

# Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 88 NO. 1 JANUARY 2023

## Kane receives IFB New Horizon award

Kane CFB President Joe White and Manager Steve Arnold were called on-stage at the 108th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau in Chicago in December to receive the prestigious “New Horizon” award. The award recognizes new and innovative programs by county Farm Bureaus that follow priorities set by the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors and are judged based on innovation and results.

Kane CFB earned the award for the transformation of its 2020 New Horizon award winning pollinator garden into a 4,000 sq. ft. Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden. The garden, installed with the help

of DeKalb based Encap Inc. and over 170 volunteers, is in the shape of Illinois with stone lined river “garden paths” that double as watercourses in storm events. It filters stormwater from an adjoining parking lot, improves water quality and provides habitat for pollinators.

The project addressed two Illinois Farm Bureau priorities for 2022, bridging the gap between rural, suburban and urban Illinois and promoting agriculture’s contribution toward improving the environment. The garden will provide an ongoing educational resource and learning laboratory for students, teachers and members of the public that want

to install or improve pollinator habitats on their own properties.

The garden was first conceived to celebrate a county stormwater ordinance that allows farmers to install water “best management practices” when building such things as new farm buildings, grain bins and roadways.

“It seems to be a waste of productive farmland to build stormwater detention on property that may have 150, 200 or more acres to divert that stormwater when you create impervious surface,” says Steve Arnold, Kane County Farm Bureau manager. “It seemed to us it would be better to ask farmers to improve water quali-

ty in lieu of stormwater detention and taking valuable farmland out of production.” This

rain garden demonstrates one way to achieve that water quality improvement.



*Kane County Farm Bureau president Joe White accepts the New Horizon Award from IFB President Richard Guebert, Jr. at the December IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago.*

## Up to 20 scholarships to help local student study agriculture Apply online now for KCFB FOUNDATION scholarships

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to members or dependents of members who wish to pursue higher education for a career in an agriculture related field. The applications are for the 2023-24 school year.

College students and high school seniors are invited to apply for these Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

scholarships. Go to [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) and click on “Scholarships & Internships” to obtain a QR code or download an application, or, pick one up at the KCFB office, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles. A brochure is also available online to assist students in identifying potential careers and areas of ag-related study.

Farm Bureau internships are also available for the 2022 win-

ter, and 2023 spring and summer breaks. A separate Internship application is available on the website. The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 15 scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

**Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship**, up to \$2,000, for an Illinois resident and student accepted to or enrolled in a School of Veterinary Medicine in the state of Illinois. The scholarship seeks to help develop the next generation of animal care practitioners.

**President’s Scholarship** (1) \$1,500, reserved for the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation General Agricultural Scholarship from among high school seniors, will provide a minimum \$1,500 to be applied towards tuition.

**General Agricultural**

**Scholarships** (up to 10 available) @ \$1,000 (minimum), for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application

Farm Bureau Foundation.

**Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship** (1) @ \$1,000 (minimum), 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  
*(continued on page 3)*

Apply now  
for KCFB  
Foundation  
scholarships

Scan the QR code  
to start your  
application today.



## Farm toy of the month

Roll in the new year with monster treads! The January toy of the month is a quartet of vehicles with all terrain steering

to tackle the new year’s peaks and valleys.

The set features a pickup truck and trailer, off-road machine, and two tractors, all clad in John Deere green. It is designed for ages 3+.

Regular price is \$32.95, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of January and receive a 10% discount on your Monster Treads value set purchase.

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



### KCFB CALENDAR JANUARY 2023

**2** Office closed for New Year’s Day holiday

**6-11** AFBF Annual Meeting

**11-13** Everything Local Hybrid Conference, Springfield

**12** Board of Directors, 7 pm

**20-21** Young Leader Conf., East Peoria

(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

*Happy New Year!*

### January Featured Food

## Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

The special this month is a box of 3 individually wrapped, 24-ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the most tender part of the pork loin. The roasts are 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 \$25.60 to Farm Bureau members, non-members pay \$27.69, Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

# IFB members highlight bipartisanship at annual meeting

Delegates and members attending the 108th Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) Annual Meeting celebrated progress while looking toward the future as the organization's traditional grassroots process returned for

agreements. "Being bipartisan has served Farm Bureau well. Farmers need support from both sides of the aisle," Guebert said. "Farm Bureau is most effective on agriculture issues. The farther we get from agriculture, the less influence we have."



Hundreds of Illinois Farm Bureau members from across the state attended the 108th IFB Annual Meeting in December.

an entirely in-person event for its 2022 annual meeting.

Members gathered at the historic Palmer House hotel in Chicago over four days, Dec. 3-6, to conduct annual business, introduce new policies and celebrate the year's successes.

The meeting kicked off with the IFB President Richard Guebert, Jr. urging the need for bipartisanship during his annual address as IFB members begin negotiating and helping draft a new farm bill in 2023 and advocating for international trade

He added that maintaining integrity and respect through the legislative process will foster a good working relationship between IFB and elected officials, agency representatives and regulators.

"We may not always agree on issues, but we are going to be forthright in explaining our position," said Guebert. "We listen and show respect to others, even those with opposing points of view."

Following the president's address, IFB debuted its first-ever documentary on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) to its members. The documentary, titled "Sustaining Our Future: A Farm

Family Story" is centered around the Ganschow family in Bureau County and illustrates how three generations of farmers have approached sustainability.

The hour-long film is viewable to the public at [ifb.org](http://ifb.org) and on the organization's YouTube page. IFB is working with TV stations across the state to share the message.

"This documentary sends a clear message to various organizations and individuals working together on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs): Continue to remain passionately dedicated to improving agriculture's impact on the environment."

Voting delegates for the meeting, totaling 330, considered policy submissions on a range of topics such as government farm policy, energy policy, farm equipment, climate change, healthcare and urban agriculture. The language of these approved policies will be forwarded to American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration during its upcoming annual meeting.

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 directed by farmers

who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than

366,043 and a farmer membership of 76,527. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

*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*.

## KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2022 THRU DECEMBER 2022

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

\* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Elected to Board June 2022.

## Cost share for conservation

The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) is accepting applications for their Partners for Conservation cost-share program. Money is available to support projects reducing soil erosion or improving water quality. All interested applicants should email [patrick.mcpartlan@kanedupageswcd.org](mailto:patrick.mcpartlan@kanedupageswcd.org) for the application form and to schedule a site visit. Projects eligible for funding include best management practices, such as; grassed waterways, rain gardens, first-time cover crops and reduced tillage, grade stabilization structures, terraces, pollinator habitats and more. The program pays for up to 75% of a project's total cost or state average (whichever is lower). The project must not have started work and must be complete by December 31, 2023. All applicants will be presented to and selected by the KDSWCD Board of Directors.

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## 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.

## Director candidates sought

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

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

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in in the

spring of 2023 to voting members in Kane County.

To suggest potential candi-

dates for election, members should call 630-584-8660, or fill out the form below.

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

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Form completed and returned by:  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to this form to: Kane County Farm Bureau,  
 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174  
 Return on or before February 15.  
 The Nominating Committee will evaluate candidates and propose a slate to run for directors.

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**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
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# Goebbert's Farm doubles down on holiday light shows, thru Jan 7

By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek  
Goebbert's Farm in Pingree Grove created a holiday tradition for many families five years ago with their drive-through lights display. This year, the family expanded their winter agritourism venture to include a second light show.

But this isn't your ordinary light show.

"It doesn't really make sense the amount of lights. It's a great display of Christmas songs and very upbeat music coordinated through computers and programming," said Jacob Goebbert of Goebbert's Farm. "A lot of time and effort has gone into both programming and building the structure."

That structure is a replica of Brian Larsen's home in Campton Hills, where Larsen originally created an award-winning light show. Larsen approached the Goebbert family years ago about building the drive-through display on their Kane County farm. As the display grew in popularity during the pandemic, Goebbert said that allowed them to expand.

"We finally got the project started and done this year,"

Goebbert said. "It's a very neat show; it's really incredible."

The Larsen's Light Show is a 30-minute drive-in-and-park show. Guests will be guided to a specific car lane, park and watch the stunning light display illuminated on a 100-foot-wide house facade.

Within each parking lot there are designated rows for different vehicle types, and the parking lot is built on an incline to provide a better viewing experience.

The Goebbert's Christmas Drive-Thru Light Show is a 15-minute experience, during which visitors drive through the farm's apple orchard to see the lights, which are coordinated to music.

The Goebbert family already has a rich history with their pumpkin farm and other events, and the lights displays are a way

to extend their agritourism ventures into the winter season.

"I don't imagine expanding much more than this at this point," Goebbert said. "Weather's always an issue and



The Larsen's Light Show at Goebbert's Farm is a 30-minute drive-in-and-park show. Guests will be guided to a specific car lane, park and watch the stunning light display illuminated on a 100-foot-wide house facade. The new "drive-up" light show includes 125 controllers, fire features, 16 moving heads, laser and almost triple the lights and effects used in Brian Larsen's original Campton Hills display. Larsen's Christmas Lights Show works in coordination with Epic Light Shows, which puts on displays of holiday lights synchronized to music across the country. (Photo from Goebbert's Farm Facebook page)

it can be difficult to be in the Christmas business, but the fact that we have a space in the parking lot and people are not necessarily exiting the cars at all allows for a unique experience."

Response has been "very, very positive," he said, adding the two shows run through January 7.

Goebbert said the light shows have allowed the family to diversify their operations, which also includes their South Barrington Farm.

"Diversification is something my dad taught me and brother when we were young, and not having all your eggs in one basket," he said. "With agriculture being what it is, the ups and downs, we needed to look at other sources of income to help us sleep a little easier."

Larsen and Goebbert, along with some of their employees built the house facade in about seven weeks.

Goebbert wasn't sure how many tickets have been sold so far this season, but said week-

ends have been extremely busy. He stressed tickets should be purchased in advance online, [goebberts.com](http://goebberts.com). The two different light shows also require separate tickets.

Goebbert and his brother, James, have been involved in the family farm since they were boys, and their father, Lloyd, purchased the Pingree Grove farm in the 1980s.

"I grew up working on the farm," Goebbert said. "I played baseball for a few years in the minors and one year in the big league for the Padres. It's actually not as different as you think in the entertainment business. I went from being the commodity as a player to front office, general manager. It's amazing the similarities in terms of playing in different weather, on the weekends, and trying to put on a good show everyone comes to watch."

He said it's been a blessing to be part of creating memories for families.

"One of our mottos is 'Harvesting family memories in the fall,' and we're continuing with that idea to hopefully create some new ones."

## Conference a new recipe for local food, specialty crop success

Focused on delivering an unprecedented opportunity to build the local food and specialty crops supply chains, three member organizations have teamed to create the From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference.

The event, the largest in the state focused on local food and specialty crop production, is the result of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Farmers Market Association coming together to give their members a better opportunity than ever before to learn, connect and build relationships.

"We have developed such great relationships throughout the supply chain and among our member organizations, it made sense to incorporate that into our conference," said Raghela Scavuzzo, Illinois Farm Bureau local foods program manager. "This conference truly will be the center of our state local food and specialty crop sectors for these three days."

The hybrid event will take place Jan. 11-13, in person at the

Springfield Crowne Plaza and virtually through an online conference portal. Visit [www.specialtygrowers.org/everythinglocal.html](http://www.specialtygrowers.org/everythinglocal.html) for more information and to register. Media interested in attending should contact Sierra Henry, Illinois Farm Bureau media relations specialist.

"There really is something for everyone at this conference," said Randy Graham, Illinois Specialty Growers Association chairman. "Now all under one roof and in a smaller time commitment, the new conference will offer the same volume of information that used to require attending multiple conferences.

It's a much more efficient way for our members to get the resources they need to be successful."

Other highlights taking place will be the Illinois Apple Cider Contest, the three hosting organizations' annual meetings, awards, a tradeshow with more than 65 vendors and plenty of networking opportunities.

