry PADS of Elgin	2015	State Rep Keith Wheeler State Rep Steve Andersson	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Spartan Food Pantry
2007	State Senator Mike Noland State Senator Linda Holmes	Wayside Cross Ministries, Aurora	2016	Dr. David Sam, President, ECC T.R. Smith, Chair, KC Ag Committee	Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry F.I.S.H. Food Pantry, Carpentersville
2008	State Rep Ruth Munson 16th Circuit Judge Patricia Golden	All People's Interfaith Food Pantry, Elgin Community Crisis Ctr., Elgin	2017	Senator Cristina Castro Dr. Christine Sobek, President, WCC	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2009	State Rep Keith Farnham State Rep Kay Hatcher	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Northern Illinois Food Bank Lakeview Pantry, Chicago	2018	Jeffrey Walter, Elburn Village President Theresa Barreiro, Kane County Board	Countryside (Elburn) Food Pantry Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2010	State Rep Randy Ramey State Rep Sara Feigenholtz	Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry	2019	Representative Jeff Keicher Senator Donald DeWitte	Hinckley Area Food Pantry Tri-Cities Salvation Army, St. Charles
2011	Mayor Tom Weisner Village President Sean Michels	Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grove			

Legacy

(continued from page 1)

awards throughout his 46-year agribusiness teaching and advising career. Following Dr. Hanson's talk, farm legacy planning support will be explained and offered by COUNTRY Financial Specialists and Planning Support Manager, Joe Buhrmann.

"Legal documents and adequate protection are a solid start to the conversation," stated Buhrmann. "Equally important, though is having the entire family take part in the conversation. Having a plan will ensure that what you want to have happen

will happen. At COUNTRY, our team of planning professionals have been helping farming families keep the farm in the family for over 50 years. What you've built with your hands, your head, and your heart is too important to leave to chance. We're excited to partner with professionals like Dr. Hanson and the Illinois Farm Bureau to help farm families collectively begin this important conversation and process."

Meetings are set to take place in northern, central and southern Illinois. The 2-hour seminars will each begin at 5 p.m. with dinner. Dates and locations are as follows:

- Feb. 25 – Hickory Grove

Banquet and Conference Center, Rochelle

- Feb. 26 – I-Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign
- Feb. 27 – Kokopelli Golf Club, Marion
- Dr. Hanson will be available before or after the event for media availability. Please contact acasali@ilfb.org or chris.coplan@countryfinancial.com if interested in scheduling an interview.

Registration for the events is now open to current and prospective IFB members and COUNTRY Financial clients. To register, visit www.ilfb.org/farmplanning.

Government Affairs Leadership Conference—Leadership of our Legacy

On February 18, 2020, Illinois Farm Bureau will hold

(GALC) at the President Abraham Lincoln hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

This one day conference will feature dynamic speakers, information, and training sessions on key issues impacting agriculture, public policy and organizational priorities.

Farm Bureau leaders will have an opportunity to keep up with current issues and network with agency representatives and elected officials. An evening Legislative Reception will provide atten-

dees the opportunity to mix and mingle with state elected officials representing Kane County.

KCFB invites any and all farmer-members and Professional members to join us in Springfield for this conference. The registration cost of \$75 will be covered as a benefit of your membership classification.

For Conference details, visit the event website at www.ilfb.org/GALC. To register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Hotel reservations must be made through the county Farm Bureaus.



its annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference

Illinois top state in soybean production

Illinois continues to top the annual crop production report estimate for soybean production, according to 2019 USDA estimates. Despite a tough growing season for most of the Midwest, Illinois farmers consistently produced strong soybean yields, all while remaining committed to stewardship and efficient crop management.

Illinois soybean farmers raised 532.4 million bushels of soybeans in 2019 on 9.86 million harvested acres with an average yield of 54 bushels per acre. Iowa ranked second in production with 501.6 million bushels raised on 9.120 million acres.

To learn more about ISA efforts and the soybean check-off, please visit www.ilsoy.org.

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*.

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KCFB to offer incentives to advocates

FB ACT is a tool for Farm Bureau members to drive policy agendas, focused on agriculture, and respond to the continuous threats posed by other interest groups and elected officials who don't share our same interests. As a member of Kane County Farm Bureau, you have the voice and strength to stand up for farms, food, and our future.

Now, Farm Bureau will reward you for your actions with the bumper sticker pictured below and a \$10 gift card for your first completed action request. Advocates who respond to 100% of requests during the year will get a spe-

cial prize at the end of the year.

- How to Join FB ACT:
- Text FARM to 52886
 - Visit the IFB App
 - Enter www.ilfb.org/fbact into your browser
 - Contact us at 630-584-8660

Be an advocate for Farms and Food, text FARM to 52886

Ways to Receive IFB Action Requests:

- Open a text from FB ACT that alerts you to contact your targeted officials
 - Receive a direct email from FB ACT the minute IFB needs you to act
 - Pick up a call from the IFB President laying out what action IFB needs from you
- Make your voice heard and join FB ACT today.



KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019

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

* Attendance by electronic means.

Kane County Farmer

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Welcome to the next level

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

- Regular members —
Jensen Partners Mundelein
Jacque Kramer Elburn
- Professional member —
Chad Hecht North Aurora

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

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB

- delegate opportunities
 - Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
 - Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
 - 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel
 - Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods
- *KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.



