

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. 89 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2024

23rd annual KCFB Shopping Spree Undersheriff Amy Johnson, State's Attorney Jamie Mosser to participate

Kane County Farm Bureau's 23rd Shopping Spree contestants will spring into action Monday, February 26th, 10:30 am at the Batavia Jewel-Osco on Randall Rd., our store host for the past 22 years.

This year's "contestants" are Kane County Undersheriff Amy Johnson and Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser. The public is invited to attend and watch these two public-spirited professionals race through the aisles and gather as many groceries as possible during the 5+ minute spree to restock the shelves of local food pantries. Each contestant arrives at checkout with multiple shopping carts loaded with groceries to benefit the food pantry of their choice. The shopping pair will be cheered on by Jewel-Osco store employees, Kane County Farm Bureau representatives, and shoppers and on-lookers. Johnson will represent Support Over Stigma of St. Charles. Mosser will represent Elgin's Community Crisis Center.

Follow Kane County Farm Bureau on Facebook, where announcements will be shared. Like the Facebook page and be sure to tune in for a Facebook live feed of the Shopping Spree on February 26!

23rd Shopping Spree contestants



Kane County Undersheriff Amy Johnson



Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser



Contestant Dr. Brian Knetl (second from left) prepares to checkout with shopping carts full of food gathered at the 22nd annual Shopping Spree in 2023.

Shopping Spree contestants have raised over \$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. Below is a partial list of contestants and beneficiaries.

Year	Contestants	Beneficiary
2012	State Rep Bob Pritchard State Rep Christine Johnson	Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grv. Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2013	State Treasurer Dan Rutherford State Senator Karen McConnaughay	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Food for Greater Elgin
2014	Mayor Jeff Schielke, Batavia State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2015	State Rep Keith Wheeler State Rep Steve Andersson	Elburn Food Pantry Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
2016	Dr. David Sam, President, ECC T.R. Smith, Chair, KC Ag Committee	Spartan Food Pantry Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2017	Senator Cristina Castro Dr. Christine Sobek, President, WCC	F.I.S.H. Food Pantry, Carpentersville Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2018	Jeffrey Walter, Elburn Village Pres. Theresa Barreiro, Kane Co. Board	Countryside (Elburn) Food Pantry Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2019	Representative Jeff Keicher Senator Donald DeWitte	Hinckley Area Food Pantry Tri-Cities Salvation Army, St. Charles
2020	Representative Dan Ugaste Senator Jim Oberweis	South Elgin Food Pantry Hesed House
2021	Representative Barbara Hernandez Senator Karina Villa	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry
2022	State Senator Donald DeWitte State Representative Suzanne Ness	Salvation Army Food Pantry D300 Food Pantry
2023	State Representative Matt Hanson WCC President Dr. Brian Knetl	Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Two Rivers Head Start Food Pantry

Apply for scholarships by Feb. 15

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is offering up to 20 scholarships to members or dependents of members pursuing college degrees. The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2024.

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 the KCFB General Scholarship, Ag Scholarships, the KCFB

President's Scholarship, Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, the John Buck Memorial Scholarship, AGCO Platinum Scholarship and/or the AGCO Parts Division/AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships. Details on schol-

arship requirements are available by calling 630-584-8660; visiting www.kanecfb.com and clicking on Getting Involved and Scholarships. Scan the QR code below to apply online.

See the list of scholarships on page 6.

Get an application and information for KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships by scanning this QR code or by emailing info@kanecfb.com. There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields.



The Agriculture industry offers hundreds of rewarding and challenging careers, with categories including: Agribusiness Management; Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications; Agriscience; Resource Development and Management; Parks, Recreations, and Tourism Resources; Packaging; Horticulture; Forestry; Food Science; and Fisheries/Wildlife.

February Featured Special – 'Fire sale' deals!

Beat the cold and stop in at KCFB for our annual hot FIRE SALE deals!! Select and limited boxed meat products on sale! Grab great quality meat and a lower price! Products available: Brats, Stuffed Pork Chops, Chicken breaded & stuffed with pepper jack cheese, Italian sausage, Brats and Pork Sausage Patties. Feel free to call ahead to check on quantities! The special is offered for to Farm Bureau members, Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau

KCFB awarded at Dec. IFB Annual Meeting

Illinois Farm Bureau's 2023 annual meeting was held December 2-5 in Chicago. The weekend yielded new policy submittals and resolutions, and a lot of socializing and idea exchanges for representatives from all of Illinois' 102 counties.

Kane County Farm Bureau was there and was recognized for leadership and innovation in three program areas: Advocacy, Ag Literacy and the New Horizon Award for innovation in programming.

The Advocacy Award recognizes county effectiveness and visibility as an advocate for farmers, legislative and regulatory

activities, Friend of Farm Bureau recognition, legislative visits, FB Act and policy development.

Ag Literacy Awards are given for projects and programs related to educating students and teachers about the source of food and fiber and the role agriculture plays in our economy and society including ag career exploration, teacher workshops, and other innovative programs.

The IFB New Horizon Award recognizes new and innovative programs that follow the priorities set by the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors and/or county Farm Bureau goals/priorities.

Program	Membership Group	Program
Advocacy	5	Legislative Meet & Greet
Ag Literacy	5	Little Lending Library Promotion/Dedication
New Horizon Individual	5	Volunteer Recognition & Dedication BBQ

KCFB President Joe White accepted the New Horizon award from Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan at the IFB Annual Meeting in December.