"The merged conference allows for better interactions from people throughout the supply chain, representing everyone from farm to fork," said Janie Maxwell, Illinois Farmers Market Association executive director. "Attendees will enjoy opportunities to network with people from other parts of the industry while still getting relevant information that matters to them."



## 17<sup>th</sup> Touch-A-Tractor set for April 14-16

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 17th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will be held Friday - Sunday, April 14-16. We will bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It could be your first chance to get the kids out of the house this spring!

Kids get to touch and even sit in the seats of big farm machinery they typically only see from the road. They can participate in

hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, frolic in the corn corral, crawl through culverts, bang on pots and pans, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and see farm animals.

Parents tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2023 calendar.

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 Liz.



## KCFB budgets for Adult Continuing Education opportunities

As a not-for-profit established with a primary mission to support scholarship and education for the future of farms and food, the KCFB Foundation Board of Directors has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of college scholarships, agricultural literacy programs, and agricultural leadership education as well as for support of the local community through Extension, 4-H and FFA. The Foundation has also been a leader in raising local hunger awareness and helping coordinate programs for local hunger relief.

More recently, the Foundation has turned its attention to continuing education and the need for farmer training for existing, new and beginning farmers. And while the Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies and organizations offer many opportunities for producers of livestock, commodities and specialty crops to learn through statewide conferences and workshops, no single association's offerings can be comprehensive.

To fill the void, the KCFB

Foundation has approved an Adult Continuing Education funding budget. The intent is to provide support for courses, conferences, training and professional development, not sponsored by Farm Bureau, to advance education for the future of farms and food here in Kane County. Funding will be provided through an application process with applications due 60 days before the start of the course of study or conference attendance. A review committee will make final decisions on all funding requests.

Funding will be limited to half of the enrollment, registration or tuition fee and to \$250 per membership per year. It will also be limited to one-time only course enrollment or conference attendance. No successive attendance at annual conferences will be considered.

For more information on the program, contact KCFB Foundation Executive Director Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660 or [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com), or visit [kanecfb.com](http://kanecfb.com) and click on Get Involved > Scholarships > Continuing Education Application.

## Scholarships

(continued from page 1) 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,

or go to [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) and click on "Scholarships & Internships".

Application deadline is February 15, 2023.

Scan the QR code on page 1 to start your application.

Valentina Poggi of Villa Park was the recipient of the 2022 AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship. She attends the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.



## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



### Hello Kane County and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season! I cannot believe how fast this year flew by! As we kick off the New Year, we often think about goals we want to set for ourselves for the coming year or our New Year's Resolutions. Have you ever wondered why your New Year's Resolutions lose their spark after a few weeks or a couple months into the New Year? Well, have no fear! I am here to give you a little goal setting advice so you can start the year off right and keep building momentum all year long!

First and foremost with goal setting, you have to be honest with yourself about where you are and where it is you want to go. Similar to driving a car, it doesn't do you any good trying to give directions or map out your route to an end destination without first knowing where you are.

When it comes to goal setting, you have to make sure the goals you are working towards mean something or hold a strong value to you. If your why

behind said goal is not big enough or doesn't light a spark within you, you need to find a new goal. The why behind your goals will be the fuel that gets you fired up every single day and pulls you through the test days. Test days will come and they will come more than once. Test days are life's way of challenging you to see how truly committed you are to achieving your goals so your why behind your goal has to be so strong that even on tough days the why pulls you through and you resist temptation or worse, giving up on your goal.

My next piece of advice is to set attainable and measureable goals for yourself. If you're just starting out, maybe try focusing on 3-5 smaller, more manageable goals. Sometimes with goal setting we can have a tendency to have a laundry list of goals we want to achieve, however, it can cause us to feel overwhelmed if we aren't moving the needle or seeing progress and then it can lead to us giving up. Try focusing in on the goals that mean the most to you and track your daily progress. Writing them out and seeing them daily is another key com-

ponent in goal setting, as well as holding yourself accountable. There are tons of apps, journals, and other resources these days that can be assets in helping you track your progress. There is no right or wrong, utilize the resource that works best for you.

Once you've done the previous steps, find yourself an accountability partner, friend, or coach for two main reasons. First, having someone you can check-in with daily or weekly to help you track your progress. Are you doing the work you said you were going to do? Where might you need some improvements? This should be someone who can hold you accountable and call you out if you start to go astray from your goal. If you'd rather keep them to yourself, make sure you are honest with yourself and have tools or resources available so you can visually track your progress and see how things are going. Accountability is about not lying to yourself. I encourage you to check out David Goggins' accountability mirror. Secondly, having someone to hold you accountable also helps you to put things into perspective as well as celebrate the small victories along the way! Celebrating and stacking those little victories along the way as you work towards a big goal helps to keep the momentum rolling forward. Forward progress is still progress and being a better version of yourself than when you

started to chase your goal is something to be celebrated!

These are just a few of my goal setting tidbits, but I encourage you to set big and small goals for yourself this year. Even if they scare you a little bit or seem out of reach – I promise you will come out at the end a better version of yourself for getting the courage to reach for more. Step outside your comfort zone. Get comfortable with the uncomfortable and learn something new along your goal journey. There is no one size fits all when it comes to goal setting. Find what works best for you and get to work!

As I have mentioned before, when it comes to goal setting and my mindset in general, I like to use the analogy of driving a car. You are in control, in the driver's seat. In order to get to your destination or my goal,

you have to make sure you are properly fueled up, in good maintenance and to keep your eyes forward and focus on your own lane. If you spend too much time looking in the rear view mirror or getting distracted while driving, it will only slow you down, take your eyes off the road, or get you lost. Not every day will be a smooth and easy drive and some days you may drive more miles than others. There will be bumps in the road and the occasional storm along the way, but as long as you keep moving forward every single day towards your goal you will get there. So when it comes to goal setting or setting New Year's Resolutions this year – I encourage you to keep your eyes forward and to consistently moving forward.

Happy January!