Chad Hecht (right) of Five Star Logistics became one of the latest "Professional" members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in December. Hecht stopped by the Farm Bureau office to learn more about how his business could serve the needs of area farmers and how he could learn more about the industry. He is pictured with KCFB Manager Steve Arnold discussing the additional information services that come with Professional membership, like a free subscription to IFB's *FarmWeek* newspaper.

If you or your business could benefit from the additional, information, education, professional development and networking opportunities offered by KCFB Professional membership, call Steve Arnold or Liz Polovin at 630-584-8660.

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Growing To Serve You Better

Farms, food and the environment Opportunities for teachers, students & FB members

Kane County Farm Bureau has a series of upcoming events to help students and teachers gain greater knowledge about food, farms and the environment that sustains us all.

38th Annual Ag Days, Tuesday & Wednesday, March 17 & 18

For over three decades, Kane County 4th grade students have gathered each March for Ag Days, a fun, fascinating expo that gives them knowledge about Kane County's considerable agriculture industry. This year's Ag Days, themed "Learn from Local Farmers," is in the Fieldhouse at Mooseheart Child City & School in Batavia, and will provide 4th graders a glimpse of farm life through a series of 20 to 25, 5-minute presentations on a variety of farm, food, health, hygiene and safety topics.

Students will learn from farmers, growers, 4-H and FFA representatives and a crew of volunteers about beekeeping and honey production, corn and soybean production, farm animal care, farm safety and the role of agriculture in everyday products.

For more information about 2020 Ag Days or to register, contact Amy Cook, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, or Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will

have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute I beginning June 8.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 6 days, Monday, June 8th - Friday, June 12th and Monday, June 15, from 8 am to 4 pm each day. Kane County Farm Bureau is the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours will reveal the essentials of research, production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields, while networking with like-minded peers.

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

For FB members & the Public

S.P.R.O.U.T.S. ...

The Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students brings volunteers into area 3rd grade classrooms to read an agricul-

ture-themed book to the students and share their knowledge about rural life and farming. The book is then donated to the school library. We are looking for volunteers for this fun April event.

Touch-A-Tractor ...

Kane County Farm Bureau's 3-day spring open house is a fun opportunity for "city folk" to see antique and new tractors and combines up-close, sit in seats, take photos and mingle with local farmers. Kids will enjoy the many farm-themed activities and games.

Plant a Pollinator Garden ...

We are excited about this environmentally friendly, stormwater nourished pollinator garden to be installed on Kane County Farm Bureau's lawn during Touch-A-Tractor April 17-19. We welcome volunteers to help plant a variety of native flowers and grasses in this Earth Day addition to the Kane County Farm Bureau's grounds.



Private well testing program offered in February

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water testing program in February 2020. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and this program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The program works simply as follows:

Step 1. Monday, February 24 – Friday, March 6, 2020

Pick up water test kits from the Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30am-4:30pm or from Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8am - 4:30pm, M-F. Payment is due for each test kit upon pick-up.



Step 2. Sunday, March 8, 2020

Collect the water sample.

Step 3. Monday, March 9, 2020

Return water sample to Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District.

Costs vary depending on which tests you have performed on your water. Three kits are available:

A. Basic Package (Nitrate Package) – \$45.00

Tests for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, soluble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

B. Pesticide Screen – \$80.00

Indicates the presence of triazine herbicides, lasso, dual or harness.

C. Metals – \$95.00

Tests for 23 different metals.

More detailed sampling instructions will be included in each kit and additional information on how each test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation's District offices. Testing will be performed by Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, a certified lab that has been nationally recognized for its work in testing rivers and lakes, and results are mailed directly to your home. We are able to provide these deeply discounted testing fees because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested.

Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 with any questions.

Touch-A-Tractor—ALL tractors welcome!

Touch-A-Tractor will be held April 17-19 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. This year we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vin-

tage. 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 to share, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve.

Help make Touch-A-Tractor a success.

Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 18 or Sunday, April 19)

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 _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

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

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Ag Careers: The Future is Bright

Ask most urban or suburban kids what a career in agriculture looks like, and they will most likely picture a farmer toiling in the field. The goal of ag in the classroom is not only to provide school children knowledge about what farmers do, but to alert them to the many career paths in agriculture in addition to the farmer in the field. The 2019 Illinois Agricultural Education Report was recently released and the outlook is bright: there are many more open positions than people to fill them. The report notes that school-based ag education is delivered through three interconnected “circles”: classroom/lab, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

Participation in all of which has increased.

Because of the need and the desire to increase diversity in the field, corporations and non-profits are educating urban and suburban kids about career paths in ag, roles that used to be filled by “farm kids” from traditional rural backgrounds. Hiring in agriculture has started to shift, with more workers coming from backgrounds in technology, sustainability, and environmental science. According to USDA-funded research, between 2015 and 2020 about 60% of available jobs in agriculture were filled by graduates who studied food, agriculture, natural resources, or environmental sciences. The industry is expected to hire more workers with business, education, and communications backgrounds.

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The strongest job markets are expected for plant scientists, food scientists, sustainable biomaterials specialists, water resource scientists and engineers, precision agriculture specialists, and farm animal veterinarians. Other roles such as e-commerce managers, agri-science educators, crop advisors and pest control specialists are also expected to increase.

Advanced degree or not, “left brain” or “right brain,”

rural or urban, “people” person or plant or animal person – there’s a career path for everyone in agriculture.

Illinois Ag Ed by the numbers:

- Ag education funding from the Illinois State Board of Education has increased to \$5 million in 2020 from \$48,000 in 1987.

- 664,534 pre-K thru 12 grade students were reached by Illinois Ag in the Classroom presentations and resources

in 2019.

