

# Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 85 NO. 7 JULY 2020

## KCFB Foundation makes \$8,700 grant to NIFB for Milk2MyPlate Asks community to help 'match' the charitable contribution

Over the last decade area farmers have proven farming is essentially a humanitarian enterprise through the KCFB Foundation's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort. Emphasizing hunger awareness and hunger relief as part of the Foundation's mission has helped it provide the equivalent of over two million meals to area food pantries and

the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) since 2009.

Recently the AGCO Agriculture Foundation acknowledged the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's demonstrated outstanding commitment to serving others by making it one of only four not-for-profit organizations in North America to receive funding in its latest

round of grants for COVID-19 Aid Programs. The AGCO Foundation awarded \$8,700 to the KCFB Foundation in recognition of its work in the local community.

Borned as AGCO's philanthropic response to COVID-19, AGCO employees from around the world nominated organizations that could make an immediate and personal impact in their communities. The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation was nominated by employees of AGCO Parts in Batavia.

Like the AGCO Agriculture Foundation and local AGCO Parts employees in Batavia, the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is committed to ending hunger. 100% of the \$8,700 grant provided by the AGCO Agriculture Foundation was awarded to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to support their award winning Milk2MyPlate program.

Through innovative programs to promote the KCFB Foundation's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort, including its Million Meal Challenge in 2013 and a 10,000 Gallon (milk) Challenge in 2019, the Foundation has been able to sustain a tradition of giving from Farm Bureau members. It hopes to continue that tradition by asking its members to help match the AGCO provided funds, and double the 2020 grant from \$8,700 to \$17,400!

All Harvest for ALL contributions to Northern Illinois Food Bank through the Kane County

Farm Bureau Foundation support the NIFB's innovative Milk2MyPlate program, (Figure 1) and have since 2012, when the program was launched. Through Milk2MyPlate, food pantries in the NIFB network can receive

information, visit [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com). To contribute to the effort, fill out and return the form on page 3, send checks payable to Harvest for ALL, c/o Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174, or contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director at 630-584-8660.

Northern Illinois Food Bank – a proud member of Feeding America – is the source of nutritious food, innovative feeding programs, and hope for more than half a million people each year. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, with a goal of solving hunger in our 13-county service area, we rely on our generous donors, volunteers, and community partners – the local food pantries and feeding programs, food manufacturers and retailers, companies, foundations and individuals who join with us in our vision.

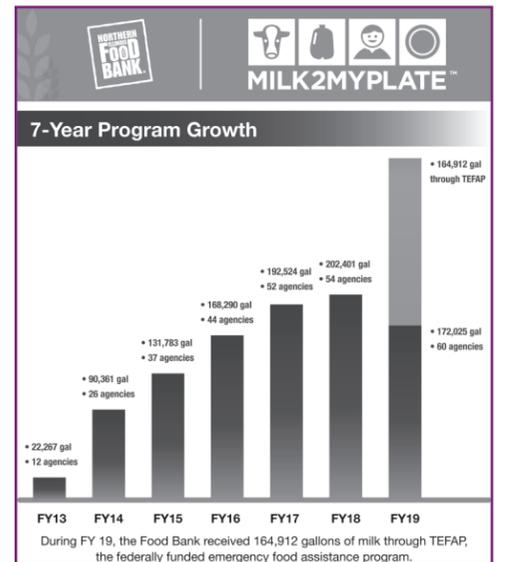


Gathered in the lobby of the Northern Illinois Food Bank for a check presentation on June 15 are (l-r) Hester Bury, Development Officer, NIFB; Chad Steward, Retail Relations Liaison, NIFB; Liz Polovin, Member Relations Director, KCFB and Jeannine Kannegiesser, Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving, NIFB.

shipments of fresh milk and dairy products directly from the farmer-owned and Farm Bureau affiliated Prairie Farms Dairy milk marketing cooperative. The program helped earn the Northern Illinois Food Bank a Sustainability Award from the National Dairy Council in 2015 and has been imitated in Food Banks across the nation since.

For more infor-

Figure 1



## — FREE — pedal tractor give away!

Give your child or grandchild the chance to win a pedal tractor! The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the conclusion of our 2020 Truck Raffle drawing, Sunday, July

19, at 5:00 pm.

The pedal tractor drawing is open only to children 8 and under. Entrant's name, age, and phone must appear on the form. Mail in entries must be received by Friday July 17, 2020.



When farmers think Red vs Green nowadays, it's typically Case IH and John Deere tractors they are picturing. In this photo, Olivia Dowd stands in front of scale model pedal tractors of an earlier era, an Oliver 1755 and a Cockshutt 70. While the names of these farm equipment manufacturers have passed into history, pedal tractors bearing those names still exist. And speaking of pedal tractors, KCFB Foundation will draw the name of one lucky kid, 8 and under, to win one on July 19! See entry form on page 6 or stop by our office to register at our "Drive-thru" Vintage Truck Raffle ticket booth.