## Book of the month

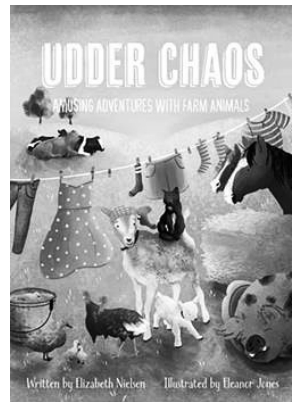
As the old saying goes, a farmer's work is never done. No matter the day or the season, there's always something that needs to be accomplished. And for those who have livestock, there are no days off regardless of the weather or day of the year. Farmers understand that they have a commitment to take care of their animals every single day – 365! Ask any farmer and they will tell you no two days are the same and there will always be lessons learned and memories made along the way.

The book of the month for January is *Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals* written by Elburn native, Elizabeth Nielsen and illustrated by Eleanor Jones. In this charming, rhythmic, beautifully illustrated story, Nielsen captures what an eventful morning of farm chores can look like on her very own farm! Chaos may arise but this farmer does not let anything keep her down! As she says in the book, "When choring gets too hard, I don't give up! Even if a cat is drinking from my cup!"

Readers will see how a little bit of perseverance and optimism can go a long way even

when life or chores gets tough! To see what these mischievous farm animals are up to, swing on by the Kane County Farm Bureau, visit our FREE library, and check out *Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

If you'd like to purchase your own signed copy of *Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals*, check out <https://authorspots.com/udderchaosbook/>.



*Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals* by Elizabeth Nielsen, illustrated by Eleanor Jones

## 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



Donna Tonoviz  
St. Charles  
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges  
Aurora  
847-898-3750



Edward Stuehm  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes  
Elgin  
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen  
Elgin  
847-742-0004



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  
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

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1220-509HC\_-10/7/2022



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

The Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students (S.P.R.O.U.T.S.) 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.



Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students

Happy New Year!



Like us on Facebook for a weekly helping of humor – our Friday Farming Funnies. You'll also find the latest info about our new Little Lending Library and ILLINOIS Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden, local farming folks and news and upcoming events and specials at Kane County Farm Bureau.



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## Winter Animal Care

Farm photo by Catrina Rawson, Illinois Farm Bureau

Illinois Farm Bureau *Partners* magazine recently interviewed Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis of Campton Hills about how they care for their herd of Holstein cows. Look for a reprint of that article in next month's *Kane County Farmer*. Here is Sarah's answer to one question posed by *Partners*.

### How do you keep your cows comfortable?

Our cows live the life. They are creatures of habit and like consistency. When they are clean, dry and comfortable, they give good milk. Cows prefer cooler temperatures than people, and they are susceptible to heat and cold stress in the wide range of Illinois temperatures. Our free stall barn is temperature controlled. The ventilation is automatic with fans that turn off and on, and curtains along the sides open and close to maintain the ideal temperature, much like a house with a thermostat. Cows roam the barn, rest, eat and set their own milking schedules.

## JOKES ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

What do you call a cow with two legs?  
Lean beef!

What do you call a cow with no legs?  
Ground beef!

What did the pony say when it had a sore throat?  
I'm a little hoarse!

What do you give a sick horse?  
Cough stirrup!

For more laughs check out: <https://www.enchantedlearning.com/jokes/topics/farm.shtml>

## Winter animal care

S	K	N	A	T	G	N	H	M	X	C	N	B	D	V	W	X	S	V	T	Animal Care
S	R	K	F	E	A	S	H	H	F	A	O	M	F	J	N	U	A	N	F	Boots
R	E	Q	C	W	L	J	G	O	J	R	R	J	X	G	B	Z	E	G	O	Caretaker
X	S	R	G	U	F	D	O	I	Z	E	B	P	G	Z	V	I	N	R	U	Cattle
R	M	W	O	N	Z	M	U	U	P	T	I	S	E	Z	C	Q	A	D	R	Chickens
R	U	K	V	H	T	U	F	E	C	A	I	R	A	I	C	I	B	H	W	Chores
T	A	E	H	C	C	Q	F	K	O	K	O	U	F	B	M	R	A	E	H	Comfortable
A	N	I	M	A	L	C	A	R	E	E	S	F	V	X	Z	R	S	L	E	Efficient
T	R	A	C	T	O	R	S	N	L	R	E	H	H	N	D	B	N	B	E	Electric Heaters
H	E	H	X	V	A	J	M	G	B	O	V	C	E	W	F	A	O	A	L	Four-Wheel
P	B	J	Q	I	G	Y	E	E	E	O	A	J	O	E	P	C	W	T	D	Drive
G	C	C	L	G	B	E	Z	O	M	T	O	R	V	N	P	D	B	R	R	Hard work
D	G	X	A	S	T	M	U	M	T	E	K	T	U	I	T	E	F	O	I	Heat
S	N	E	K	C	I	H	C	L	T	A	E	Z	S	A	Y	T	D	F	V	Heated Cab
D	R	B	O	V	J	Z	E	F	R	E	Z	H	C	R	I	A	D	M	E	Obligation
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	H	E	A	T	E	R	S	G	E	P	O	J	Perseverance
R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y	T	H	H	R	C	V	Pigs
E	Y	X	A	S	N	Q	L	U	G	O	B	L	I	G	A	T	I	O	N	Rain
E	C	N	A	R	E	V	E	S	R	E	P	Z	Y	P	E	F	X	Q	T	Responsibility
C	Z	A	F	Y	J	U	L	N	O	I	T	A	L	I	T	N	E	V	A	Sheep
																				Snow
																				Sub-zero
																				Tanks
																				Tractors
																				Ventilation

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by January 15, 2023 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

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

## Homemade bird seed bells for backyard buddies

### Materials

- 1 cup birdseed
- 1/2 cup black oil sunflower seeds
- 1/4 cup cornmeal (or flour)
- 1 teaspoon unflavored gelatin (about half of a packet)
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 4.4" clay flowerpot
- 24" length of yarn, twine, or string
- Wax paper

### Directions

Prepare the clay flowerpot by lining it with wax paper, and then poke through the wax paper at the bottom with a pencil, and out the hole in the bottom of the pot

Fold the 24" length of yarn or string in half and push the folded end through the hole in the bottom of the pot, pulling in through until about 4" loop is sticking out of the bottom of the pot.