KCFB CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

- 2-3 Young Leaders Conference, Springfield
 - 8 KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm
 - 14 Valentine's Day
 - 15 KCFB Foundation scholarship applications due
 - 20-21 IFB Government Affairs Leadership Conference^^
 - IFB Statewide Legislative Reception
 - 26 Shopping Spree for local food pantries, 10:30 am*
- All events at Kane County Farm Bureau unless otherwise noted.
- ^^ Bank of Springfield Ctr., Springfield
- * Batavia Jewel-Osco, 131 S. Randall Rd.

State Rep. Keicher wants new approach to prevent roadside trash

By Shaw Local News Network
Reprinted with permission.

SYCAMORE – State Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, is working with officials in the 70th Illinois House District to increase enforcement and develop new policy proposals to prevent roadside trash from waste-hauling trucks, according to a news release.

The trash has raised community safety and environmental concerns after causing damage to farmers' fields and operations, according to the release.

"For years, I've been frustrated with the trash that's been windblown from waste haulers going from transfer stations to landfills through our communities," Keicher said. "Besides the litter problem, trash blowing off waste trucks is a safety hazard, and it is damaging local farmers' fields and equipment.

"Current law places nominal fines on the truck driver, but we need a new approach that incentivizes waste-hauling companies to transport trash more securely and support communities when cleanup is needed."

Keicher's district includes parts of DeKalb, Kane and

McHenry counties.

The current law gives nominal fines to waste-hauling truck drivers for trash blown off the trucks. The truck's company does not receive a fine.

"Trash blowing from garbage haulers is a major problem, particularly for our farmers," said DeKalb County Sheriff Andy Sullivan, whose department has stepped up enforcement efforts.

"Not only are farmers forced to invest extra time and resources to clean up the debris, but the debris, particularly plastics, is damaging their equipment. While our increased enforcement of current law has helped, it's going to require a change in policy to get this problem under control, and we appreciate the work of Rep. Keicher to help us solve this problem and reduce

the harm it's causing."

Kane County Farm Bureau Vice President Dale Pitstick, who is a farmer, shared similar concerns.

"On a daily basis, I see trash fly off waste trucks as they pass by my fields. It's very disheartening to see the litter covering the landscape," Pitstick said. "The trash is getting into our water supply, which is obviously concerning, and many of us have had to till our fields again in the fall to prevent damage to our equipment. The current law simply isn't doing enough, but hopefully bringing some more awareness to the problem can help make a change."

Keicher's proposals include HB 2419, which would give municipalities the ability to require waste haulers to add a protective chute. The second proposal is HB 2420, which would create a local government grant program to fund roadside cleanup programs when haulers fail to secure their loads.

The fee also would be reduced or removed for fully enclosed haulers.

Keicher said he expects the policy solutions to move forward during the legislature's upcoming spring session.

For information, visit RepKeicher.com.



(Left to right); State Rep. Jeff Keicher and Kane County Farm Bureau vice president Dale Pitstick (Photo provided by the office of State Representative Keicher).

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*.

Director candidates sought

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

nization in Kane County.

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

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

To suggest potential can-

didates for election, members should call 630-584-8660, or fill out the form below. Farm Bureau leaders will be soliciting members to serve on a 2024 Nominating Committee, to suggest candidates for election.

Return on or before Thursday, February 8.

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

College and Career Fair

Improving agricultural literacy involves more than elementary classrooms. It's a whole of K-12 education and a community outreach effort. On a chilly January day, KCFB Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator Kelcee Miller took AITC on the road to talk to high school students, teachers, and parents about opportunities and career paths in Agriculture. According to USDA there are 59,400 job opportunities for new college graduates each year in food, agriculture, renewable resources and the environment, and only 61% of those are filled by students with degrees in those fields. Miller shared these statistics, career opportunities and scholarship offering from the KCFB Foundation towards careers in Agriculture with Kane County High School students.



KCFB Board of Directors nomination form

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

Name (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Township _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Signature _____

Membership No. (if known) _____

Form completed & returned by: Name _____

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

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

Happy Valentine's Day!

TRELLIS

PURINA

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

St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

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

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

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

Private well testing program offered in Feb.

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water-testing program in February 2024. 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 26 – Friday, March 8, 2024

Pick up water test kit(s) from the Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30-5:00 p.m. or from the Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8:00-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Payment is due for each test kit upon pickup.

Step 2. Sunday, March 10

Collect the water sample.
Step 3. Monday, March 11 only
 Return the water sample to the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District.

Detailed sampling instruc-

tions are included in each well water test kit, and additional information on how the test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or the Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District offices. Test results are mailed directly to your home.

Kane County Farm Bureau and the Kane-DuPage SWCD

Save the Date!



Well Water Testing 2024

Purchase Kits: Feb 26 - March 8
 Collect Samples: March 10 only
 Return Kits: March 11 only

Questions?
 kanedupageswcd.org/kd/water-testing
 contact@kanedupageswcd.org
 630-584-7960 ext 3

Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

are able to provide this discounted testing fee because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number of water samples to be tested.

Feel free to stop by our office, 8:30 – 4:30 pm, M-F, between February 26 and March 8 to get a water test kit. For more information, call us at 630-584-8660.

