

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. 84 NO. 1 JANUARY 2019

Volunteer efforts recognized at IAA Annual Meeting

The Kane County Farm Bureau was once again recognized for its achievements during the annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau held in Chicago December 1-4, 2018.

As part of its Annual Meeting, Illinois Farm Bureau presents Program and Project awards in recognition of outstanding county Farm Bureau volunteer efforts throughout the year. As member of Membership Group V, (County Farm Bureaus with 5,516 and more members), Kane County received multiple awards, including the newly created New Horizon award for Pillow Pets Fundraising.

The county was also awarded Most Outstanding Project recog-

nition in two program areas: Pillow Pets Fundraising and the development of a Farm & Food Trivia Giant Jenga game.

Conference-goers enjoyed seminars and educational macro

The meeting also featured an exhibit hall, ice cream social, silent and live auctions featuring many unique items, including a KFCB supplied "Starry Nights" quilt, courtesy of

Delegates to establish public policies on issues of local, state, and national importance to Illinois farmers.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a

non-profit, membership organization controlled by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau.

KFCB Program Awards 2018			
Young Farmers	Gold	Communication & Promotion	Gold
Ag Literacy	Gold	Foundation	Gold
Commodities & Marketing	Gold	Local Affairs	Silver
Multi-County	Bronze	Legislative/Political Process	Silver
Health & Safety	Gold	Policy Development	Silver
Member Relations	Gold		
Policy Development	Gold		

and micro-talks on topics ranging from Industrialized Hemp to The Influence of Cover Cropping on a Watershed Scale to Understanding Food Labels.

Bonnie White; Tailgates & Trivia themed fundraiser; keynote speaker Captain Mark Kelly; and the annual session of the organization's Voting

Kane County Farm Bureau President Joe White, accepts a recognition plaque awarded for achievements during 2018. The award was presented during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs.



CHS Elburn tops 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE donor list

The 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE recently received its largest donation to date, from CHS Elburn. The contribution was equivalent to 555.55 gallons of milk!

The agricultural supply and services co-operative, with its largest local facility located on Meredith Road in Maple Park, was an early adopter of the KFCB Foundation's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort in 2009. Since that first "gift," it has been a loyal and reliable annual contributor.

When contacted about the donation, CHS Elburn General Manager Phil Farrell said, "We are pleased to be a part of this effort to provide hunger relief through the 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE. Our members and our staff have always sought to assist in these Farm Bureau sponsored community

service projects."

CHS Elburn harvests the company's corn and soybean

the Countryside Food Pantry in Elburn, helping provide milk and dairy products for those in need.

Since announcing the "Challenge", Farm Bureau has had positive response to the initiative from members and the community, according to Executive Director Steve Arnold. "Food pantries, in particular, have complimented the manner in which the program seeks to minimize the challenges of space, or refrigeration, or staffing that many face with unexpected donations of perishable products", said Arnold.

In addition to the recent donation from CHS Elburn, the equivalent of 4,464 gallons of donations has been received, which includes a 1,000 gallon "match" from the Kane County Farm Bureau. A challenge

issued by Arnold, as Executive Director of the Foundation, would provide an additional 500 gallons based on contributions to the effort from local Farm Bureau leaders.

The 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE is off to a great start, but support and help is still needed to reach the ultimate goal. Groups, clubs and local businesses are encouraged to take up the CHALLENGE. For more information on how to issue a "Challenge" to a group, for promotional materials and milk collec-

tion "jugs" for patrons of your place of business, or for a form to "match" contributions from a group or club you belong to, contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.



CHS Elburn General Manager, Phil Farrell, presents a check to KFCB Foundation Director, Steve Arnold representing the cooperatives' commitment to hunger relief via the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE.

test plots each year and directs the proceeds to our not-for-profit Foundation to benefit the Elburn Food Pantry through the Harvest for ALL program. For the 2018 harvest, the proceeds, \$1,300.94 will accrue to the 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE, and will benefit the patrons of

tions of perishable products",

KFCB CALENDAR JANUARY 2019

- 1 Office closed for holiday
- 3 Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 9-11 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, & Organic Conference, Springfield, IL
- 9 IFB Region 2, Pontiac
- 11-16 AFBF Annual Meeting, New Orleans
- 22 FFA/Young Farmer's Acquaintance Day, NIFB, 5-7pm
- 25, 26 2019 IFB Young Leader Conference, East Peoria, IL
- 31 Food for Thought

JANUARY FEATURED PRODUCT

Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast



The special this month is 3 individually wrapped 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the most tender part of the pork loin. It is designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°F, sliced thin and used as an entrée. The roast is netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$20 to Farm Bureau members, Non-members pay \$23. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

While Supplies last! Milk Chocolate Covered Peanuts 12 oz can, FB member price is \$5.50. Non-members pay \$6.50 | Honey Roasted Pecans 8.5 oz can, FB member price is \$9.00. Non-members pay \$10.00 | Peanuts, Skinless 16 oz can, member price is \$5.00. Non-members pay \$6.00. PLUS Status members receive a 5% discount on the member price!

10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE
Support local farms & our neighbors in need.



**4,464
gallons –
December
14, 2018**

Contributions as of December 14 totaled 4,464 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries – including pledges for matching contributions! To join us on our way to our 10,000 gallon goal, visit www.kanegives.org/10000. For a form to "match" contributions from a group or club you belong to, or to challenge other groups or organizations, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Check out January's Farm Toy of the Month—page 2

Illinois Farm Bureau members set policy during annual meeting

Delegates and members attending the 103rd Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Annual Meeting capped a frustrating year with some good news: U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a ceasefire in their escalating trade war.

Trump agreed not to raise

tariffs further while trade negotiations continue while Xi agreed to purchase more U.S. agricultural, energy and other products from the U.S.

But the armistice wasn't the only highlight for the more than 1,820 members, staff and affiliates who attended the meeting.

In addition to the opportunity

to listen to keynote speaker Captain Mark Kelly and receive county and Young Leader awards, members also enjoyed a visit from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and set policy for the coming year.

"I certainly think one of the highlights of this year's meeting

was Secretary Sonny Perdue's presence and his comments to our delegates about trade," said Richard Guebert Jr., president, IFB. "We were very fortunate because he wanted to have lunch with a small group of our leaders – members who grow different types of commodities – and they all had an opportunity to ask their questions and talk about what's most important to them."

Perdue, who was appointed Secretary of Agriculture in 2017, encouraged IFB members to work with Congressional leaders to urge them to ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement and pass the 2018 farm bill.