Mix the birdseed, sunflower seed, and cornmeal (or flour) in

a mixing bowl and set aside. Then heat 1/4 cup water in the microwave and mix the teaspoon of unflavored gelatin stir to dissolve.



Birdseed Bells

Add a tablespoon of light corn syrup to the gelatin mixture and pour the gelatin mixture into the birdseed mixture and stir until everything is well mixed.

Spoon the birdseed mixture

into the prepared mold, holding the string straight as you spoon the mixture around it. Pat the mixture down to fit the mold of the flowerpot. (You should have a few inches of string still sticking out when you are done filling the mold)

Put the filled mold in the freezer for about an hour to harden up. Then remove from the freezer and pull up on the wax paper to remove the bell from the mold.

You may want to leave the bell to set thoroughly, harden and dry and you may tie a washer onto the string ends hanging out under the bell to make the bottom more sturdy. Hang and watch the birds enjoy your homemade birdseed bell!

This homemade birdfeeder craft found here: <https://www.themakeyourownzone.com/make-your-own-birdseed-bells/>

## Homemade carrot cake dog treats

### Ingredients

- 1 cup applesauce (plain, unsweetened, without any additives)
- 1/4 cup almond butter or peanut butter (raw and natural, unsalted and unsweetened and free of any flavors and xylitol)
- 2 large eggs
- 4 cups oat flour (plus 1/2 cup more if necessary and for dusting)
- 1 cup grated carrots (peeled first)
- 1/2 cup coconut flakes (unsweetened natural)

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, using a hand-held electric mixer, beat the applesauce, almond butter, and eggs together until well blended.

Add in the oat flour, carrots, and coconut flakes until well mixed (add more oat flour if too watery or sticky)

Transfer the dough to a surface lightly sprinkled with oat flour and knead 3-4 times until it comes together

Using a rolling pin sprinkled with oat flour, roll out the dough to a 1/2 inch thickness

Using cookie cutters, cut out the desired shapes and transfer to the prepared baking sheet

Place in the oven and bake until the treats are dry and edges



## Congratulations

To Maria Hutchinson of Geneva, the December 2022 Word Search Winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's word search puzzle. For her participation, she receives a fun prize to be picked up at the Farm Bureau within the next 30 days (prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Maria, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

are golden, takes about 18-20 minutes

Let treats cool before serving to your furry friend! :)

Recipe provided by: <https://bellyfull.net/homemade-carrot-cake-dog-treats/>

## January is ...

### National

- New Year's Day 1
- Swiss Cheese Day 2
- Chocolate Covered Cherry Day 3
- Spaghetti Day 4
- Bird Day 5
- Whipped Cream Day 5
- Apple Tree Day 6
- Bean Day 6
- Shortbread Day 6
- English Toffee Day 8
- Apricot Day 9
- Houseplant Appreciation Day 10
- Milk Day 11
- Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day 14
- Bagel Day 15
- Fresh Squeezed Juice Day 15
- Quinoa Day 16
- Fig Newton Day 16
- Gourmet Coffee Day 18
- Popcorn Day 19
- Cheese Lover's Day 20
- Granola Bar Day 21
- Blonde Brownie Day 22
- Hot Sauce Day 22
- Pie Day 23
- Peanut Butter Day 24
- Peanut Brittle Day 26
- Chocolate Cake Day 27
- Blueberry Pancake Day 28
- Corn Chip Day 29
- Croissant Day 30
- Hot Chocolate Day 31

### National

- Apple and Apricot Month
- Artichoke and Asparagus Month
- Blood Donor Month
- Hobby Month
- Meat Month
- Hot Tea Month
- Oatmeal Month
- Slow Cooking Month
- Soup Month
- Walk Your Dog Month

Happy New Year!



**Cattle ‘cool’ with colder weather**

One of my favorite holiday cards routinely arrives at the turn of the New Year. My friend mails photo cards that capture her cattle, sometimes in the romantic calm of winter. One year it was a snow-capped hay bale. Another, it was the steaming breaths of her cows with frost-covered backs. Just looking at that photo, you can feel the frigid air of that winter morning, but the cows appear at peace, content with the cold Illinois landscape.

And they are. Cows wear leather coats year-round, a clever observation from my cattle-farming cousin. While she and her husband pile insulated bibs, heavy coats, stocking hats, gloves and sub-zero-rated boots in the mudroom this time of year, the cows wear what they need every month of the year. She finds that her cows prefer winter temperatures over those of summer.

Likewise, our farm’s cows lie down to rest in the snow, unbothered by the frozen landscape. If a cold wind blows, the cows huddle together or locate shelter, whether in the barn or natural areas like trees. With help from farmers like my

friend, cousin and dad, cattle are incredibly hardy. Daily access to hay provides cattle with their primary energy source in a season when the pasture grass doesn’t grow. Supplements of minerals and protein support overall health. And farmers ensure heating elements remain operable to keep water thawed and fresh in automatic water drinkers.

Livestock caretakers generally dread the weather events that cancel school. Heavy snow means clearing barnyards and driveways to reach the cattle and then scooping paths to their food and water. Still, most cattle farmers will take snow and frozen ground over mud any day. Mud ranks worse than a blizzard, making a mess of the pastures and cattle lots. Especially with cool temperatures, the wet landscape increases fatality risks for newborn calves in late winter and early spring. The sloppy terrain quite simply makes getting around on hoof or foot a genuine hassle for cows and their farmers, and to the house cleaner’s dismay, the farmhouse mudroom earns its title. In fact, I never expect to see mud on our holiday cards of well wishes.