Testing packages	Price
Basic Package Nitrate/nitrite, lead, hardness, magnesium, pH, manganese, arsenic, potassium, calcium, sodium, iron, coliform	\$180.00
Nitrate/Nitrite only	45.00
Coliform only	\$55.00
20 Metals only Aluminum, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, strontium, vanadium, zinc	\$160.00

Northern IL Farm Bureau has TWO great travel opportunities

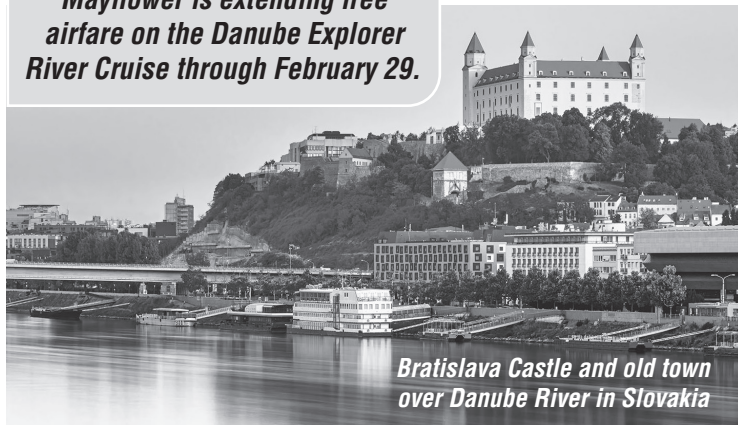
1 See three “Belles of the South”: Charleston, Jekyll Island and Savannah. Tour Dates: March 15 - 21, 2024. The beautiful Spanish moss-draped oaks, antebellum mansions, lush gardens, and ornate architecture will make you feel like you’ve stepped back in time! Enjoy southern hospitality while visiting coastal islands, historic plantations, and beautiful cities!

2 Our second travel opportunity will take you abroad. On the Danube Explorer River

Tour you will visit five countries: The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary and enjoy a seven night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard an Emerald Waterways Star-ship. Tour Dates: August 24-September 3, 2024.

Both tours are organized by Mayflower Tours and County Farm Bureau members from Kane, McHenry, Winnebago, Boone, Lake, Stephenson, Carroll and Jo Daviess are invited to attend either of these tours. Please call for more information: 630-584-8660.

Amazing savings – \$1,700 per person!
 Mayflower is extending free airfare on the Danube Explorer River Cruise through February 29.



The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is asking the community to join Presenting Sponsor COUNTRY Financial in sponsoring our 2024 Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Gala. Your sponsorship will help us fund agriculture related scholarships for high school seniors and college students; our Lending Library of ag-themed books; and our programs and materials for Kane County students and teachers.

Your name and/or logo will be featured all summer long at April’s Touch-A-Tractor, July’s Scholarship Awards event; the Gala, Fay’s BBQ drive-thrus and will be exposed to thousands over the year. Your generous sponsorship will help us continue our efforts for the future of farms and food in Kane County. Our sincere thanks to COUNTRY Financial for their generous sponsorship. Fill out the form below or call us if you have questions or would like to sponsor – 630-584-8660.



Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION EVENTS SPONSORSHIP

for the future of farms & food

We’ve planned a year full of fun events to promote agriculture in Kane County. Your support will help us reach our community. **Please help us by sponsoring ALL events for ONE price!**

MAJOR EVENTS



Touch-A-Tractor
 April 12-14
 Play in the spring sunshine, climb into massive farm machines, sit in the driver’s seat of antique tractors, pet farm animals and experience Kane County agriculture.
 — Reach 1,500 —



Scholarship Awards & Donor Recognition
 July 12
 Scholarship recipients and donors gather at Northwestern Memorial Field in Geneva, mix and mingle and enjoy food, fellowship and a Kane County Cougars ballgame at the height of summer.
 — Reach 100 —



Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Gala
 September 15
 Donors, farmers, ag professionals and others gather at The Venue at Goebbert’s in Pingree Grove for a night of good food and drinks, festivities and fun.
 — Reach 300 —



Vintage Truck Raffle
 October 10
 This year’s vintage truck is a 1947 Dodge half-ton pickup to be raffled at our last BBQ drive-thru of 2024 on October 10th at KCFB. A major fundraiser for college scholarships.
 — Reach 2,000 —

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

All sponsors for 2024 will be featured on sponsorship banners for all 2024 events, in social media posts and on our events website. All who respond by the 15th of the month preceding any event/activity will also be recognized in the monthly Kane County Farmer publication sent to the mailboxes of our association’s 14,000 member families. **Earlier commitment = more promotional opportunities!**

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP (\$3,000)	GOLD SPONSORSHIP (\$2,000)	SILVER SPONSORSHIP (\$1,000)	BRONZE SPONSORSHIP (\$500)
8 Gala tickets (1 table) – \$1,000 value Verbal recognition in events programs Dedicated events signage throughout the year 4 tickets to the Scholarship Awards	4 Gala tickets – \$500 value Shared event signage Logo/name on event website & program book 2 tickets to the Scholarship Awards	2 Gala tickets – \$250 value Shared event signage Logo/name on event website & program book Recognition in KCFB post-event publication and social media	Shared event signage Logo/name on event website & program book Recognition in KCFB post-event publication and social media

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Drive-thru BBQ’s
 12 bi-monthly drive-thru events at KCFB May–October
 On-site banner
Summer Ag Institute
 June 2024
 On-site banner
Kane County Fair
 July 17-21
 On-site banner
Harvest Sales
 September–October, 2024
 On-site banner



Drive-thru BBQ’s
 Reach 8,000



Summer Ag Institute
 Reach 75



Kane County Fair
 Reach 10,000



Harvest Sales
 Reach 1,000

Did you know the KCFB FOUNDATION...
 Has provided nearly 500 scholarship awards to local students seeking higher education or careers in agriculture, farm and food related professions
 Paid out over \$500,000 in tuition assistance on behalf of many students who remain a part of our local farm community
 Facilitated the supply of over 2,000,000 meals and 10,000 gallons of milk through local food pantries
 Received nationwide recognition for six community service programs as "Activities of Excellence" from the American Farm Bureau Federation
 Your support is crucial for the KCFB FOUNDATION to continue its tradition of excellence and further enhance its impact on education and service to the farm community.