"I always appreciate how sincere and informative the Secretary is when he speaks to our leaders and members," Guebert said. "He knows the issues and he doesn't hesitate to answer any farmer's questions, and I certainly appreciate that."

Voting delegates for the meeting, totaling 343, also debated and decided on policy for the coming year. While a full range of topics were discussed, issues including the motor fuel tax, recreational marijuana and school security occupied the majority of delegates' time.

Delegates also discussed policy which provided support for the medicinal marijuana industry, which is currently being reviewed in a pilot program in Illinois.

"Another issue as our state continues to try to get a handle on its fiscal situation is the motor fuel tax," said Mark Gebhards, executive director, Governmental Affairs and Commodities. "Delegates changed the policy to allow the organization to support a 'moderate' increase in the motor fuel tax, giving us some leeway to work with the new administration as they look at amending this tax."

Delegates also spent time discussing school safety and security, an issue which may not traditionally be considered a Farm Bureau topic.

"School safety is an important issue, and unfortunately, one that I know we all wish we didn't have to talk about," Gebhards said. Delegates crafted policy to underscore the importance of school security but didn't go so far as to support arming teachers. Delegates also passed a sense of the delegate body resolution supporting a solution to ongoing trade disputes.

Sense of the delegate body resolution

A recent Illinois Farm Bureau survey completed by just under 2500 members in mid-November reflected a less than optimistic outlook for 2019 combined with growing concern over the loss of the Chinese market for soybeans.

Those key themes motivated IFB delegates to take action on a sense of the delegate body resolution at the IAA Annual meeting in Chicago in early December. The Sense of the Delegate Body resolution "called upon Congress and the Administration to seek productive resolution to current trade

disputes and enter into new trade agreements that have a lasting positive economic impact for all parties involved."

Delegates unanimously approved the resolution just prior to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue arriving to address the 343 delegates. Secretary Perdue thanked the farmers for understanding "the long game" in the U.S. trade dispute with China. He also assured members a Farm Bill will get passed before the end of the year.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Vice President Brian Duncan and 16

farmer leaders presented the resolution and discussed impacts of trade policy on Illinois farmers during a small luncheon meeting following the Secretary's address.

"Illinois farmers should feel proud of the relationship Illinois Farm Bureau leaders have established with Secretary Sonny Perdue over the past year and a half. We took an opportunity during our major policy meeting to share our members' concerns and to thank the Secretary for being a strong voice for agriculture," Guebert said.

Farm Bureau applauds new Clean Water Rule proposal

State Farm Bureau presidents from across the nation attended the signing of the proposed Clean Water Rule at the Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington on December 11. The rule was released by Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

"Farmers and ranchers work every day to protect our nation's waterways and drinking water. For more than five years we have advocated for a new water rule that protects clean water and provides clear rules for people and communities to follow" said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "This new rule will empower farmers and ranchers to comply with the law, protect our water resources and productively work their land without having to hire an army of lawyers and consultants.

"We want to protect land and water in the communities where

we live and work. Clean water is our way of life. Preserving our land and protecting our water means healthy places to live, work and play. We believe this new Clean Water Rule is rooted in common-sense. It will protect our nation's water resources and allow farmers to farm.

"We appreciate the months of hard work that the administration, especially the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, invested in making sure the new Clean Water Rule was done right. Unlike the 2015 WOTUS rule, this new rule protects our resources, respects the law and provides greater clarity so the agencies and the public can identify regulated federal waterways. We will further analyze this new rule in the coming days and will suggest further refinements during the comment period."

Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding Clean Water Rule

proposal, said "As a farmer I should be able to look at my land and know what is and is not a Water of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act. The previous regulatory patchwork created uncertainty, this proposal establishes national consistency.

"Farm Bureau supports common-sense regulations that protect and improve water quality on our nation's farms and ranches. We applaud the administration for addressing farmers concerns."

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*.

Farm toy of the month

We just can't get enough of combines! The KCFB Country Store has over 15 different combine farm toys in stock, in all of your favorite "colors" (Case, John Deere, and New Holland).

This month we are featuring the John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine from ERTL.

This 1/64th, die-cast metal repli-



ca is perfect for ages 3+ and comes with a grain head attached and two separate corn heads to keep your little farmer busy for hours.

Regular price is \$20.99, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of January, and you can save an extra 10% by downloading the IFB Benefits app from Abenity OR showing us the app on your smart phone.

Kane County Forest Preserve President Michael Kenyon was re-elected to another term in December



2018. Kenyon, of South Elgin, a former President and the current Secretary-Treasurer of the Kane County Farm Bureau, has led the Forest Preserve District since 2014. Congratulations!

Beef store is now open!
By appointment only

farmdirectBLACKANGUS.com

100% hormone free beef.
Selling individual cuts. Buy as little or as much as you want.

815.895.4691
Mark & Linda Schramer, Owners
8N840 Lakin Road, Maple Park

Sample Packs make great gifts!

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2018 THRU DECEMBER 2018

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

*Elected to the board in April 2018

Kane County Farmer

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Private well testing program 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 2019. 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. Tuesday, February 19 – Friday, March 1, 2019

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 3, 2019

Collect the water sample.

Step 3. Monday, March 4, 2019

Return water sample to Farm

Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District.

Costs vary for 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 tri-

azine 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.

18th annual shopping spree to be held in Feb.

KCFB's 18th annual shopping spree, where public officials race to collect food for local food pantries, will be held next month. Legislative and Public Relations Committee volunteers are making arrangements with potential contestants and will hold the event at the Batavia Jewel-Osco, host for the first 17 such events.



The public will be invited to come watch the two local public officials as they race to collect food to help restock the shelves of two area food pantries.

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.

Many State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County, local Mayors and elected officials have competed in the event, raising tens of thousands of dollars in groceries for local food pantries.

Through this and other hunger relief efforts including Harvest for ALL and the related Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of nearly 2 million meals to area food pantries.

Special thanks

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to thank Jay Schrock and the staff at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse in St. Charles for the use of their greenhouse and assistance with the KCFB annual citrus sale distribution in December. The Schrock family has allowed Farm Bureau to use its greenhouses for citrus distribution to our members on cold December days for a quarter century. We appreciate their generosity in helping to provide this service to Kane County

Farm Bureau members.



Didn't get your citrus this year? Watch the Kane County Farmer for information on our seasonal sales on citrus, fresh Illinois peaches, local turkeys, hams and other foods throughout the year, or call us at 630 584-8660 to be added to a mailing list for all of our food specials.