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

**Teacher Institute Day, March 3, 2023**

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 “**Bee Keeping, Pollinators, & Preservations**” to learn more about FREE class-

**at Kane County Farm Bureau, St. Charles**

room resources and lesson plan ideas, and to hear from local experts on bees, protecting water quality and building your own pollinator garden! Register through the Kane County Regional Office of Education at <https://kaneroe.org/institute-day>.

CEU’s/CPDU’s are available.

**Kane Co. teachers—Local farm tours coming Summer 2023**

Join KCFB for “behind the barn doors” tours of Kane County farms and local food businesses summer 2023!

Teachers will board a bus at KCFB and visit specialty crop, grain, and dairy farms, a nursery, a distillery, and much more agriculture fun!

Teachers will gain first-hand

knowledge about agriculture which they can take back to their classrooms to share with their students and earn CPDUs with KCFB this summer! Plus teachers who attend will also receive numerous learning materials and lesson plans too!

Stay tuned for more details to come!



Teachers tour Midwest Groundcovers in St. Charles, wholesale growers and propagators of millions of plants for Midwestern landscapes. KCFB archive photo.

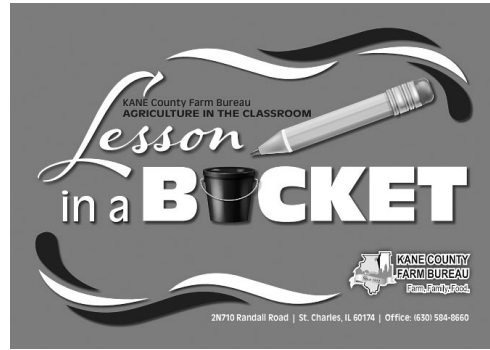
**Lesson in a Bucket Dairy featured in January**

Are you an elementary teacher in Kane County? Are you looking for fun and innovative ways to bridge the gap between agriculture and your classroom? Look no further than Lesson-In-A-Bucket! NEW this year, KCFB will be offering monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes just like the ones you would find on the farm! Buckets are complete with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags about given topics such as apples, pumpkins, or corn!

This month’s theme is all about dairy! Inside the chore bucket, K-5 teachers will find a classroom set of Dairy Ag-Mags that pairs perfectly with the Dairy Ag-Venture that helps students apply their mathematics and literacy skills! In addition, teachers will find dairy themed activities such as Milk Plastic which is a fun and interactive science lesson designed to help students understand how proteins are sensitive to acids. Students will get things moo-ving with the Balancing Cow lesson which helps stu-

dents understand what balanced and unbalanced forces are and what causes objects to move!

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.

Who doesn’t enjoy a scrumptious bowl of macaroni and cheese? What kinds of cheese do you like best in this dish? Have you ever stopped to wonder where the cheesy goodness comes from? As an added bonus there is a mAGic lesson about Dairy where students will follow the process from cow to

cheese and learn the fascinating facts about the steps involved to make some of their favorite cheese with the Cud to Curd lesson! The Multidisciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. They address the Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

The learning doesn’t stop there! Inside each bucket, there is an infographic postcards for each student to keep all about dairy including nutritional facts, marketing myths, and consumer information about milk too!

We hope you are udderly-excited about dairy and allow us to help bring agriculture into your classroom this winter!

Buckets about apples, pumpkins, corn, and specialty crops are available for checkout too! Next month, students will take a trip back in time and learn all about Illinois History 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, book, or 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

Little Lending Library that we can help bridge the gap between consumer and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our young readers will be *Extra Cheese, Please! Mozzarella’s Journey From Cow to Pizza* by Cris Paterson and illustrated by Alvis Uptis. In addition we will

have copies of our Dairy AgMags and dairy infographics for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure.

Supplies are limited and there are no guarantees so make like a cow and get moo-ving today because it may be gone tomorrow!

Next month’s book of the month will be *John Deere That’s Who!* as students learn about history and agriculture so stay tuned for the February *Farmer* issue!

**IAA Foundation scholarship 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 runs from January 1–February 15, 2023. Applications are due February 15, 2023. Find more information and apply online at <https://iaafoundation.org/>.

**Private well testing program in February**

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water testing program in February 2023. 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 20 – Friday, March 3, 2023**

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 5, 2023**

Collect the water sample.

**Step 3. Monday, March 6, 2023**

Return water sample to Farm

Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District.

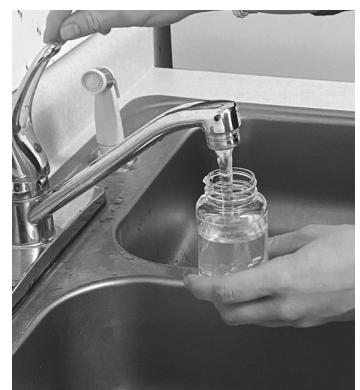
Costs vary for depending on which tests you have performed on your water. Three kits are available:

**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.

# Plus (+) membership garners rewards

Congratulations this month go to **Daniel Nagel** of Sugar Grove, the first ever winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time he stops in our office, Daniel will receive a FREE Rosemary Pork Roast from the fine offerings we feature each month from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb.

Wyatt and ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered each month in a drawing for the monthly *Kane County Farmer* featured food product or seasonal prize, as well as receiving the discounts and premiums displayed on the right. For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

### PLUS (+ PACKAGE) STATUS

**Upgrade your membership to PLUS STATUS for just \$25 more to get additional savings & benefits.**

### PLUS (+ PACKAGE) STATUS

Includes all Kane County & Illinois Farm Bureau programs, benefits & services PLUS ...

- 1 FREE 9" FALL MUM\*
- FREE ENTRY EACH MONTH IN DRAWING FOR KCFB "MONTHLY SPECIAL" FOOD PRODUCT OR SEASONAL PRIZE.
- FREE TOUCH-A-TRACTOR ADMISSION
- 10% DISCOUNT AT KCFB'S COUNTRY STORE
- 5% discount on seasonal food offers (fresh peaches, local turkeys, citrus & more)
- 5% discount on monthly food specials & year-round items like pork chops, chicken breasts, burgers & steaks
- \$20 discount on meeting room rental for professional/organizational/club meetings
- 40% off *Kane County Farmer* classifieds & 10% off display ads
- 10% discount on soil testing – the best way to a healthy lawn or garden

*\*While supplies last. Pick-up at KCFB. Mums available Oct. 1-31. Offers subject to change w/o notice.*

# IFB releases documentary about sustainability in farming

Farmers throughout Illinois go to great lengths to preserve our soil and protect water quality. In 2022, Illinois Farm Bureau staff wanted to go to those same great lengths to produce a video that showcases these efforts, the farmer spirit and the collaboration required to achieve the goals of the NLRs.