Clockwise: Our popular Drive-thru BBQ’s throughout the summer, Summer Ag Institute for teachers, Harvest Sales in Sept.-Oct. and the Kane County Fair in mid-July.

Yes!

Sign me up for 2024 events sponsorship...

Platinum Sponsor – \$3,000

Gold Sponsor – \$2,000

Silver Sponsor – \$1,000

Bronze Sponsor – \$500

Friend of the KCFB FOUNDATION – \$250

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to:
 KCFB FOUNDATION
 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174
 Call 630-584-8660 to pay with Visa / MC / Discover.



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

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, “Are my current actions and daily decisions that I’m making, ones that my future self will thank me for?” Or, “Will the choices I’m making today get me closer to the person I want to be in the future or the goal I am working towards?”

Whether we like to admit it to ourselves or not, we have a lot more control in our lives than we give ourselves credit for. While we may not be able to control every single thing, we can control our mindsets, emotions, and daily actions. Such actions include things like the food we buy and eat, the social groups we surround ourselves with, whether we physically move and challenge our bodies, the knowledge and inputs we feed our minds, and how we speak to others.

Truth is, every single day the choices we make have an impact on our lives whether big or small or positive or negative. Life will

throw the occasional curveball and the storms will come, but it’s our reactions to those circumstances that speaks volumes about our character, values and mental toughness.

As I have mentioned in previous columns, I believe we have a personal responsibility of making a positive impact in someone else’s life and to do that it requires us to become the best version of ourselves possible. And how do we do that? By building a better product of ourselves, inside and out. And by doing so it creates an inspiration ripple effect and encourages others to go out and become better themselves by simply leading the way!

Nobody is perfect. We make mistakes and we all have our struggles. However, if we view those imperfections as opportunities and gifts to makes us better, stronger, and smarter we show others how to take negatives and turn them into positives and opportunity to learn and grow. When we start becom-

KANE COUNTY FARMER

ing more aware and intentional about our thoughts and actions it begins to raise our standards in almost every area of our lives and forge the path for others to follow too.

I believe we all have a moral obligation to set the best example we can for those around us. If we want to make an impact and leave this world a little better than we found it, it begins with us. Do the very best we can to set a good example each and every day no matter what the circumstances. Show others that even through setbacks, tough times, and other life curveballs there are opportunities to learn something new and grow. The people following in your footsteps and looking to you will thank you for leading the way.

Do the things today that your future self and those following you will thank you for and help mold you into the person you want to become!

Happy February!

Ag Literacy learning opportunities

Lesson-In-A-Bucket

Kane County teachers – have you been searching for new ways to inspire your students? Then you NEED Lesson-In-A-Bucket! KCFB has monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes, like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with

themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, pumpkins, and soil.

This month’s theme is all about Illinois History! Inside the chore bucket, K-5 teachers will find a classroom set of Illinois

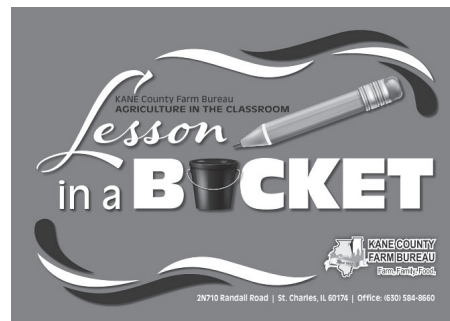
room. They address the Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

We hope you are excited about Illinois History and allow us to help bring agriculture into your classroom this winter!

Next month, students will learn all about soil and agriculture! Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve yours today!

Little Lending Library Spotlight

Every month our Little Lending Library has a special feature,



History Ag-Mags and a trip down memory lane with the Illinois History Ag-Venture that helps students apply their Social Studies and Literacy skills!

In addition, teachers will find History themed activities such as A Trip Through Illinois that are designed to increase students’ interest in Illinois and learn the names of the counties within the state in a fun way! Students will continue utilizing their social studies skills with the Abe Lincoln Timeline lesson which is designed to help students think about the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

Each of the 5 lesson plans lay out the learning blueprint including target grade, subject, length of lesson, objective, materials needed, standards, suggested readings (some included in the bucket!) as well as instructions from beginning to end.

As an added bonus there is a mAGic lesson about American history where students will learn about “the Father of the Peanut Industry,” George Washington Carver. Through this lesson, students will learn about this important innovator and the role he played in American history! The Multidisciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAG-ic) lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your class-



book, resource or all of the above! This is our way of helping connect with the community whether they are KCFB members or not. No matter who you are or where you are from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. It is our hope that through our (not so) Little Lending Library that we can help bridge the gap between consumers and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our young readers will be *John Deere That’s Who!* by Tracey Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner. In addition we will have copies of our Illinois History-AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure.

Supplies are limited and there are no guarantees so make like a tree and leaf the house today because it may be gone tomorrow!