Chili Contest returns – February 28

Come help the KCFB FOUNDATION celebrate National Chili Day, February 28th, by participating in our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off, and Cornbread competition! Chili judging will be based on ICS criteria: good chili flavor, texture, consistency, blend of spices, aroma and color. **Not a cook but still want to celebrate national Chili day and enjoy some delicious cornbread?**

Stop by the KCFB office for a public tasting at 5:30PM. A \$5 donation will get you 6 tickets and each ticket will get you a Dixie cup of chili or a piece of cornbread. Six tickets will get you a 9.5 oz. bowl of the chili of your choice to enjoy at the event or take home. A "try before you buy" option where a small spoon is provided for a "taste of chili". All entry fees and event proceeds benefit the KCFB FOUNDATION in support of agricultural education and college scholarships.

Awards and entries.

A trophy will be awarded to the top creations in the following:

Best Homestyle Chili: a spicy stew of beef and red chilies or chili powder often with beans and tomatoes or pasta could be added.

Best Non-Traditional Chili: Chili made with pork, chicken,

turkey.

Best Wildlife Chili: Chili made using non-domesticated sources of meat protein.

Best Vegetarian Chili: Yep, no meat allowed!

Best Cornbread: Make it sweet, or hot. Any type of cornbread with or without "add-ins"

The judging for the best in each category will begin promptly at 4:30 pm by a panel



You are officially invited to "compete" or "eat" in our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and cornbread competition. The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION wants YOU to join us for this fellowship and fundraising effort. Proceeds benefit FOUNDATION Agricultural Literacy and College Scholarships programs. of "celebrity" judges. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of judging. For more information, check out www.Kanecfb.com/Chili.

A People's Choice Chili

will be selected at the end of the night based on the number of tickets collected from event patrons. The chili with the most tickets wins! The People's Choice award winning chili (trophy PLUS braggin' rights) will be announced at the evening's conclusion.

To enter just follow the simple steps below. Prizes will also be awarded for best presentation or theme (plan for 30" of table space) and best recipe card. Multiple recipe cards are encouraged.

How to enter:

1. Call, email, or mail in the entry form below by February 16th to:

KCFB Foundation Chili Cook-off, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.

Email: info@kanecfb.com
Phone: (630) 584-8660

2. Pay the entry fee for chili (\$20 per members, \$30 per non-members) and/or the entry fee for cornbread (free with chili entries, \$5 stand-alone). Make checks payable to: KCFB FOUNDATION. Visa, Discover, or MasterCard accepted in person or over the phone

3. Cook a minimum of 4 quarts of chili and bring it along with your favorite toppings (optional) that will accent your homemade chili's flavor to the KCFB at before 4pm on Thursday, February 28.

Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are pledges received from November 16 - December 14, 2018.



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

Donor	Beneficiary
Pamela Larson, Batavia	KCFB FOUNDATION
Harvest for ALL	
Gray-Urban Farms, LLC, Linda & Bob Urban	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE	
Ryan & Juanita Klassy, Elgin	Food for Greater Elgin
Darlene & James Sims, St. Charles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
DeRaedt Grain Farms, Jon DeRaedt, Hampshire	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Gray-Urban Farms LLC, Linda & Bob Urban, Hampshire	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp, Elburn	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Paul "Griz" Stover, Kaneville	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Thomas Richter, Wayne	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Pitstick Farms, Maple Park	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Trish Hayden, Whiskey Acres, DeKalb	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Bryn Nelson, Batavia	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Ellen Kamps, St. Charles	Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
Julie Ashton, Marseilles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Paul & Suzann Nepermann, Batavia	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
James & Germaine Campbell, Batavia	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
WM. C. Resier Trucking, Bill & Betty Reiser, Burlington	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Tsuneo & Kathy Konishi, Carpentersville	Northern Illinois Food Bank
CHS Elburn	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Leroy & Carol Herra, Elburn	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
James Licktieg, Elgin	Northern Illinois Food Bank
James Licktieg, Elgin	South Elgin Food Pantry
James Licktieg, Elgin	Elgin Food Pantry
James Licktieg, Elgin	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
James Licktieg, Elgin	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)

Entry Form (due by February 21st):

Head Cook: _____
 Chili/Team Name _____
 Type(s) of Chili Homestyle Non Traditional (meat _____)
 Wildlife (meat _____) Vegetarian
 Cornbread Free with Chili Entry Cornbread (without chili, \$5 entry)
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____

Entry fee: \$20.00 (Member) and \$30.00 (Non-Member)

Make checks payable to:
 KCFB Foundation. Visa, Discover, or MasterCard accepted in person or over the phone

2018 Winner for both the vegetarian chili category and best cornbread, Dave Spoerl (R) of Dave's Slow Food, shakes the hand of Joe White (L) as he awards him a trophy and medal in the 2018 Chili Cook-Off.



AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



My sense of adventure took hold in November, when I visited Nepal and Bhutan, two countries sandwiched between India and China. I had been in Nepal some 40 years ago, but had never visited Bhutan, which is called the “happiest country in the world.”

In both countries, I was able to go into the farming communities, but spent more time in agricultural areas in Bhutan, so that’s what I’ll speak about. Rice and wheat were grown on terraced fields in some areas and fields that resembled ours in others. However, the harvesting of the crops was mostly done by hand, or with modified rototillers. People carried huge amounts of straw on their backs, supported by material that was worn over their foreheads. Threshing was done by taking the armfuls of wheat, and smashing them onto the ground. Long and hard work. Crops were dried on tin rooftops, then put in burlap-type bags and stored.

I was able to find many different hay stacks – for some reason, I am enamored with

haystacks. Some were loosely laid out on the ground, though most were stacked in a somewhat “house” looking structure, round with a peaked roof.

Some of the farms had incorporated the “stay on the farm and work” type of agritourism. I asked if this new dimension was more profitable than the growing of crops and always got a resounding “yes!” in reply. Part of the experience for the tourists, was also a hot stone bath to relieve any of your body’s soreness. These tubs were made of wood, with a partitioned area for the stones, which were used to heat the water. Herbs floated on the water’s surface, making for a very pleasant smelling experience.

The beauty of the Himalayan Mountains was breathtaking. The sunrises, sunsets, and the clouds simply moving in and out, never got boring. In fact, our shower had a window in it, so we were never without the mountain views.

Bhutan is a “green” country. There are enforced fines for littering, so the rivers, and ground

KANE COUNTY FARMER

is litter free. What a refreshing concept...no plastic bottles, bags or paper scraps littering the landscape. Even when we went river rafting, I did not see anything except natural stones in crystal clear water.

Their national sport is archery. My attempts of recuperating my archery skills from my college days failed, which made for much laughter amongst the crowds.