- 34,285 6-12 grade students enrolled in at least one ag education course. Students learn about agriculture, food and natural resources, gaining skills in science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology.

- FFA membership is at an all-time high, with 19,099 participants.

- In the 2019-20 school year, there are 81 job openings for ag teachers, with 28 ag ed graduates.

Book of the month

Hatching Chicks in Room 6 by Caroline Arnold is a fun and informative book filled with colorful photos of children learning all about hens, eggs and chicks. Mrs. Best, the teacher, keeps chickens at home and brings them to school. The kids keep the eggs in an incubator, which teaches them about heat, moisture, and how the eggs need to turn to keep from getting stuck. They learn that the chicks will hatch in 21 days, and about the parts of an egg, including the membrane, air sac, albumen, and yolk. The book features excellent (egg-cellent?) photographs of each of these elements, perfect for kids and adults alike to

learn about eggs. Readers learn that shining a light through an egg to see what’s happening inside is called “candling,” and that the hole a chick makes as it starts to hatch is called a “pip.” Kids may be surprised that, at least for a short time, chickens have teeth! Or, well, an “egg tooth,” which falls off in a day or two after hatching. The chicks’ fluffy feathers, called down, give the just-born chickens an adorable look. The children continue taking care of them after they are born by making sure they have food, water, and warmth. Did you know that chickens eat small pebbles and dirt to help grind their food into

small pieces to be digested? Come check out *Hatching Chicks in Room 6* in our library, made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, with funding provided by the Bob Konen family.



Hatching Chicks in Room 6 by Caroline Arnold

Volunteers needed at Ag Days

This March, Kane County Farm Bureau and dozens of Ag Literacy volunteers will organize the 37th annual Ag Days at Mooseheart. Please consider being a part of this great tradition by volunteering your time on either or both of the days listed below!

For more than three decades, hundreds of Kane County 4th grade students have been gathering at Mooseheart Fieldhouse in March to learn about agriculture from farmers and representatives from local agribusinesses. This year’s event will take place March 17-18 and the

Farm Bureau would like your assistance with this Ag in the Classroom event.

Students rotate through a series of more than a dozen presentations on agricultural topics. This is one of the Farm Bureau’s longest running and most popular programs. Students will learn about crops, livestock, natural resources, farm machinery and more.

Call 630-584-8660 to sign up for specific dates and times when volunteers are most needed. A continental breakfast and complimentary lunch will be provided both days.

Your help is needed during the following times chaperoning groups of students & teachers or providing 5-minute agricultural lessons.

Set-up	March 16	Various times – contact us for more info
Tuesday	March 17	8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Wednesday	March 18	8:30 am – 12:30 pm

FB Foundation offers community service grants to FFA chapters

To recognize and encourage the continued contributions of students from Kane County FFA Chapters in the success of Kane County Farm Bureau programs, the KCFB Foundation offers incentives in the form of FFA Chapter Grants.

For many years FFA Chapters have assisted the Farm Bureau annually with its largest educational undertaking, Ag Days, where over 2,500 fourth graders gather at the Mooseheart grounds in March for farm-themed lessons. In recent years, individual FFA members have also been crucial to the success of the Farm Bureau’s Touch-A-Tractor and county fair promotions.

“We’re happy to be able to offer these funds to local FFA Chapters,” said Foundation President Joe White. “FFA does a lot for the future of agriculture and the success of young people in all walks of life.” He adds,

“Their participation in Farm Bureau programs helps FFA members build teamwork, leadership development, and presentation skills while representing their Chapter to the public – and we receive capable volunteers and exposure to the next generation of agricultural leaders.”

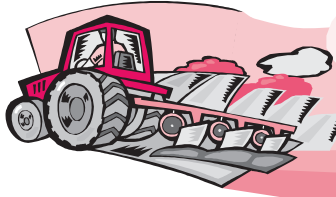
The Farm Bureau Foundation has selected four community service, education and promotional programs in 2020 which will promote leadership development skills in FFA members. They are AgDays in March, Touch-A-Tractor in April, the Kane County Fair in July and the Young Farmers Get Acquainted program. Participation in two or more of these programs will earn FFA Chapters a minimum \$250 Chapter Grant. Participation in all four will earn the Chapter \$400. Up to an additional \$100 will be offered

(continued on page 6)

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps

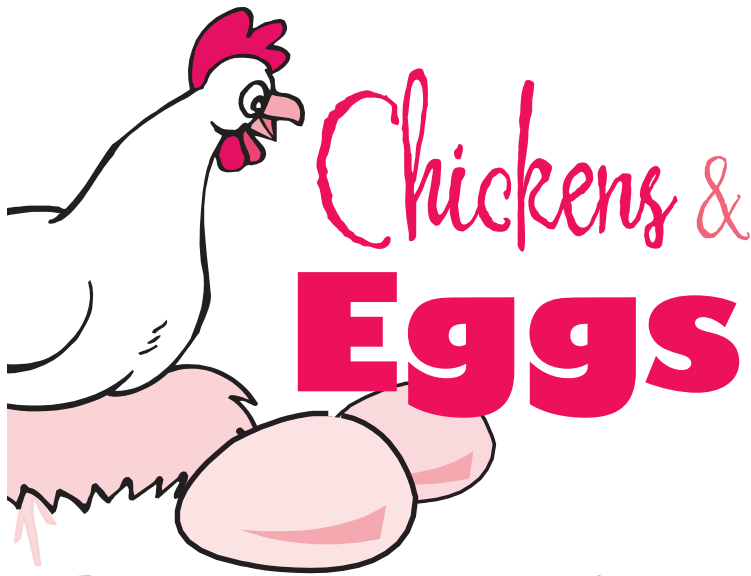
Bob Effner , CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles – Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001	Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750	Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434
Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110
Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155	Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852	Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500
Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324	Mehul Patel Geneva 630-492-5317	Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737
Kelly Landorf St. Charles 630-762-1328	John Baine Geneva 630-492-5324	Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694	Mike Malloy Geneva 630-492-5290	David Berreles Hampshire 847-683-2100
Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696	Victor Alvarado Elgin 847-742-0003	Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245	Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001	Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Deb Stob Geneva 630-208-0890	Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	