Helping you protect what matters most



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



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Chris Regula
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerages
Aurora
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0002



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Miryam Cabrera
Elgin
630-762-1329



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer
Elburn
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Charles Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



David Berreles
Hampshire
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Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



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Sugar Grove
630-466-9600

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

1220-509HC_07683-5/2/2023





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Farm fresh to your table THANKS TO LICENSED TRUCKERS

Did you know that milk makes its way from the farm to the grocery store in under 48 hours? This is in large part thanks to dedicated truck drivers hauling milk across the state. This allows you to have the freshest milk you can in your refrigerator, and it may be more local than you think. If you want to know where your milk came from, check out the graphic below!

Transportation is a vital part of the agriculture industry. Without it, there would be gaps in the supply chain. From farm to processing to the grocery store, reliable transportation ensures that your family has access to the best products Illinois has to offer.

DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE VERY LOCAL.

Follow the steps below to find out where the dairy products in your refrigerator right now are from:

Visit www.WherelsMyMilkFrom.com

LOCATE YOUR CODE:

- Codes are usually printed near the top of the container or on the lid but is sometimes found printed on the label.
- The first part of the code will always be two numbers (between 01 and 56).
- The second part of the code (after the first two numbers) can be one to five digits long, can contain numbers or letters, and may include a dash.
- Add your product code to the website's dairy code search function to learn where your product was processed and packaged before being delivered to your local store. Commonly, dairy products are made with milk that is sourced within a short distance of the processing plant.

Milk travels from the farm to the grocery store in fewer than 48 hours. Illinois dairy farmers are committed to producing wholesome, nutritious milk and dairy products for your family – best of all, you are supporting local farmers when enjoying that tall glass of chocolate milk or a delicious scoop of strawberry ice cream!

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

WherelsMyMilkFrom.com

Snack haulers—craft 'em & eat!

Supplies

- 24 Rolo candies, unwrapped
- Frosting (white or in a color corresponding to your wafers)
- 12 wafer cookies
- 12 mini chocolate chips
- 36 mini pretzel sticks

Instructions

Line four Rolo candies in a rectangle shape laying on their sides with the top of the Rolo facing outwards. Pipe a dot of frosting on tops of each Rolo tire.

Lay one wafer cookie on top of the frosting dots so that it rests on the Rolo tires like the bottom of a truck.

Cut two squares out of another wafer cookie that are the width of the wafer cookie truck bottom. Pipe a dot of frosting in the middle of the end ¼ of the wafer truck bottom. Place one of the squares on top of the icing dot so that about ¼ inch of the wafer cookie bottom is showing. Place another dot of frosting on the top of the wafer square and top it with the other wafer square that you cut.

Pipe two dots of frosting on the front of the truck where the headlight would be. Press

two mini chocolate chips into the frosting, flat bottoms facing outward.

Pipe a few lines of frosting in the center of the truck bed. Place three mini pretzel sticks on the frosting. Pipe two lines of frosting (one in between each pretzel) on top of the pretzels and place two pretzel sticks on top.

Pipe one more line of frosting in between the two pretzel sticks and place one more pretzel stick on top of that.

Cover with plastic wrap and let sit out overnight for the frosting to harden.

Find this sweet snack hauler craft and other ideas here: <https://www.handmadecharlotte.com/60907/>



JOKES

What is a farmer's favorite Bruce Springsteen song?
Born in the USDA!

Farmers hear a lot of jokes about sheep.
They would tell the dog, but he's herd them all!

What farm animal keeps the best time?
A watch dog!

Why did the farmer call his pig "Ink"?
Because it was always running out of the pen!

Farming and transportation

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

- Achievement
- Deliver
- Double Clutch
- Drive
- Efficiency
- Equipment
- Family
- Farm
- Gear
- Grain Trailer
- Inspection
- Parallel Park
- Practice
- Required Tests
- Risks
- Skill
- Stick Shift
- Truck Drivers
- Written Exams

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by February 15, 2024 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

A sweet & salty snack

Celebrate Cherry Month and National Snack Food Month with this sweet, salty, and satisfying snack!

Ingredients

- 1 cup shelled pistachios
- 1 cup dried cherries
- ½ cup pretzel nuggets
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips

Directions

Combine all of the ingredients and mix together. BOOM. Too easy!

cherry chocolate pistachio TRAIL MIX



February is ...

Dark Chocolate Day	1	Random Act of Kindness Day	17
Groundhog Day	2	FFA Week	17-24
Tater Tot Day	2	Chocolate Mint Day	19
Carrot Cake Day	3	Muffin Day	20
Homemade Soup Day	4	Cherry Pie Day	20
Stuffed Mushroom Day	4	Sticky Bun Day	21
Chocolate Fondue Day	5	Chili Day	22
Pork Rind Day	5	Banana Bread Day	23
Frozen Yogurt Day	6	Tortilla Chip Day	24
Fettuccine Alfredo Day	7	Pistachio Day	26
Paczki Day	8	Strawberry Day	27
Chocolate Day	9	Pancake Day	28
Pizza Day	9	Toast Day	29
Cream Cheese Brownie Day	10		
Super Bowl Sunday	11		
Cheddar Day	13		
Tortellini Day	13		
Valentine's Day	14		
Almond Day	16		
Cabbage Day	17		

Month of:

- American Heart Month
- Dog Training Education Month
- Bird Feeding Month
- Hot Breakfast Month
- Cherry Month
- Grapefruit Month

Congratulations

Sharon Spena of Hampshire. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a fun prize! Thank you, Sharon, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau



Farms need licensed truckers

CDL? 10-4.