The traditional dress is worn by all working people during their work hours. We rarely saw anyone in jeans or other Western attire. It was refreshing to see people still prefer their country’s traditional dress. Of course, to be fair, the men’s Gho had this absolutely fantastic pocket area in the front...that pocket could hold an amazing amount of stuff...including a little baby when necessary. The woman’s dress did not have this pocket. Both men and women’s clothing was neat in appearance and had the look of comfort.

Another thing that made Bhutan unique was the houses. In the areas that I visited, the homes were a rectangular shape, made of soil mixed with hay blocks and then white washed. All were trimmed with wood, some very ornately painted. It made for a simple look, clean and neat, even

in the countryside.

My trip was a joy. I learned a lot, met many wonderful, smiling people, and enjoyed every

second.

Wishing you and yours a fantastic 2019, full of health, happiness and love.

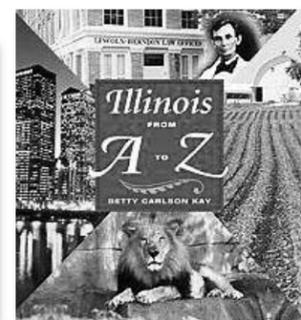
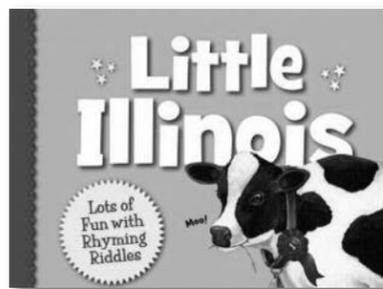
Book of the month

Since Illinois is celebrating its Bicentennial year, we’re highlighting two Illinois books this month.

Little Illinois by Esther Hershenhorn and Michael Glenn Monroe is a hard paged book for younger children full of rhyming riddles about Illinois. An example is: “I flower-flit on wings of lace. My favorite thing? Why, playing chase!” Answer: the Monarch Butterfly. “Ten little riddles! Oh, the joy! Clap and shout, “Hurray for Illinois!” Learn while you have fun with this book. I’ve even used this book with adults as a fun way to think about Illinois. It could also be a writing prompt for school age children.

Illinois from A to Z by Betty Carlson Kay is full of Illinois history. Important people, places and things in Illinois history are presented in this book. Each page also includes pertinent photos to reinforce the historical message. Some of the topics covered are: Reversal of Chicago River, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Zoos, Springfield, Abe Lincoln, Ray Kroc and much more.

Both of these books are available for loan through our Kane County Farm Bureau Library, which was the original idea of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn and later supported by the Bob Konen family.



Gehrke named Volunteer of the Year

Beth Gehrke, farmer, volunteer, and Kane County Farm Bureau Director, was one of 4 people presented the 2018 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was presented during Illinois Farm Bureau’s annual meeting in Chicago, Dec. 1-4.

Gehrke, of Elgin, is active on the AITC advisory committee and has been for more than 15 years. Each year, Gehrke plays a part in impacting nearly 20,000 students, teachers and community members through the Kane County Ag Days, SPROUTS third grade program, Summer Ag Institute and Touch a Tractor program.

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Volunteer of the Year award recognizes county volunteers who have done an outstanding job with Agriculture in the Classroom and agriculture literacy efforts. Since 1983, 94 individuals have been recognized for contributions to agriculture literacy.



Ag Days volunteers needed

This March, Kane County Farm Bureau and dozens of Ag Literacy volunteers will organize the 36th annual Ag Days at Mooseheart. Please consider being a part of this great tradition by volunteering your time on either of the days listed below, or both!

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 19-20 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.



Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Bob Effner , CLF®, LUTCF
St. Charles – Elgin
Agency Manager
St. Charles
630-584-0001 |  Bob Kearns
S. Elgin
847-888-3200 |  Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434 |
|  Todd Wilcox
St. Charles
630-762-1326 |  Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245 |  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 |  Vicky Ivanova
Geneva
630-492-5292 |  Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737 |
|  Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328 |  Mehul Patel
Geneva
630-492-5317 |  Chuck Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100 |
|  Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694 |  David Berreles
Geneva
630-492-5320 |  Josh Austin
Hampshire
847-683-2100 |
|  Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696 |  Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003 |  Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600 |
|  David Murray
Montgomery
630-897-2364 |  Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0001 |  Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600 |
|  Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750 |  Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0001 |  Sonny Ellen
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600 |

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

Tuesday	March 19	8:30am - 12:30pm
Wednesday	March 20	8:30am - 12:30pm



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Oats

oatmeal is a whole grain

Oats are processed in a way that doesn't strip off the nutritious bran or germ, so you get all of that whole-grain goodness. And even though oatmeal is processed in different ways (like "steel cut" and "old fashioned") they all maintain the bran and germ. The difference is just in how they are milled – for steel-cut oats, the grains are run through steel blades that thinly slice them, while old-fashioned oats are steamed and then rolled to produce a flatter shape. They are similar nutritionally (as in, good for you!), although steel-cut oats take longer to cook and may have a bit more fiber.

- Oats are rich in carbs and fiber, but also higher in protein and fat than most other grains. They are very high in many vitamins and minerals.
- Oats contain many powerful antioxidants, including avenanthramides. These compounds may help reduce blood pressure and provide other benefits.
- Oats are high in the soluble fiber beta-glucan, which has numerous benefits. It helps reduce cholesterol and blood sugar levels, promotes healthy gut bacteria and increases feelings of fullness.
- Oats may lower the risk of heart disease by reducing both total and LDL cholesterol and protecting LDL cholesterol from oxidation.
- Due to the soluble fiber beta-glucan, oats may improve insulin sensitivity and help lower blood sugar levels.
- Oatmeal may help you lose weight by making you feel fuller. It does this by slowing down the emptying of the stomach and increasing production of the satiety hormone PYY.
- Colloidal oatmeal (finely ground oats) has long been used to help treat dry and itchy skin. It may help relieve symptoms of various skin conditions, including eczema.
- Some research suggests that oats may help prevent asthma in children when fed to young infants.
- Studies indicate that oat bran can help reduce constipation in elderly individuals, significantly reducing the need to use laxatives.
- Oats can be a great addition to a healthy diet. They can be eaten as oatmeal (porridge) for breakfast, added to baked goods and more.

oat fun facts:

- Oats are annual grasses, and are used for both human and animal nutrition, in addition to other purposes. They are a commonly grown crop in the world today.
- Oats were one of the earliest cereals cultivated by man. They were known in ancient China as long ago as 7,000 B.C. The ancient Greeks were the first people known to have made a recognizable porridge (cereal) from oats.
- Oats are used primarily as food for livestock, with only about 5% of the world crop being consumed by humans.
- Seventy-five percent of U.S. households have oatmeal in their cupboard.
- The most popular oatmeal

toppings are: milk, sugar, fruit (raisins, bananas) and butter/margarine. Among the most unusual are: eggnog, peanut butter, cottage cheese and brewer's yeast.