0119-513HO



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Chickens & Eggs

The Dino-Descendent on Your Plate: A History of Chickens

That chicken on your plate – or maybe even roaming around your backyard – is a descendant of dinosaurs. New research has shown that chickens are genetically closer to dinosaurs than other birds, and in the 1990s a fossil found in China showed a dinosaur that lived 125 million years ago was feathered.

Chickens have been domesticated for 7,000-10,000 years. Archaeologists believe the first domesticated chickens were kept not for eating but for fighting. Chickens accompanied Roman armies, who used them for their (supposed) fortune-telling abilities. A hearty appetite meant victory; chickens that refused to eat foretold defeat.

Chickens were, and still are, revered animals in some cultures. They have represented watchfulness, bounty, and nurturing. In an ancient Persian faith, the rooster crowing at dawn signified the turning point between darkness and light. In our culture, however, most chicken-related words and phrases have negative connotations: calling someone a “chicken,” “hen-pecked,” or running around like a chicken without a head.

When Europeans arrived in North America, they found an abundance of wild turkeys and ducks, but chickens were not plentiful. Chickens are believed to have come to the new world from Polynesians about a century before Columbus. Still, it took quite a while for chickens to be on every plate. The breakthrough that made them commonplace was the fortification of feed with antibiotics and vitamins, which allowed chickens to be raised indoors.

By the early 1990s, chicken had become the most popular meat by consumption. Today, they are one of the most common and widespread domestic animals, with a total population of over 19 billion.

Did you know?

There are a group of islands off the coast of northern New Zealand called Hen and Chicken Islands, which consist of a larger piece of land surrounded by smaller islands. Fittingly, the islands are noted for their bird life!

Chicken and the Egg word

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

ALBUMEN
 BEAK
 BREAKFAST
 BROILER
 CARTON
 CHICKEN
 CLAW
 CLUCK
 DOWN
 EGG
 FEATHERS
 FLOCK
 FRYER
 HATCH
 INCUBATE
 MEMBRANE
 POULTRY
 PROTEIN
 QUICHE
 ROOSTER
 SCRAMBLED
 SHELL
 TURKEY
 YOLK

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by February 17, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a chicken and egg themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

Did you know?

The color of an egg yolk depends on the hen's diet. If she eats yellow corn or alfalfa meal, the yolk is medium yellow. If she eats barley or wheat, the yolk tends to be lighter yellow. If she eats white corn meal, the yolk is often almost colorless.

The color of an eggshell depends on the breed of the hen. Hens with white earlobes lay white eggs. Hens with red earlobes lay brown eggs. Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshires, and Plymouth Rock chickens lay brown eggs. White Leghorns and Brown Leghorns lay white eggs.

Egg grades are determined by the inside and outside quality of the egg when packed.

The size of eggs are determined by an average weight per dozen (12) eggs. You can find a variety of egg sizes in your local supermarket or from neighbors with their own flock of laying hens.

Incubating Minds

Many classrooms experience the wonders of hatching chickens using fertilized eggs and a commercial incubator thanks to county Agriculture in the Classroom programs. The incubation process is relatively simple, taking only 21 days and providing students many opportunities to learn about embryology over the three-week period.

Here are five major factors students learn for successful chick incubation at home or in the classroom:

1. Temperature is the most

important factor to consider that influences the developing embryo. The perfect temperature is 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit but should not drop below 99 or go above 103 degrees.

2. Humidity keeps the egg from losing too much or too little moisture during the incubation process. Humidity is achieved by having plenty of water in the small containers at the base of the incubator.

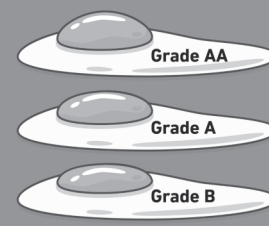
3. Ventilation is important to provide air circulation within the

incubator. Growing embryos need oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Proper ventilation helps with this.

4. Turning the eggs is necessary during incubation. This is when the closest observation of the eggs will take place. Keeping good records of the time the eggs were turned is helpful. Typically, eggs are turned 2-3 times a day from day 2 until day 18.

5. Cleanliness is critical. Wash your hands before touching the eggs in the incubator.

Egg Grades



Egg grades are determined by the inside and outside quality of the egg when packed.

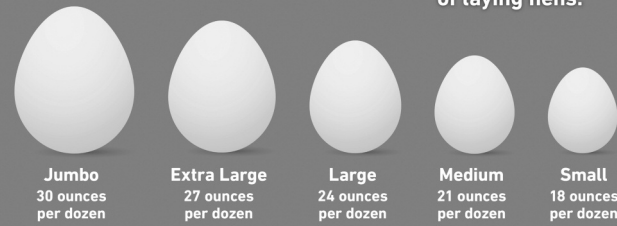
Grade AA: The egg stands up tall, the yolk is firm and the area covered by the white is small. The egg white is thick.