That three-letter acronym for Commercial Driver's License also stands for one of my biggest

KCFB Scholarships

Apply today for the following KCFB FOUNDATION scholarships. Scan the QR code on page 1 or 8 to get started.

The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 20 scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

President's Scholarship (1) \$5,000, reserved for the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation General Agricultural Scholarship from among high school seniors, will provide a minimum \$5,000 to be applied towards tuition.

General Agricultural Scholarships (up to 10 available) @ up to \$2,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline. Student must be pursuing higher education for an agriculture related career.

John Buck Memorial Scholarships (2) @ \$1,500, through an endowment to the Foundation and supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, the fund provides for two (2) \$1,500 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Students in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will County are eligible to apply.

Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship (1) @ \$1,000, established by the family and friends of the former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer to provide an annual award for a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

AGCO Global Women's Network (AGWN) Scholarships (2) @ \$1,000, for women residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. AGCO GWN scholarships are supported by members of the local chapter at AGCO Parts in Batavia.

AGCO Parts Division Scholarships (2) @ \$1,000, for students residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. Local AGCO Parts division employees in Batavia raise funds to support this scholarship effort.

AGCO Platinum Scholarship (1) @ \$2,500, for an Illinois resident and currently enrolled college sophomore, junior or senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field. Funds provided by special activities and projects carried out by our friends at AGCO Parts in Batavia.

General Scholarship (1) @ \$1,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline, pursuing higher education for a career in ANY field.

For more information on FOUNDATION scholarship programs, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Application deadline is February 15, 2024.

life achievements. Until two years ago, I had no idea how to drive a stick shift. Not even in a car. But our family farm needed more truck drivers, and I wanted to contribute. I stood determined to drive a 10-speed-transmission semi and learn to double clutch while mindful of a 42-foot-long

trailer behind me.

Semis arrived on our farm about 30 years ago, a need driven by greater crop productivity, bigger farm equipment and the desire for efficiency. Today, we require people with this licensed skill in the spring to deliver seed and fertilizer to planters in the field, in the summer to get product to the sprayer, in the fall to move grain from field to storage, and another nine months of the year to haul grain to market.

Given my serious lack of experience, I must credit the patience of six men with licenses on the farm who encouraged and helped me earn a full-fledged CDL about 14 months ago. Poor Kent on the first day I attempted to learn straight-line backing, and poor Dale, who

witnessed me crawl a hill in first gear from a standstill while fully loaded.

With the help of YouTube and excessive amounts of practice with members of our farm team riding shotgun, I passed all the required tests: the three written exams, the detailed underhood inspection, the skills course, and the drive. Per test requirements, I parallel-parked the semi and grain trailer, successfully putting all 18 wheels inside the lines from the driver's side. (Just in case I ever need to parallel park on a one-way street.) I aced offset backing with no pull-ups on my second skills course attempt, and afterward drove the city streets and interstate without missing a gear. Whew.

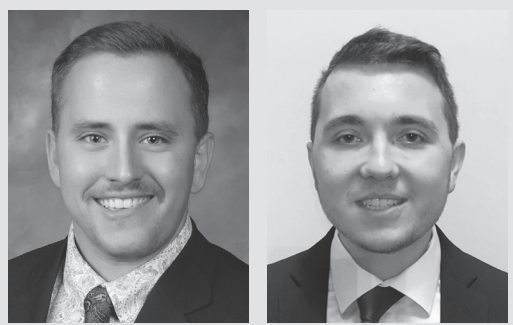
Most importantly, I gained empathy and respect for our team and other men and women who have mastered the skill. I now drive my minivan differently, understanding the risks that drivers of passenger vehicles can create in their sudden stops, haphazard lane changes and merges without consideration. All drivers should take a written CDL exam, if nothing more than to learn the length a semi needs to stop. To that, I would expect a loud and clear 10-4.

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

Kane County Young Leaders elect new leadership

The Young Leaders elected Brett Dienst as chairperson and Joseph White as secretary as their new leadership team the coming year.

Brett Dienst, from Maple Park, is the son of Mike and Lisa Dienst. He is a 2018 graduate of Illinois State University with a major in Ag Business. During his time at ISU he participated in Young Leaders, as well as Hoof & Horn and Collegiate Farm Bureau. Dienst completed six internships in college that varied across the ag business world. Dienst currently works at Compeer Financial as a Crop Insurance officer and was elected in 2022 to the DeKalb Area Pork Producers board.



Brett Dienst

Joseph White

cultural industry.

Dienst also serves on the KCFB Board of Directors as well as participating in Illinois Ag Leadership with an anticipated graduation date of March 2025. In 2023, Dienst was

awarded Top County Young Leader Chair for Membership in Group 5. As Kane County Young Leader Chair, Dienst hopes to continue growth in our county. He hopes to be a voice for our Young Leaders on the board as well as when he is visiting with growers and other ag leaders in the area. Kane County has been well known for having a strong Young Leader group and he wants to continue to establish that while hopefully growing in numbers and generating new ideas.

Joseph White, from Batavia, is the son of Robert and Julie White. He is a 2018 graduate of Iowa State with a major in Agriculture Studies.

When he is not busy farming

row crops with his father and grandpa, he works for Batavia Township.

In his free time he enjoys hunting, going to live concerts and sporting events, as well as spending time with his friends and family. In his 9 years with the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee, he has attended and assisted with KCFB events, projects, and has attended educational opportunities provided through Farm Bureau.