- Oatmeal cookies are the number one non-cereal usage for oatmeal, followed by

- meatloaf.
- Oatmeal is a bargain at less than 15 cents a serving.
- Oatmeal is heart healthy. More than 37 scientific studies show that eating oatmeal daily as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may help reduce the risk of heart disease.
- There are myriad types of oatmeal on the market – from old fashioned to instant.
- Rolled oats that have not been cut into small pieces are considered old fashioned and take about five minutes to cook. Old fashioned oats produce a chewier consistency.
- Instant oatmeal typically has sweeteners, other ingredients or flavors added.

JOKES:

What do you get when you cross oatmeal & ducks?
Quacker oatmeal

How did Reese eat her oatmeal?
Witherspoon.

Why do basketball players love oatmeal cookies?
Because they can dunk them!

Edible oatmeal playdough

Oatmeal makes for a sturdy clay that can be manipulated into various shapes and structures. To make oatmeal clay you need to combine 2 cups of raw oats, 1 cup flour, 1 cup water and optional food coloring to give your dough a color. The elements must be mixed well and then kneaded together until it

reaches a sticky and sturdy consistency. Then, when the oatmeal clay is ready, kids can roll it around, make logs, balls or anything they want out of it. It is also edible, so you don't need to worry if your child eats some.



Nutritious oatmeal recipes

No-Bake Oatmeal Energy Balls

- INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup dry oats (I like 1/2 old fashioned oatmeal and 1/2 quick cooking)
 - 1/4 cup peanut butter
 - 1/4 cup honey
 - 1/4 cup dry roasted peanuts
 - 1/4 cup mini M&M's
 - 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips

dash of salt
1/2 teaspoon vanilla, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, add all of the ingredients and stir to combine well. The mixture should be a bit sticky. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
2. Use a spoon to scoop about a tablespoon of the cookie ball mixture into your hand. Roll into a ball. Repeat with remaining mixture. This should make about 14 oatmeal energy balls.
3. Store the balls covered in

the fridge for up to a week, or in the freezer for much longer.



overnight oats

Overnight oats are an easy way to have a good-for-you-breakfast in the morning. The basic recipe is:
1 clean jar with lid.
1/2 cup rolled oats (1/2 cup = about half the jar)
1 cup milk
Honey or peanut butter to taste.
Mix all together, cover the jar and place in refrigerator at least 4 hours or overnight.

Stir and enjoy in the morning. Many variations of this basic recipe can be made. You can add seeds, nuts, and fruit, whatever you desire. One idea is:

APPLE CINNAMON OVERNIGHT OATS:

- 1/2 Cup chopped apples (I used gala)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1-2 teaspoons maple syrup or honey

oats

G	C	C	R	V	R	V	H	N	M	R	E	G	T	E	Y	W	K	T	Y	AGRONOMY
B	N	E	O	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H	T	R	A	E	H	C	N	M	G	BEDDING
Z	R	R	L	A	Z	O	E	G	J	M	J	D	Q	Y	O	A	O	N	D	BRAN
E	N	E	L	S	T	A	O	T	X	S	Y	S	S	T	T	N	P	U	I	CEREAL
L	K	A	E	C	O	S	M	E	T	I	C	S	S	S	O	F	H	T	F	CHINA
A	O	L	D	U	I	T	K	T	B	F	X	E	N	R	I	A	T	R	U	CHOLESTEROL
T	N	R	N	N	D	B	U	I	A	C	V	I	G	B	L	K	O	I	H	CONSUMPTION
K	Z	I	E	N	O	S	P	O	T	I	C	A	E	N	L	G	L	T	Q	COOKIES
C	P	Q	H	T	D	I	L	T	L	P	O	R	B	P	R	G	M	I	P	COSMETICS
B	R	Z	P	C	S	T	P	V	P	C	N	O	V	A	W	O	L	O	P	CROP
E	L	H	E	W	A	E	O	N	V	Z	S	I	S	C	U	I	A	N	S	ENERGY
D	F	I	P	E	U	K	L	J	P	N	U	S	E	M	F	Y	G	R	F	FIBER
D	N	E	M	Q	J	Y	H	O	B	N	M	F	S	K	T	Y	E	J	X	FIBERS
I	H	N	H	N	G	E	R	R	H	I	P	M	Z	G	D	B	N	R	W	GERM
N	B	N	U	R	G	R	X	Q	L	C	T	K	Z	W	I	I	P	M	H	GRAIN
G	M	R	E	T	S	B	C	P	J	W	I	R	D	F	A	F	O	C	S	GRASS
F	W	N	A	Z	A	Q	U	R	R	K	O	E	N	R	J	A	R	Q	M	GREECE
P	E	D	H	N	B	P	J	C	D	D	N	S	G	L	J	W	C	O	Z	HEALTHY
G	R	E	E	C	E	Q	Q	R	R	W	H	V	D	A	O	C	F	H	J	HEART
E	W	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	T	B	D	D	Z	K	B	O	F	J	M	INSTANT
																				LIVESTOCK
																				MEATLOAF
																				NUTRITION
																				OATS

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by January 15, 2019 to be entered in our drawing for an oat themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

January is...

National:

- Bath Safety Month
- National Blood Donor Month
- National Braille Literacy Month
- Hobby Month
- Hot Tea Month
- Oatmeal Month
- Soup Month

Special Days

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 Fruitcake Toss Day
- 4 National Spaghetti Day
- 6 Feast of the Epiphany – Three Kings & Bean Day
- 9 National Take the Stairs Day – second Wednesday of month.
- 18 Winnie the Pooh Day – the birthday of Winnie's author A.A. Milne
- 19 National Popcorn Day
- 20 National Cheese Lover Day
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, celebrated on the third Monday
- 23 National Pie Day
- 25 Opposite Day
- 28 Fun at Work Day & National Puzzle Day
- 31 Backward Day

Congratulations

Marisa Henson! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a high quality Inboden's meat product. Thank you, Marisa, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

New Horizon Award stays in Kane Co.