Grade A: The egg covers a small area, and the yolk is round and upstanding. The egg white is thick with some thin areas.

Grade B: The egg spreads out more, and the yolk is flattened. The egg white is much thinner.



Egg Sizes



The size of eggs are determined by an average weight per dozen (12) eggs. You can find a variety of egg sizes in your local supermarket or from neighbors with their own flock of laying hens.



A recipe, a craft—happy bellies

Eggs in a Muffin Tin? Yep!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray or butter a six-cup standard-size muffin tin. Meanwhile, sauté diced veggies of your choice (try onion, bell pepper, tomatoes, spinach). Add diced ham or sausage if desired. Whatever you use, cut it small so it cooks quickly and fits in the muffin tins. Remove from heat and divide among muffin cups.

Crack a dozen eggs in a mixing

bowl, season with salt and pepper and whisk as if to make scrambled eggs. Pour the eggs over each prepared cup and place in the oven. Bake until just set, about 12-15 minutes. You can store in the fridge and reheat gently during the week. Great for grab-and-go breakfast or lunch. Try them sandwiched between an English muffin, or break up with a fork, splash on some salsa and fill a tortilla.

Bird Feeder craft

Carefully cut off egg carton top and punch holes in the four corners.

Cut two pieces of string about one foot each.

Thread string through the holes diagonally and tie knots to secure.

Loop over a tree branch where you can see it, add bird seed and enjoy visits from your feathered friends!

February is ...

National

- American Heart month
- Black History month
- Canned food month
- Great American Pie month
- National Cherry month
- National Grapefruit month

February 1
Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

February 3
Feed The Birds Day (see our craft idea on this page!)

February 9
National Pizza Day

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 17
Presidents Day
Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 26
National Pistachio Day

February 29
Leap Day!

Congratulations

Arnold Lauber of St. Charles. His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives a comfort food themed product! Thank you, Arnold, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Blue eggs, baby birds beat winter blahs

The promise of blue eggs from a chirping cardboard box helps beat the winter blahs at our house this season. Oh, how some tales from our household could form a nonsensical storybook. Yet, even Dr. Seuss didn't put this color of egg into rhymes nor illustrate the century-old tradition of chicken delivery via the U.S. Postal Service, America's exclusive shipper of live chicks.

Now nine-year chicken farmers, our kids this year express the most excitement about selecting a breed that lays

blue-tinted eggs. The Ameraucanas on their list of laying chickens for the 4-H Fair will add a blue hue to the current shades of brown, white and Dr. Seuss-approved green eggs that currently fill our cartons.

Personally, I love the green eggs and remain fascinated with the delivery method of the baby birds. That once-a-year moment for us arrives in mid-February with a beloved postal delivery of chirpy 4-H chicks, a shipping phenomenon God made possible. Chicks absorb yolk at hatching, giving these little guys the nutrients to sustain their first days of life without food and water, like the conditions of a cardboard box.

Upon shipment, we track the location of that box, peppered with air holes for ventilation, as it travels from an Iowa hatchery to the local post office. There, we hear the chirping package in the back room before asking for it and see it making the postal

KANE COUNTY FARMER

workers happier. The package draws delightful curiosity from postal patrons, regardless of the line length. And, it makes the cutest racket all the way home in the minivan.

At home, the kids lift the roughly 30 chirping fuzzleballs from the box, where the birds shared warmth in that confine. The kids introduce each to food, water and the lamp-warmed, 95-degree environment they need in their first week. A few with unique markings will earn names right away. A couple may not make it, a fact of life. We sit for a while and watch the playful chicks, the groggy ones, and even the clumsy that toddle into the water troughs.

Within five to six months, I anticipate the arrival of the first blue egg to generate similar excitement to the very first egg the kids collected in 2012. I remember that our daughter, then age six, excitedly thanked the chickens. Then, she prompt-

ly asked for another to provide enough for a batch of chocolate chip cookies.

About the author: Joanie

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

March General Primary – March 17, 2020

TO BE NOMINATED*

- President
 - United States Senator
 - Representatives in Congress - All 18 Districts
 - State Senators Districts: 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58 (for 2-year term)
 - Representatives in the General Assembly - All 118 Districts
 - Sanitary District Commissioners/Trustees (Prairie DuPont Levee & Sanitary District Candidates file with SBE)
 - Circuit Clerks
 - Recorders (in counties with a population of 60,000 or more inhabitants)
 - State's Attorney
 - Auditors (in counties with a population over 75,000 and under 3,000,000)
 - Coroners
 - Regional Superintendent of Schools (vacancies)
 - County Board Members (Counties under township organization)
 - Judges (Additional Judgeships if required)
- Supreme Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
 Appellate Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
 Circuit Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
 Resident Circuit Court Judges, Vacancies will be filled
 Subcircuit Judges, Vacancies will be filled
 Source: Illinois State Board of Elections

TO BE ELECTED

- Delegates and Alternate Delegates (In accordance with approved Delegate Selection Plans)
- Precinct Committeemen (all counties, excluding Cook)

*10 ILCS 5/7-19 Ballot Order

President of the United States, State offices, congressional offices, delegates and alternate delegates, trustees of sanitary districts, county offices, judicial offices, municipal offices (municipalities with annual elections) precinct or ward committeemen.

QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY

Whether there is a referendum question on your ballot will depend on whether either a local board passed a resolution – or voters signed petitions – to place such a question on the ballot. Questions can be binding or advisory and can range from issues of land use to tax rates to establishment (or dissolution) of local units of government and more. You can inquire of your county clerk for information about question(s) that will appear on the ballot in your precinct.

Rules for the Road Motor vehicle rules for IL Farmers

Trucking regulations can be complicated, and farm exemptions compound that problem. It seems everyone has a different answer to your question. Illinois Farm Bureau is offering a two-hour Rules for the Road meeting at two locations that will focus on trucking laws specifically for farmers.

Come join us at:

• **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5** at Tettens Grain, 1684 Nachusa Rd, Dixon, to find out what you need to know. Please call 815-857-3531 or email

leecfb@comcast.net by February 28 to reserve your place at this morning meeting.

• **6:00 pm on Thursday, March 5th** at Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Road, Joliet. Please call 815-727-4811 to reserve your place at this evening meeting.

The two-hour meeting for Farm Bureau members will introduce you to new rules, remind you of the old ones that still apply, and help you figure out whether exemptions are available.

Throughout it all, you'll have the chance to ask those farm trucking questions that everyone has an opinion about, but no one can agree on an answer.

We will invite enforcement agencies you encounter on the road to discuss the rules and things they see most often from farmers.

Presenting the seminar will be Kirby Wagner who specializes in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau®.

Foundation grants (continued from page 4)

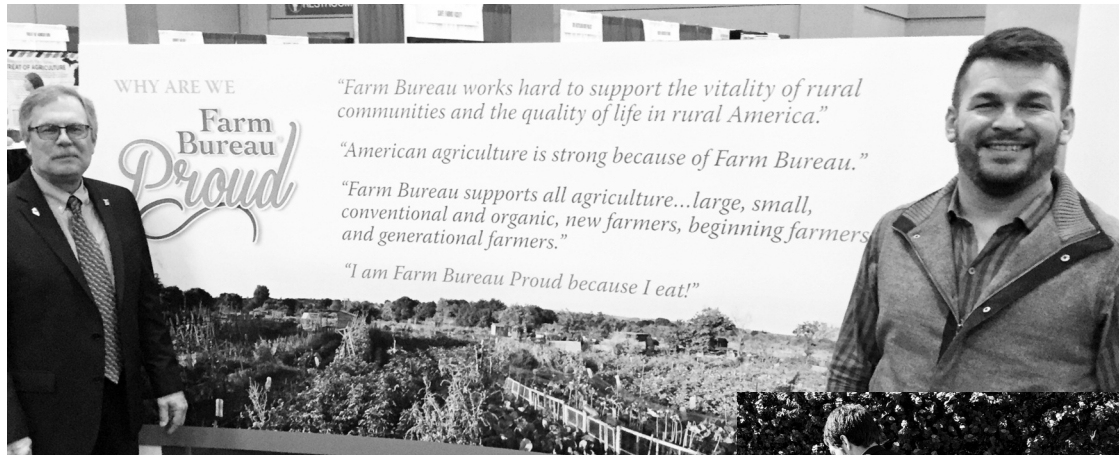
to FFA Chapters that complete and report a community service activity, bringing the potential award up to \$500 per FFA Chapter.

FFA Advisor Ryan Robinson said the grant will give his students the chance to do bigger projects in the community. "These funds will benefit us in a

big way," says Robinson. "This will be a great opportunity to complete a service-oriented activity, such as working with food pantries or sending care packages to troops overseas, which teaches the students good citizenship skills. If we qualify, we would use the grant funds to complete projects with higher costs, such as landscaping projects in the community."

The Kane County Farm

Bureau is a not-for-profit membership organization, representing the interests of local agriculturalists. The Bureau's Foundation provides funding to support agricultural, educational, and leadership development for the benefit of agriculture and local farm families. In Kane County, FFA has three chapters at local high schools in Burlington, Hinckley Big Rock, and Kaneland.



Scenes from the AFBF 101st Annual Meeting

Above: KCFB President Joe White and Directors Dale Pitstick, Nan Long and Vice-President Wayne Schneider attended the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, January 17-22 in Austin, Texas. Pictured above are White and Pitstick on the floor of the exhibit hall.

Right: Kane County farmer and IFB Young Leader vice-Chair Wayne Gehrke departs from lunch via a rental scooter to get back to the Convention Center for afternoon sessions. Scooters like this were common on the streets of downtown Austin where rentals were 30 cents per minute.



See you there!
 April 17-19, 2020 at the Kane County Farm Bureau

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- Propane
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 301 Industrial Drive, DeKalb
 (815) 756.8600

LEAPING INTO FEBRUARY 2020

By Alice Macha



February is here and it seems like a chilly, gloomy, forgettable extension of winter to many people. But the days are getting longer, the sun a little stronger and this short month is punctuated by days and events that celebrate the good in us and the love in our hearts.

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday: February 12. A day to recognize and honor our 16th president.

Valentine's Day: February 14 is the day for this sweet celebration. The traditional custom of exchanging cards, flowers and gifts between partners has transformed to a heartfelt celebration of all the people we love – parents, children, friends and co-workers. Cards and sweet treats are exchanged to brighten the day and bring a smile to all of our loved ones.

Random Act of Kindness Day: February 17 is a day to practice kindness and pay it forward. Be kind to a stranger today and brighten dreary February just a bit. Here are some ideas: Make a pot of soup for a friend or loved one for no reason; Find a Little Free Library and drop off some

books; Send "Just Thinking About You" cards for no special reason—other than to let loved ones know that you care; Pick up litter in your neighborhood or town; Offer to buy the coffee of the person in line behind you; Offer compliments to friends, loved ones, and even strangers; Try to smile more – a smile can help improve both your mood as well as a stranger's; Let someone get in front of you in line; Make a point of holding the door for those behind you; Tip your server really well on your next meal out.