White is also a 2019 ALOT Graduate. This year he looks forward to working alongside Brett Dienst and collaborate with the group to see how they can continue to keep their Young Leader group growing and learning about the industry.

Register today for GALC

By Timothy Eggert, FarmWeek

Illinois Farm Bureau's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference returns Feb. 15 as a one-day, in-person event to provide members with updates on issues ranging from the livestock industry and water quality to carbon markets and fertilizer prices.

This year's theme is "Shaping the Future." The event will be held at the Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield. The popular legislative reception will be at 6:15 p.m. at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

"This is an opportunity not only for members to hear what IFB's legislative and regulatory

focus will be in 2024, but for them to be part of that process, learn from experts and staff and provide their input on what our approach should be," said Mark Gebhards, IFB executive director of governmental affairs and commodities.

Governmental Affairs & Commodities staff will lead three, 55-minute workshop sessions, while two guest speakers will each host one-hour talks.

Keynote speakers include Chris Stirewalt, an American politics editor for The Dispatch and a former Fox News digital politics editor, and Gregg Doud, who served as the chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade

Representative (USTR) during the Trump Administration.

Meanwhile, the first workshop session will focus on the Illinois General Assembly, livestock issues faced by the state, rules and tips about road safety and developments in conservation, climate change and carbon markets.

The second workshop session will feature strategies for communication, energy's impact on agriculture and ways county Farm Bureaus can partner with local government.

The third workshop session will cover updates from the IFB ACTIVATOR, programs and services aiding the livestock industry, the Adopt-a-Legislator

program, water policy and the American Rescue Plan Act.

An additional session will include a presentation about fertilizer and input prices from a panel of American Farm Bureau Federation staff.

"The event ends with the state legislative reception, which is a unique opportunity for our members to speak directly to their elected representatives and to tell their story. That's the power of Farm Bureau," Gebhards said.

Members can register for the conference by contacting their county Farm Bureau.

To sign up, call Steve or Liz at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.

FEBRUARY

22ND AT 9 AM

22ND AT 6 PM

23RD AT 9 AM

27TH AT 10 AM

28TH AT 6 PM

WASHINGTON/PERRY COUNTIES

MASSAC COUNTY

WAYNE COUNTY

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

WILL COUNTY

MARCH

5TH AT 6 PM

5TH AT 10 AM

7TH AT 6 PM

13TH AT 6 PM

14TH AT 6 PM

19TH AT 10 AM

20TH AT 9 AM

JASPER COUNTY

SANGAMON COUNTY

JERSEY COUNTY

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DEKALB COUNTY

PEORIA COUNTY

ADAMS COUNTY

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members

REGISTRATION OPENS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.



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

Anthony Coldagelli Hampshire

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.

Young Farmers Euchre Tournament March 8th

The 19th annual Young Farmers Euchre Tournament promises a competitive, fun evening for young farmers 18-35 from Kane, Winnebago-Boone, McHenry, DeKalb and Kendall-Grundy counties.

The evening will begin at Kane County Farm Bureau at 6:00pm with pizza and snacks, and then the cards will be dealt and the competition starts at 6:30. A \$5.00 buy-in gets pizza snacks, and free lessons. No experience or partner necessary – just an appetite for fun and competition with peers. The

winners of this highly competitive event will take home the coveted title of Euchre Champs 2024.

Those interested in becoming a Kane County Young Farmer or a Professional Member, ages 18-35, please contact Steve Arnold or Kelcee Miller by calling 630-584-8660 or emailing us at aitc@kanecfb.com. Or please feel reach out and ask any current Young Farmer member!

Friday, March 8th, 6:00 pm at Kane County Farm Bureau

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 December 15, 2023 – January 18, 2024.



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

Donor	Program	Beneficiary
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp & Paul "Griz" Stover	Harvest for ALL	Elburn/Countryside Food Pantry
Roger & Theresa Biddle	KCFB Foundation	
COUNTRY Financial	Presenting Gala Sponsor	2024 Foundation EVENTS

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

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

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Orazio Difruscolo**, who has been named the December Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Orazio is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and

long-term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696 or Orazio.Difruscolo@CountryFinancial.com or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Orazio.Difruscolo/>. Congratulations, Orazio!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to **Victor Alvarado**! Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December 2017. His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl, Suite 250, Elgin and may be reached at: 847-742-0003.

Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Victor Alvarado

Plus Membership winner

Congratulations this month to **Joel Schrock** of St. Charles, the February 2024 winner of our Plus (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

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

offer each month.

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

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

WANTED

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

Love to sew? Looking for a creative team member to join our St. Charles custom sewing studio. Duties would include preparing fabric for production, tracing and cutting patterns, design embellishment, and sewing. Sewing experience preferred. Flexible, part-time hours to fit your schedule. Perfect for retiree, home maker, or student. Training on our equipment is provided. Call Susan at 925-336-0934 for further information.

Farms, food & the environment Spring and summer events for teachers, students & the public

Teacher Institute Day, March 1, 2024 – Kane County Farm Bureau, St. Charles

This institute day across Kane County provides an opportunity for Kane County teachers to learn more about local agriculture, farms and food and how to incorporate that knowledge into classroom lessons. Join us at the Farm Bureau from 8:00am to 3:00pm for "The Scoop on Soil & Soil Health Activities" to learn more about FREE classroom resources and lesson plan ideas, and to hear from local experts all about soil and other resources! Register through the Kane County Regional Office of Education at <https://kaneroe.org/institute-day/> CEU's/CPDU's are available.