Centered around the Ganschow family farm in Bureau County, the documen-

tary called "Sustaining our Future: A Farm Family Story" illustrates how three generations of farmers have approached sustainability. To create this documentary, IFB video and environmental teams partnered with farmers, CFBs, researchers, and other key stakeholders. It required nearly 25 video shoots across Illinois, dozens of interviews, behind-the-scenes recordings and countless hours

of recording and editing.

The documentary sends a clear message to various organizations and individuals working together: Continue to remain passionately dedicated to improving agriculture's impact on the environment.

Follow the link to Illinois Farm Bureau's YouTube page to watch the documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zQ04\\_Qn5a0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zQ04_Qn5a0).

# IFB holds annual meeting

At its annual meeting in Chicago in December, the Illinois Farm Bureau elected two new district directors to a two-year term on its governing board.

Brent Pollard, Winnebago County, will represent District 2, which includes Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll and Ogle counties. Jeff Weber, Massac County, will represent District 18, which includes Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties

IFB leaders presented their most prestigious award, the Charles B. Shuman Distinguished Service Award, to Ed McMillan. Raised on a farm in McDonough County, Ill., McMillan was president and CEO of Purina Mills. Dedicated to service on the state and national levels, McMillan has served on the National FFA Foundation and was president of the University of Illinois board of trustees.

The IFB Young Leader Committee elected its 2023 officers, including:

- Chair Sadie Asher, Henry

- County
- Vice Chair Rachel Fulton, McLean County
- Secretary Carolyn Brummel, Kane County
- Education and Recruitment Subcommittee Chair Jenna Severs, Vermillion County
- Achievement Subcommittee Chair Kody Bowman, McDonough County
- Governmental Affairs and Commodities Subcommittee Chair Josh Reinhardt, Randolph County

Young Leaders also announced winners of their three contests. Evan Hultine, Bureau County, won the Achievement Award, which recognizes young farmers for their achievements on their farm and in leadership positions. Kaylee Heap, Kendall County, won the Excellence in Agriculture Award, which recognizes Young Leaders who are actively contributing to their communities and growing their involvement in Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry. Ryan Reeverts, Ogle County, won the state Discussion Meet, which weighs a Young Leader's ability to manage a small group discussion.

# What's new at COUNTRY?

**St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager**

Congratulations to **Luke Fawkes**, who has been named the November Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Luke 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 Luke's expertise help you! You may reach Luke at 847-742-0002, or [Lucas.Fawkes@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:Lucas.Fawkes@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Lucas>.

*Fawkes/.* Congratulations, Luke!

**Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager**

**Ryan Mizgate**, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for November 2022. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial® in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at: 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

# 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 November 16–December 15, 2022.



Donor	Program	Beneficiary
Karl and Julie Kettelkamp & Paul "Griz" Stover	Harvest for All	Elburn Food Pantry
Jon DeRaedt	Harvest for All	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Marion County Farm Bureau in Memory of Edwin P Brummel	KCFB Foundation	Ag Literacy programs
Konen Family Foundation in Memory of Bob & Alyce Konen	KCFB Foundation	Ag Literacy programs

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

**Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation**  
Educational & Community Service Programs

**I want to help support:**

Foundation Scholarships

Ag Literacy Library

SPROUTS

Ag Days

FFA Chapter Grants

Touch-A-Tractor

Other (indicate below)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to KCFB Foundation OR please charge my donation to my:**

VISA  MC  Discover

Name (as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make this a recurring monthly gift  
*(Your credit card will be billed this amount each month)*

**Please accept my donation in the amount of:**

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Surprise us!**

Please dedicate my donation to:

**Kane Co. Farm Bureau FOUNDATION**  
2N710 Randall Rd.,  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
By phone at 630-584-8660

**For information on other ways to support the work of our not-for-profit Foundation, establish a memorial scholarship, honor a loved one, or establish a new agricultural or community service program, effort, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director, at 630-584-8660 or [steve@kcfb.com](mailto:steve@kcfb.com).**

# Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August, 2011. His office

**Felipe Rocha**

is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746.

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**  
MASSAGE THERAPY: Treat yourself to 60 or 90 minutes of relaxation, pain relief, or both. Deep tissue, acupressure, or Swedish. Certified, experienced. Call Susanne Marshall, L.M.T. 630-699-5610

**WANTED**  
CUSTOMER SERVICE – 30-35 hours weekly, M-F. Applicant must be a computer literate, self-starter, with pleasant voice and manner, some travel possible. Office located east side of St. Charles. We offer vacation pay, self-directed savings plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for stay-at-home-Mom or college student. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview.  
Want to buy vintage & used tools. Also, we do cleanouts. Call Chris: 630-550-7182

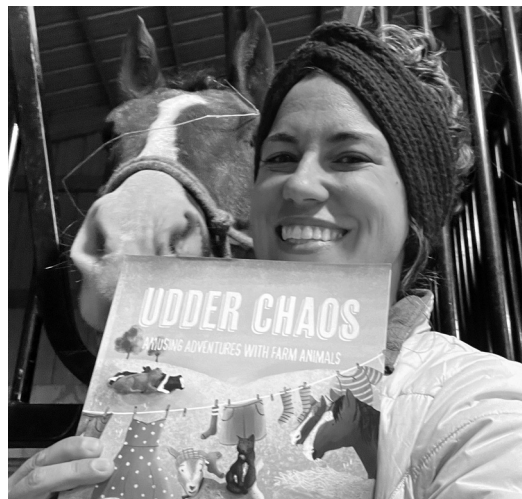
*Happy  
New Year*  
from KCFB

# Local farm owner/author chats about book—Udder Chaos

We had the opportunity recently to speak with local author and speech pathologist Elizabeth Nielsen, of Elburn about her book Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals.