President's Day: February 17. A federal holiday to honor all American presidents.

American Heart Month: Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. One in four American deaths are caused by heart disease. Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier choices. Make a difference in

your community: Spread the word about strategies for preventing heart disease and encourage people to live heart healthy lives.

Black History Month: Conceived in 1926 in the United States by historian Carter G. Woodson and initially the second week of February, a week chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14. A month to celebrate the accomplishments of black Americans, past and present.

National Bird Feeding Month: You'll get lots of complimentary tweets when you put out some seed for your bird buddies. Mid-winter is tough for backyard birds and your kindness will provide the energy they need to survive the dwindling food supplies and continuing cold of February.

And, 2020 is a leap year! This decidedly analog event is a calendar year containing an additional day tacked on to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical or seasonal year. Getting a whole extra day in a whole new decade is a reason to leap with happiness.

So celebrate February with friends, family and co-workers! Share your smile and heart with everyone around you and this leap year will be one to remember.

Property tax bills – a better understanding

By Brenda Matherly, Director of Local Government, IFB

Winter will eventually give way to longer and warmer days of spring. So when that happens, you can start to expect a trip to the mailbox that will have you walking back to the house with your tax bill in hand, and a few questions on your mind. One thing is clear on that bill... the amount due. But what else is included on the statement, and how is that amount determined?

All real property in Illinois is taxable unless specifically exempted by statute. The property taxes you and your neighbors pay contribute to the lion's share of revenue needed to operate the local units of government that serve your county and community.

Each taxing district goes through an annual budget process to determine how much money they will need to operate based on past experience and projections. An example of a taxing district that might serve you include, county, township, school district, fire protection district, library district, etc... As a matter of fact, Illinois ranks number one among all states as having the largest number of local units of government; 6994, give or take.

A large percentage of funding for these units of local government comes from your property tax dollars. The amount needed by each district is divided by the total Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) within the district's service area. This calculation determines the total tax rate for that district. The tax rate is stated in terms of percentage of the district's total EAV.

Once each district has calculated their tax rate, the county clerk combines those totals to create an aggregate rate. That rate is paid by you, the taxpayer, in relation to the value of real property you own. These individual tax rates are generally located in the center portion of the tax bill listed next to their corresponding taxing district. The tax bill is calculated by multiplying the aggregate tax rate by your property's assessed value. An example of an aggregate rate of 7.986 is provided at right:

Based on this example, a taxpayer with this tax bill who's property has an EAV of \$30,000 would have an amount due of \$2,395.

Your property's assessed value is identified and labeled as such on your tax bill. This value equals 33 1/3% of the total fair value of the property. The assessed value is commonly located in the right-hand column of your tax bill. Included in that column may also be the property's full value, the township and/or county multipliers and a list of property exemptions.

On your tax bill, you will also find the Property Index Number (PIN), each parcel of property in Illinois is assigned a unique PIN for the purpose of identification. This information is most often found in the top portion of the bill.

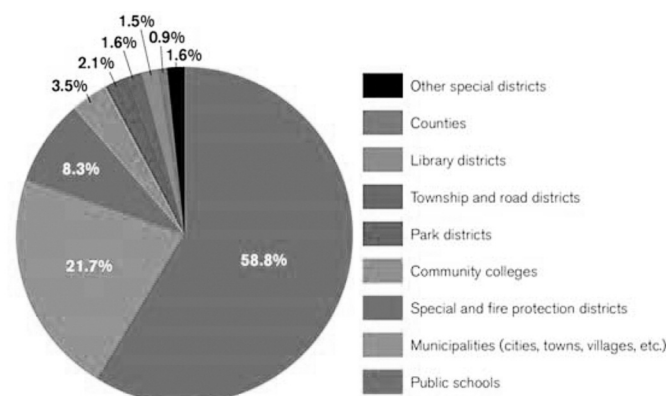
Along with the PIN, each property is given a tax code. This code represents the various taxing districts that levy taxes against your parcel of property. These taxing districts usually include the county, city, school district, park district, library (just to name a few), in which the property is located. All properties with the same tax code have the same tax rate and are subject to the same taxing authorities.

Additional information on your bill may include the name and address of your township assessor, the name of the township where your property is located, a legal description of the property and perforated installment slips to include with your payment.

For additional information and definition of terms related to property taxes, visit Illinois Department of Revenue's website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/research/publications/Documents/pios/pio-16.pdf>.

Example tax bill:

County	1.021
School District	4.468
Road District	1.490
Library District	0.219
Park District	0.788
TOTAL	7.986



Source: Illinois Department of Revenue

@Illinoispolicy

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

DAN COOPER has been named the Rep of the Month for December 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLFÆ, LUTCF. Dan has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services:

Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Dan's expertise help you! You may reach Dan at 630-466-9600, dan.cooper@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/dan.cooper/>. Congratulations, Dan!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month

December 2019. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6981. Zach's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with.

Congratulations, Zach!

SERVICES

Tree Pruning & Removal: www.ArborJoe.com. 224-789-8773. "Trees are Dormant in Winter, BUT Arbor Joe is NOT!"