Created in 2017, the Illinois Farm Bureau's New Horizon Award recognizes new and innovative county Farm Bureau programs that help achieve priorities set by the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

For the 2nd year in a row, the Kane County Farm Bureau was awarded this prestigious honor. For 2018, the program chosen to compete with other counties was, Tractor Shaped Pillow Pets®: affinity incentives for

Member Recruitment, Member Engagement, and Fund Raising. KCFB partnered with AGCO Parts of Batavia for the program. Sales of Pillow Pets® from AGCO Parts provided funds to farm accident victims in Lee County, Illinois.

AGCO marketed the overstocked Pillow Pets at a steep discount to the public attending the 2018 Touch-A-Tractor community open house at the Kane County Farm Bureau. AGCO

also offered them to employees and to KCFB for resale to county Farm Bureaus across Illinois. Both KCFB and AGCO Parts committed 100% of the proceeds from those sales to the farm accident victims.

KCFB also purchased a large number of the Pillow Pets for inventory, and has used them to promote membership and fundraising for the association's not-for-profit Foundation.

Kane County Farm Bureau Manager Steve Arnold was recognized at the IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago on the 25th Anniversary of his FBCM (Farm Bureau Certified Manager) status. Arnold was among the first in Illinois to pass the certification exams when the program was launched in 1993, and was later certified as a CAE (Certified Association Executive) by the American Society of Association Executives.



Kane Co. farms feed fellow Illinoisans

Sunday, December 2nd, Farm Bureau members attending the IAA (Illinois Agricultural Association, a.k.a., Illinois Farm Bureau) Annual Meeting were treated to a very special event. This event, the Live Local Taste of Illinois, featured foods, beverages and fall décor produced by Farm Bureau "farmer members".

"We sourced products from 28 Illinois Farm Bureau Members in 24 different counties with over 325 in attendance. Illinois Corn

sponsored locally sourced cocktails. All the farmers were featured with signs, bios, a booklet, and slideshow. It was great event for people to come together, relax, and enjoy incredible food," said Raghela Scavuzzo, Local Foods Program Manager for the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Garlic Breath Farms, Foxtrot Organic Farm, and Big Rock Organics were featured Kane County Farms. Food products supplied by these farms included leafy vegetables, root vegeta-

bles, garlic bulbs, and sausages among other items.

With a menu as varied as Farm Bureau members' products, selections included entrees of chicken wings, meat balls and short ribs; salad bar; various flat bread pizzas; slider selection; cheeses and charcuterie; popcorn varieties; and desserts of apple tart, pumpkin cheesecake and berries. The ticketed event helped call attention to the variety and bounty of Illinois agriculture and its farms.



Photos, clockwise from bottom left:

New this year at the IAA Annual Meeting was the Live Local 'Taste of Illinois' food event, featuring food, produce, and decorative items from farm bureau members from around the state of Illinois. This ticketed event took place at the historic Palmer House Hotel in Chicago and was well attended and very well received.

KCFB members Jeff Hughes and Ellen Kamps from Foxtrot Organic Farm in St. Charles with root vegetables their farm provided in the foreground at the Live Local Taste of Illinois event at the IAA Annual Meeting Chicago. Foxtrot Organic Farm offers 130 varieties of USDA certified organic fruits, vegetables, herbs & cut flowers throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Donna Lehrer, owner and operator of Big Rock Organics at Lamb of God Farm, begins her journey through the buffet line at the Live Local Taste of Illinois event. Her farm provided homemade sausages for guests to enjoy. Also specializing in CSA programs during growing season, Donna runs Esther's Place, a shop in Big Rock that uses the wool from their Cheviot sheep to provide classes, create crafts, and sell items like spun wool and other items.

Sharon and Anthony Pferschy of Garlic Breath Farms near Elburn, supplied bulbs of dried garlic for the Live Local Taste of Illinois event held Sunday at the IAA Annual Meeting. In total, 3 farms from Kane County supplied food products for this event.

Funds for ag raised at IAA meeting

The mood was festive and filled with generosity at this year's IAA Foundation events held during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, with members helping raise close to \$58,000 for Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom.

The IAA Foundation hosts a Live Auction, Ice Cream Social, Trivia Night, Silent Auction, and Country Store each year at the Annual Meeting. Individual events raised anywhere from \$2,150 to \$24,000.



Left to right: Kane County participated in "Tailgates and Trivia" Night at the IAA Annual Meeting in downtown Chicago. As usual, the Palmer House Hotel was the perfect backdrop for a fun and competitive night to raise money for the IAA Foundation. (L-R) Bonnie White; Wayne Schneider, VP of KCFB Board; Joe White, President; and Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager

Volunteers line up to serve guests Prairie Farms Ice Cream during the IAA Foundation's Ice Cream Social fundraiser. During this event, patrons donated \$2,150 towards scholarships for Illinois students.



Best bargains made early on farm supply buys

My husband will attest. My obsession with holiday-time bargains unleashed when the kids slept. Morning and night, I glanced through bookmarked web pages for product price drops in November and December. I kept a spreadsheet of my shopping plan and small victories in cloud storage, which made it editable on my smartphone. And I consistently monitored email and phone notifications for deals. My goal: Buy Christmas gifts as cost effectively as possible to delight our kids, relatives, teachers, and my husband, too.

I funnel my focus into saving money, an objective as important as making it. I find parallels in the farm office during our farm's season of shopping for next year's seed, pesticides, fertilizer, fuel, equipment and insurance. During the holiday madness, I watched for coupon codes, rebates and cash-back rewards at retailers that sold my kids' wish list items. On the farm, we're making spreadsheets to analyze the value of rebates, patronage, quantity discounts, early-pay incentives and financing options on the final cost of seed, herbicide and

equipment leases.

The financial side of the farming operation demands as much attention on our farm as the hungry steers at the feed bunk and planter prep in the shop. In generations past, the harder you physically worked, the more money you made. Today, farming requires more significant financial investment and desk-type management than ever. Depressed crop values and tight margins makes us even more driven to monitor product costs, call around for price checks and watch for package deals to redeem before they're gone.

Serious holiday shoppers know to act fast to avoid the disappointment of your child's most-wanted toy running out-of-stock. Likewise, orders for corn and soybean seed start during harvest – months before we need to plant it and a year before we'll gather the result. From a semitruck or combine cab, my brother books seed to secure a supply of the most-sought seed varieties for our farm to use the following season.

Then again, booking early means paying early, too. While "pre-pay" never made Grandpa's farming vocabulary during his career, farmers for years now have paid for seed, fuel and pesticides far in advance. We pre-payers fund products early to guarantee supply and prices up to a year before gathering the crop. Though not always ideal, this early-pay process most often results in the best pricing deals we can get on the farm – our business version of seasonal shopping for bargains.