Summer Ag Institutes

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

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days starting in June. Kane County Farm Bureau will be the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours will

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

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

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 agriculture-themed book to 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 activity, traditionally conducted in April. We encourage 3rd grade teachers, and volunteers, to contact our office at 630-584-8660 to register those interest in participating. Ask for Kelcee.

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. Touch-A-Tractor is scheduled for April 12-14 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau. Groups and organization that have traditionally provided in-person lessons to 4th graders at the Farm Bureau's "AgDays Expo" at Mooseheart will be issued an invitation to attend Touch-A-Tractor to set-up informational booths and provide education about farms and farmers to families and the public.

IAA Foundation Scholarships Now Available

The IAA Foundation endeavors to enhance the future of agriculture by providing college scholarships to Illinois Farm Families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, spouses, or their children who major in agriculture, agribusiness, or an ag-related course of study. The IAA Foundation is pleased to administer scholarships on behalf of agricultural partners and families who wish to support future generations and help assure a well-qualified and professional agricultural workforce in Illinois while supporting farming communities.

The application period ends February 15, 2024, no exceptions. Find more information and apply online at <https://iaa-foundation.org/>

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.



Left to right, Young Farmers, Scott Rocha of Elburn, Kelcee Miller of DeKalb, and Chairman Brett Dienst of Maple Park smile for a quick picture during KCFB's Annual Holiday Party at Mio Modo in St. Charles where the KCFB Board of Directors and KCFB staff enjoyed a family-style dinner meal to celebrate a successful 2023 and to kick-off the New Year!

Touch-a-Tractor set for April 12-14

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 18th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will be held Friday - Sunday, April 12-14 on the lawn at KCFB. Cooped-up kids get out of the house and have a blast at this farm-to-city event bringing the best in Kane County farming to the public.

Kids scramble to touch antique tractors and even sit in the seats of massive farm machinery they typically only see from the road. They can ask questions of Kane County farmers, 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. Parents tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2024 calendar.

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

This year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier!

Touch-A-Tractor will again feature "Story Time", with

volunteers reading farm-themed books to children at the top of every hour on Saturday and Sunday. Books featured will be from the Farm Bureau's indoor Ag Literacy Library, a collection of farm themed books for all ages located in the lobby of the KCFB on Randall Road, or its outdoor Little Lending Library. Books in both indoor and outdoor locations are available for free check-out or loan to Farm Bureau members, area teachers and the public. Both libraries are supported by the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen.

Along with tractors and farm equipment for display, Farm Bureau also welcomes groups and organizations to set-up informational booths that provide education about farms and farmers to families



Touch-A-Tractor – the name says it all! Dozens of hands-on activities, tractors and loads of fun engage the whole family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 12-14.

Farm toy of the Month

February's cooped up kids will love this toy of the month!

The Tomy Big Farm John Deere Outdoor Adventure Set is packed with everything needed to enjoy the outdoors. The 1/16 scale hiker and his black lab buddy can use the John Deere Gator with working tailgate to haul backpack, hiking poles, tent and other necessities on their camping adventures. Recommended for ages 3 and up.

Regular price is \$37.45, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of February and receive a 10% discount on your Tomy Big Farm Outdoor Adventure Set. Supplies are limited, so hike on in soon!



Vintage Truck Raffle tickets available

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

The 2024 Grand Prize is a 1947 Dodge pickup truck. As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor in April 2024 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$20 each or 3/\$50. The truck runs and drives well. Perfect to promote a farm stand or pumpkin patch, as is for car shows or a great style for a resto-mod. Ticket sales help provide college scholarships and Ag Literacy programs for Kane County students.

Return the form

below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA or MasterCard.

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



Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____

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

___ Visa ___ MC ___ Discover _____ Exp _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date _____

and the public, or to arrange for farm themed games, activities or learning. The event attracts 1,000-1,500 visitors over the 3-day weekend.

Volunteers willing to assist with Story Time or other Touch-

A-Tractor activities, and groups that would like to participate are encouraged to contact Steve or Kelcee at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660, or to return the form at bottom of this page.

19th Annual
Young Farmers Euchre Tourney
 For Young Farmers in IFB Districts 1 & 5
Friday, March 8th, 6:00pm
 Kane County Farm Bureau
 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles
 (6:00 pizza/lessons/socialize, 6:30 start)

For Young Farmers and anyone 18-35 years old in Northern Illinois with an interest in agriculture, farms and food.

Cash Prizes
 Lessons
 Refreshments
 B.Y.O.B.

\$5 entry fee
 Cash prizes
 Pizza, Snacks, & Sodas
 Euchre refresher lessons

RSVP to Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or alic@kanecfb.com, Brett Dienst (815) 693-6888 or Joseph White (630) 878-1726 by Thursday, March 7th

KCFB FOUNDATION scholarships!

Application deadline Feb. 15th. See page 1 for details and page 6 for a list of scholarships.

Scan the code at right to apply today!

Touch-A-Tractor – ALL Tractors, Farm Equipment and Farm & Food Education Welcome!

We will be hosting Touch-A-Tractor April 12-14, 2024 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau! This year we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are wel-

come – the more, the merrier! If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, have tractors or equipment to "loan", or activities/learning 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 (Friday, April 12; Saturday, April 13 or Sunday, April 14)

___ I would like to bring the following farm equipment, vintage truck, educational display or livestock to Touch-A-Tractor for the education and enjoyment of your guests.

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

SAT. _____ AM / PM • SUN. _____ AM / PM

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/display/livestock. For truck or 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