Therapy Services, LLC. She incorporates her own horses and other farm animals in her speech therapy sessions.

Udder Chaos was that Elizabeth is a big fan of incorporating literature into therapy. From her experience, she knew that including repetition such as the sounds animals make throughout her book would help with retention and help build confidence in her readers.



Elizabeth Nielsen of Elburn with her book and one of her therapy horses.

Elizabeth is from Plainfield, Illinois and has had a passion for horses ever since she was a little girl. She raised and showed horses growing up, which eventually led her to meeting her husband in high school.

Elizabeth attended Northern Illinois University for both her undergrad and graduate degrees. During her college career she earned her therapeutic certification in 2009 to work with horses and specifically Clydesdale horses. Upon graduating with her master's in 2012 she knew she eventually wanted to have her own practice but knew it was going to be hard and take some time. She started out part time in 2014 while working a full time job and in 2015 she was able to make her dream a reality by working full time and owning her own clinic.

Elizabeth is a speech-language pathologist and operates her own private pediatric speech therapy clinic from an office on her farm, Tiny Voice

Elizabeth explained that she utilizes animals much like you would include other resources in therapy sessions to help keep her clients moving, sensory systems working, and of course have a little fun too!

When asked what animals she has on her farm, Elizabeth gave a wide smile and said they have them all – horses, goats, pigs, cows, ducks, turkeys, lots of barn kitties and cats, and one dog!

Her inspiration for writing

able to laugh at oneself when things get a little chaotic, and keeping pushing through are the takeaways she hopes people will get from Udder Chaos. Elizabeth thinks animals can be a great way to help build confidence and interacting with animals in their natural environment helps to open up the pathways of communication. In addition, clients learn functional things such as how to care for the animals by cutting up fresh vegetables and offering them as

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.

treats to the animals or collecting fresh eggs from the coop. She thinks that interacting with and caring for animals teaches "Perseverance – hard work pays off and it can be so fulfilling and rewarding."

The Elburn farm property has an outbuilding, utilized for Elizabeth's practice, which on weekends becomes a getaway for clients and families. Families have the opportunity to assist with daily farm chores and even have the opportunity to have a horseback riding lesson.

Elizabeth laughed when asked if she is currently working on any other books? She responded, "Maybe!" She had a

client who quickly pointed out that her horse, Bob, was not in Udder Chaos! Elizabeth went on to state that she may write a second book to supplement her current work. Stay tuned!

When asked what is the best advice she's ever received, Elizabeth commented that she had a professor in grad school who told her, "You may not know what you're doing for the first ten years in your career..." but as long as you keep showing up and learning along the way you will be just fine!

Udder Chaos – Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and AuthorSpots.com.

## KCFB to host 'Rules for the Road'

Kane County Farm Bureau will host a two-hour trucking seminar focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

A session for farmers in Northeast Illinois will be held on March 14 at 5:30 pm at the More

Brewery, 13980 Automall Drive in Huntley.

"There are some trucking laws that have been reshaped in recent years, such as the Entry Level Driver Training Requirement that went into effect in 2022," said Rodney Knittel, IFB assistant director of transportation and infrastructure. "These presentations are designed to take a closer look at these latest rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask those ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to find clear answers for."

This Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent

changes and some of the more established but still misunderstood rules, such as the USDOT Number, UCR registrations and driver's license classifications, to name a few. It is one in a series of 12 to be held throughout Illinois. A March 1 meeting will also be offered virtually.

Knittel specializes in farm transportation issues and will lead the seminar series, and he will be joined by Illinois enforcement agencies.

Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free, courtesy of your County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is requested. Please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to reserve your place at the in-person Rules for the Road Seminar by March 7.

For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau, steve@kanecfb.com or Rodney

Trucking seminar for farmers in NE IL at Huntley

## Welcome to the next level

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

We remind you of added perks that accompany your new Regular member or Professional Status and thank you for 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

Regular Members	
Kaitch Farms	Batavia
Kautz Farm	Geneva
Jack Douglas	Sugar Grove
Eddie Tanudra	Aurora

## Travel with Farm Bureau—New England Rails & Sails—Fall 2023

Kane County Farm Bureau is joining with three other northern IL farm bureaus to offer a beautiful rail and sail tour of New England in autumn. The tour is coordinated through Mayflower Tours.

The tour is scheduled for September 23-30, 2023 and begins in Boston, MA. Tour highlights include:

- 14 meals; 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Round trip airport transfers
- Three New England Train tours – the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad and Essex Steam Train
- Three New England

Cruises – Portland's Casco Bay, Becky Thatcher riverboat cruise, Captain John whale watching cruise.

- City tour of Boston with a

local guide

- A visit to Kennebunkport, ME
- A night in the mountain town of North Conway, NH
- A trip through the Kancamagus Scenic Byway and fall foliage through the White Mountains
- Two nights at the Foxwoods Resort Casino

Prices are \$3,499 per person twin, single room is an additional \$1,439. Mayflower is offering free airfare when trip is booked by January 31, 2023.

If you have questions or want to book your trip, call KCFB at 630-584-8660. Happy travels!



FREE AIRFARE when booked before Jan. 31, 2023

You are invited to a New England Rails & Sails Travel show Zoom webinar on January 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Tony Caruna of Lindstrom Travel will discuss highlights and details of the tour.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Call Liz at 630-584-8660 for registration info.

When: Jan 11, 2023 6:00 PM Central Time

KCFB FOUNDATION scholarships available – apply now – see page 1

Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

**MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM**  
 HOSTED BY: KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
 MORE Brewing Company | Huntley, IL  
 Doors Open at 5:30 pm | Meal at 5:45 pm  
 Register by March 7, 2023

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members  
**REGISTRATION OPENS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.** Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.