Support local farms
Text FARM to 52886
Happy New Year!



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GROWING UP ON MILK

By Marty Keltner



Even though I grew up on a beef cattle ranch, we still had our own milk cows and rarely bought milk at the store. The only exception to this was in the spring when our milk cows found a delectable patch of wild onions and produced onion-y milk for a few days. Ick!

At any time, we had at least two cows we milked by hand, into tall metal buckets. I do remember we had three at one point; I think the third one was a “milk-cow-in-training.” She was black and the daughter of one of our BIG Brown Swiss cows. When I say big, these cows were monsters in size. I swear their haunches were up to my dad’s shoulders, and he was well over 6’ tall. Good thing they were very tame and complacent when offered a trough full of ground grain.

Growing up, I helped my dad with “barnyard” chores, which included milking the cows. During this time, I experienced the fun that having your own milk cows can bring, and I do

say that with a twinge of sarcasm. Don’t get me wrong, our cows were “fun”, meaning they were a bit mischievous, curious, and often strong-headed with the longest slobbery tongues I’d ever seen and tails that could bring an immediate sting to where ever they connected. Being “spatially” aware of both of those parts of the cow, along with back legs that could potentially kick you, was critical in surviving the milking process. My recollection of a few instances in dealing with “Big Moo”, “Maud”, or “Leggy” are nothing if not charming.

My first story begins with the age old saying, “Don’t stand directly behind the milk cow.” This makes perfect sense because you might get kicked, right? Well, what you may not realize is that even if you aren’t directly behind the cow, close enough to get kicked, there is still something very unpleasant that can happen to you.

Picture me, 4 or 5 years old, minding my own business, prob-

ably playing with our barn kitties, and all of a sudden one of our cows sneezed. Well, as you might be able to imagine, sometimes a sneeze can cause an “accident”. This made me the target of a “projectile accident” all over and needless to say I’m pretty sure I cried, having been covered unexpectedly in an “accident”. It did, however, provide for lots of laughs for my dad and granddad, who were able to witness the entire incident.

My second story is much cleaner, at least for me. We had

two milking stalls in our barn and would bring both cows in at once. When I was old enough to milk one of the cows by myself, my dad and I would milk at the same time. I was never as fast or as effective as my dad, but that didn’t stop me from having fun while I worked.

When we milked, we’d feed our barn cats some of the milk after we were done. Until they were fed though, they would all meow and beg. To quiet them, when I thought my dad wasn’t paying attention, I would squirt

a few in the face or on the chest using my “milk guns”, aka udders. I think the cats both loved and hated that I did that, but it gave me plenty of giggles and kept some of the cats busy trying to lick the milk off of themselves until they were fed.

I am proud to say that I grew up on fresh milk, country-cream, and homemade butter. My mom and dad provided me with a healthy dose of dairy three times a day and I can’t imagine not having it in my life!

FB Volunteer Event at Northern Illinois Food Bank

Join the Kane County Young Farmers at Northern Illinois Food Bank on Jan. 22 from 5-7pm 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. We’ll also discuss the KCFB Foundation’s current 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE and how individuals and

groups can get involved. Last year, over 3,865 pounds of sweet 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.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank’s award winning Milk2MyPlate program has provided MANY MILLIONS of servings of milk to area families. In addition to the KCFB Foundation current 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE initiative, all KCFB member donations to hunger relief through Harvest for ALL that are NOT earmarked for a local food pantry, and all of Kane County Farm Bureau’s donations to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, support the Milk2MyPlate program.



At NIFB volunteer events, Young Farmers, FFA members and FB supporters repackage food for distribution to the Food Bank’s network of food pantries. To join the Young Farmers and FFA Chapters this year on Tuesday, January 22 from 5-7 and provide local hunger relief, RSVP to the Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to LuLu Medina! LuLu has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since



LuLu Medina

January of 2017. Her office is located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$20 minimum (60 words or less). DISCOUNTS for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. Ads due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted. Call 630-584-8660.

SERVICES

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

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION – 30-35 hours weekly, M-F: we do not work on Sundays. Applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. Some overnight travel required. All applicants must be self-starters and able to work as a team. Office located in St. Charles. Starting, entry level employment offering paid vacation, self-directed savings plan, partial tuition reimbursement. Call Bob to discuss this position. Call: 630-377-5807

FOR SALE

Antique alfalfa planter, asking \$120 and antique porcelain cook stove. Asking \$100 Plato Township. Call: 847-464-5783.

KCFB takes home not 1, but 2 ‘Most Outstanding Projects’ for 2018

Each year, Farm Bureaus from around the state compete for gold, silver, and bronze awards in 10 different categories, as well as committees like Young Farmers. Within each category, “outstanding projects” surface based on scores received from judges and these projects are then called out for special recognition at the IAA Annual Meeting.

This year, Kane County Farm Bureau was the recipient of not one, but two of these coveted awards!

The first MOP, “Most Outstanding Project”, the Kane County Farm Bureau was awarded was in the Ag Literacy category. This award was for Farm and Food Trivia Giant Jenga games.

For an activity during the Kane County Fair, KCFB purchased 2 giant table top Jenga games, volunteers painted the ends of the pieces 9 different colors, and staff wrote 9 trivia questions each about: Cattle, Dairy, Fruits/Veggies, Ag History, Machines, Oil Seeds, Poultry & Swine.

Color coded cards were printed with questions and answers. Players removed a colored Jenga board from the stack while a volunteer pulled a question with the same color from the box. If correct, the play rotated to the next participant. If incorrect, the player pulled a 2nd board from the stack.

The second MOP, “Most Outstanding Project”, was awarded in the Health & Safety

category. This award was for Tractor Shaped “Pillow Pets®” Raising \$9K for Farm Accident Victims and Farm Safety Education. KCFB and AGCO both wanted to call attention to farm safety and provide relief to a local farm family, following a farm tragedy involving a pipeline explosion.

AGCO slashed prices on overstock kids’ toy and designated 100% of proceeds to farm accident victims and farm safety education. KCFB purchased a large number of Pillow Pets® to offer to members as well as incentivize for membership upgrades.

Over \$9,000 was raised and donated to farm accident victims and not-for-profits for farm safety education.

What’s new in the COUNTRY agencies?

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Andy Johnson, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for November, 2018. Andy began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2012 and services clients out of his office located at: 1921 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 907-0870. Andy’s professionalism and vast knowledge of auto,

home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Andy!