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 a push-type reel lawn mower made by Sandwich Manufacturing Company, Sandwich, Illinois. Call Tom. 630-661-9293

HELP WANTED – WOODWORKER/PLAQUE ASSEMBLY. Custom engraving shop needs person for plaque assembly. Business hours 9:00 to 5:00, Monday-Friday. Prefer 20 to 30 hours weekly. Located East Side St. Charles. Call Bob: 630-377-7797

Looking to rent a small house for spring months: mobile trailer or farmhouse (mother-in-law apt) with garage/shed. Contact Arborist Joe. Call: 224-789-8773

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

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.

Attend a Rules for the Road meeting near you!
Mar. 5 • 10 AM – Tettens Grain, Dixon • 815-857-3531
Mar. 5 • 6 PM – Will County Farm Bureau, Joliet • 815-727-4811

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
 Farm. Family. Food.™

Contact your local County Farm Bureau for more information.

See page 6 for information about registering for these meetings.

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Victor Alvarado! Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December 2017. His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Place, Elgin and may be reached at: 847-742-0003. Thank you for your

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



Victor Alvarado

FB volunteer event at Northern Illinois Food Bank

Join the Kane County Young Farmers at Northern Illinois Food Bank Tuesday, February 11 from 6-8 pm to repack food for redistribution to local food pantries. FFA members from area high schools are invited too. We're especially interested in connecting with 18-35 year olds looking to get involved in community service or agriculture related events.

You'll help in the fight against hunger, make some new friends and learn about the good

things the Young Farmers Committee is doing in Kane County. Last year, over three tons of potatoes were packed, translating to 3,220 meals for our hungry neighbors.

No experience is necessary, just a genuine interest in farm and food related concerns. As this is a community service, and the fight against hunger can and should be waged by all, all Farm Bureau members, friends and potential members are welcome! Call the Kane County

Farm Bureau to RSVP at 630 584-8660.

At NIFB volunteer events, Young Farmers, FFA members and FB supporters repackage food for distribution to the Food Bank's network of food pantries. Last year they repackaged 3 tons of potatoes.

To join the Young Farmers and FFA Chapters this year on Tuesday, February 11 from 6-8 pm and provide local hunger relief, RSVP to the Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.



Touch-A-Tractor set for April 17-19

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 15th annual Touch-A-Tractor will be held Friday - Sunday, April 17-19. The KCFB Foundation invites Farm Bureau members to bring tractors of any size or age to the event. "In the past, we have invited members to only bring antique tractors to the event, relying on only one farmer to bring the modern farm equipment", said KCFB Manager Steve Arnold. "For 2020, we invite members to bring tractors of any size or vintage, as ALL tractors provide a unique experience from a kid's perspective."

KCFB members always bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It is often the first chance for parents and grandparents to get kids out of the house in the 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, bang on pots and pans, 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," said Arnold. "Be sure to add this event to your 2020 calendar."

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2020, a Winner's Choice 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 Winner's Choice Raffle benefit the college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.



Touch-A-Tractor - the name says it all! 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 17-19, 2020.

Vintage Truck Raffle 2020 - grand prize is a fun ride!

So many people make New Year's resolutions to lose weight, save money, and do more for their community. While we cannot help you lose

weight, we can help you to save money and do more for your community!

Our "2020 Vintage Truck Raffle" does both - you can save

\$\$ when you buy 5 tickets/\$50 (reg. price is \$15 each) and you are helping your community by providing funds for Ag in the Classroom activities and Agriculture related scholarships to local Kane County students.

Tickets are available NOW! Return the form below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA, MasterCard, or Discover. Visit www.kanecfb.com for more information.

The Grand Prize this year is a 1969 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck. Second and third prizes are \$500 each (food and fuel gift cards). As in past years, Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor, April 17-19, 2020 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Winning tickets will be drawn at the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale in July at the 2020 Kane County Fair.



The winning ticket in The KCFB Foundation's 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle will net the grand prize of this 1969 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck.

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

VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

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

2020 GRAND PRIZE
1969 CHEVY C10 PICKUP OR \$3,500 CASH

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

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

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

Name (print) _____
Daytime Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
#0000

2020 VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE

Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

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

Name _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

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

Visa MC # _____ Exp ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 108th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, April 16th, 2019, at 7:00p.m. for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2019, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

Thanks to our Donors...



The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received from December 15, 2019 - January 14, 2020.

Donor	Beneficiary
Wayne Schneider & Lisa Geisler	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Jon J. DeRaedt	Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
John Van Bogaert	Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry
Karl and Julie Kettelkamp & Paul "Griz" Stover	Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry
Craig & Angela Bradley	Feeding Greater Elgin



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

Thomas H. Richter

Scholarships & AITC programs

Lunches to Legislators

Would you like to have lunch with an Illinois State Representative or Senator? Kane County Farm Bureau's Lunches to Legislators (L2L) program gives you a chance to do just that! We need volunteers for this annual visit that allows Farm Bureau members to get better acquainted with legislators.

Farm Bureau staff will arrange visits for volunteers to district offices of Kane County's local legislators, (state

representatives and state senators) starting at 9am on Friday, March 13th. Equipped with boxed lunches, Farm Bureau policy books and farm and food facts literature, they'll express their appreciation for the legislators' hard work.

To volunteer to assist with this program, please fill out the form below and mail back to KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St Charles, IL 60174.

Name: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 Email Address: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Legislative District: _____ Congressional District: _____
 Do you have a relationship with a current elected official? If so, whom?: _____
 Are you willing to support Farm Bureau policies on state and national issues? _____
 Please provide a brief description of your agricultural background and views: _____