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

LUKE FAWKES has been named the Agent of the Month for NOVEMBER in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Luke 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 Luke’s expertise help you! You may reach Luke at 847-742-0002, lucas.fawkes@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/lucas.fawkes/. Congratulations, Luke!



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2nd Victory Mixer draws in public officials

November 6th was election-day and also the day that would decide who would be invited to attend the KCFB's 2nd post-election "Victory Mixer".

Kane County Farm Bureau began this bi-partisan celebratory tradition in 2016 at Pitstick Farms in Maple Park. The "Farm Shop Victory Mixer" was conceived to draw recently elected government officials to a farm setting, to mix and mingle and learn about Kane County agriculture from actual farmers.

This fall the event was repeated at the farm shop at Pitstick Farms, complete with farm machinery, farm shop "charm", local craft beers, local wines, spirits from Whiskey Acres in DeKalb, and small plates from a local caterer.

The guest list was extensive, including public officials at all levels – municipal, township and county – to State Legislators, Members of Congress, and State Constitutional Officers.

As the responses rolled in, it was apparent that this event would be very well attended by Public Officials, IFB staff and Kane County Farm Bureau

Directors and Legislative & Public Policy action volunteers. Everyone was anticipating an eventful evening with plenty of time to "get to know each other" and talk about issues important in the agricultural world.

Less than two weeks after the election, the night proved to be a success, attended by both newly elected Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation, Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood, along with State Senator-elect DeWitte and Senator Holmes, State Representatives Moeller, Skillicorn, and Keicher and numerous county board members, township officials and several area mayors. KCFB President Joe White led a brief review of KCFB legislative and local government programs and presented outgoing County Board Ag Committee Chair T.R. Smith with a plaque in recognition of his service to farmers and agriculture.

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to thank all elected officials for prioritizing their attendance to this short-notice, post-election event.

1. Attendees at the KCFB Victory Mixer were encouraged to provide their email address for LINK – an e-newsletter of Local Information, News & Know-How from the Illinois Farm Bureau's local government experts. Each issue discusses different local government topics in great detail and is a useful tool for public officials. To be added to the email distribution list, call Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

2. Suzi Myers, KCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator, and T.R. Smith, outgoing County of Kane Ag Committee Chairman, have a chat before the Victory Mixer event began. The Kane County Farm Bureau awarded Smith with a plaque in honor of his service to agriculture and his community.

3. A perfect backdrop for the evening, the combine also highlighted old, and new. The Farm Bureau was organized under the "Kane County Farm Improvement Association" banner in 1912, the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE is our most recent campaign in support of farms and community in our 100 plus year history.

4. Congresswoman-elect Lauren Underwood and host Dale Pitstick pose on the platform of the John Deere combine after a cab tour to see the technology and machinery that modern-day farmers use for increased production and efficiency.

5. Hosts Steve and Dale Pitstick pause for a photo after transforming the farm shop from farm equipment wash bay and repair shop to a space fit for a cocktail reception for VIP's in less than 24 hours. THANKS!

6. State Representative Jeff Keicher (2nd from R) holds court with Bill Bodine (L), Associate Director of State Legislation, Illinois Farm Bureau; Nick Nagele (2nd from L), Co-Founder, Distiller, and Farmer at Whiskey Acres in DeKalb, and Zach Schmidt (R), Assistant Director of State Legislation, Illinois Farm Bureau.

7. Congressman-elect Sean Casten and Congresswoman-elect Lauren Underwood flank KCFB President Joe White at the KCFB Victory Mixer on November 17. While many groups were vying for the attention of newly elected officials, KCFB is pleased to have had both show for our informal "get-acquainted" event.

8. Whiskey Acres of DeKalb provided libations to Farm Bureau Victory Mixer attendees. Nick Nagele and Trish Hayden kept guests smiling throughout the night as well as sharing their passion for distilling spirits from locally grown grains.



Young Farmers update

The KCFB Young Farmers met November 27th to hold elections and discuss upcoming activities and recent events. The Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was discussed, including attendees, a group dinner, and events specifically for the Young Farmers, including a Young Leader Mixer Saturday afternoon with an Awards & Recognition Program the following day.

Old Business discussed included re-capping the previously decided upon meeting schedule for the upcoming months as well as ideas for speakers, programs, or tours for each. Ideas for tours included visiting Farm Bureau partners and local agricultural/food companies like AGCO, Whiskey Acres, Penrose Brewing or Aquaviva Winery.

New Business items began with the 2018 IFB Young Leader Conference, January 25 & 26 in East Peoria. Five KCFB Young Farmers will attend. To celebrate the holidays, a Christmas dinner will be held at Sorrento's in Maple Park on the first Sunday in January, 7pm. An FFA Acquaintance Day will be scheduled as a volunteer service event at Northern Illinois Food Bank on January 22nd from 5-7pm. The last item of new business was to discuss

setting up the annual district 1 IFB Euchre Tournament.

The election of officers was then held. Carolyn Gehrke was re-elected chairman and Michael Long was re-elected Secretary. Congrats to both individuals!

Annual Meeting report: on Saturday, December 1, Carolyn Gehrke represented District 1 in the 2018 Young Leader's Discussion Meet. Megan Dwyer of Henry County won the meet and will represent Illinois Farm Bureau in competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in New Orleans in January.

That same evening, a group of 9 members and 4 guests, including Young Farmers from DeKalb Co. enjoyed an annual Young Farmer's Dinner downtown at 312 Chicago. They had a wonderful evening, and would like to thank everyone who joined them. The Young Farmers received a Gold award in the Committee Excellence category at the Annual Meeting.

Young Farmers meetings are open to KCFB members age 18-35 and new faces are always welcome. Check Kane County Farm Bureau's Facebook page for upcoming meeting dates and social outings or call 630-584-8660.

Future Young Leader Events:

Jan 25th & 26th: ILFB Young Leader's Conference in East Peoria

January 22nd: FB/FFA Acquaintance program and volunteer night at Northern Illinois Food Bank

February 26th: Meeting, 6:30pm, KCFB Office

Gallon Milk Jugs Wanted

Farm Bureau is asking members to clean and rinse milk jugs and bring them to our office in January. A slot for donations will be made in the jugs, a label (right) affixed and they will be made available to area businesses, (retailers, restaurants, coffee shops, etc.) that are willing to lend assistance to our neighbors in need by placing a 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE "donation station" at cash registers during the campaign. To suggest a place of business for these donation jugs, or obtain one for yours, contact the Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.



Touch-A-Tractor ALL Tractors Welcome!

Touch-A-Tractor will be held April 12-14 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. New this year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier!

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

Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 13 or Sunday, April 14)

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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