### KCFB CALENDAR JULY 2020

- 1 IFB Region 2 Meeting
- 3 Office Closed/Independence Day
- 9 Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 16 Kane County Ag Cmte., 10 am, County Bldg.
- 18 \*Pollinator Rain Garden public prep/planting (9-5)
- 19 \*Pollinator Rain Garden public planting (noon-3)
- \*Scholarship Awards Ceremony, 4 pm

VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE DRAWING, 5 pm

\*COVID 19 Phase 4 dependent!  
(All meetings/events are at KCFB unless otherwise indicated)

Sweet summer peaches are coming soon!  
See page 8 to order.

### Save the date(s)!

Join us on the KCFB lawn 9-5 on Saturday, July 18 and noon-3 on Sunday, July 19 to help plant a pollinator rain garden! This COVID-19 Phase 4 dependent activity will be a prelude to our July 19, 4 pm Scholarship Awards Ceremony (also Phase 4 dependent; bring your lawn chairs) and the 5 pm drawing of winners in our 2020 KCFB Foundation Vintage Truck Raffle.

All volunteers who help prepare and/or plant the pollinator rain garden will receive a FREE "Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm" t-shirt (while supplies last) and lunch compliments of the Kane County Farm Bureau.

A food truck will be on premises on Sunday for visitors, ticket buyers and award ceremony attendees.



## Are we in Phase 4 yet?

Editor's note: Among the challenges wrought by COVID 19 for not-for-profits like ours is planning. Decision making, and then communicating with the public and with members about programs through print media, on timelines that don't mesh with announcements and pronouncements made by authorities, has forced us to postpone, then cancel events.

That's where we are with July activities on these pages. Our INTENT is to plant a pollinator rain garden on the lawn at the Farm Bureau (with help from members and the public) on Saturday July 18 and Sunday, July 19, and our INTENT is to host a Scholarship Awards Ceremony on the parking lot at 4:00 pm. on July 19. But as we have printed this publication in advance of the Governor's announcement, we cannot be sure. These activities are COVID-19 Phase 4 dependent.

One thing is certain, we WILL draw a winner in our 2020 KCFB Foundation Vintage Truck Raffle on Sunday, July 19 at 5 p.m. We WILL do it outdoors at the Kane County Farm Bureau. We WILL do so if we have to do it with 10 or fewer people.

We hope that by the time you receive this publication, Illinois has moved to Phase 4 "Revitalization" and we can welcome you here at the Kane County Farm Bureau for these outdoor events.

Phase 4, according to the Restore Illinois report looks like in regard to gatherings:

Gatherings: All gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data and guidance.

# Pollinator planting July 18 & 19?

Join us on the KCFB lawn 9-5 on Saturday July 18 and/or noon-3 Sunday, July 19 as we plant a pollinator rain garden! This activity is COVID-19 Phase 4 dependent, and will be a prelude to our July 19, 4 p.m. Scholarship Awards Ceremony and the 5 p.m. drawing of a winner in our Vintage Truck Raffle.

The idea for a pollinator rain garden owes its origin to two local entities. First, the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District proposed the Farm Bureau as an ideal location for a rain garden nearly a decade ago, but no suitable/visible area could be found. Following the passage of an improved Kane County Stormwater Ordinance, the Kane County Division of

Environmental & Water Resources renewed the request as a means to demonstrate an approved practice, in lieu of stormwater detention, for farmers to use when development occurs on farms.

Following parking lot and site improvements at Kane County Farm Bureau, the east lawn of Kane County Farm Bureau along Randall Road was deemed an ideal environment to install the garden demonstrate an approved "stormwater best management practice" and to showcase the benefits of the environmental practices on area farms to travelers along Randall Road and visitors to Kane County Farm Bureau.

No pre-registration is necessary, but if you come, bring

your sunscreen, dress for the weather, and feel free to bring your garden tools! A KCFB staff member will be on hand from 9-5 each day with garden plans. **All volunteers who help prepare and/or plant the pollinator rain garden will receive a FREE "Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm" t-shirt (while supplies last) compliments of the Kane County Farm Bureau.** We'll provide lunch to the "crew" on Saturday, and will have a food truck available on Sunday.

We hope you can join us for this improvement to our property to benefit pollinators and demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship.



A pollinator rain garden is coming to the Kane County Farm Bureau.

It is an inexpensive, simple to implement and environmentally sound solution to residential and urban storm water runoff. It will gather and filter storm water to remove pollutants and percolate into the water table for groundwater recharge and use plants to attract pollinators. It helps achieve several beneficial environmental goals in one aesthetically pleasing space! The public is invited to help plant this garden July 18 and 19.

# IFB sought to protect the integrity of the regulatory process

On the evening of Wednesday, June 3, the Ninth Circuit Court released an opinion vacating the registrations of three dicamba herbicides.

On Monday, June 8 USEPA responded with a cancellation order and specific circumstances under which existing stocks of the three affected dicamba products can be used for a limited time.

In the five days in between, Farm Bureau worked with many stakeholders, IDOA and members of Congress to address the situation. IFB sent a letter asking USEPA to consider litigation and administrative remedies to avoid a sudden disruption to the 2020 growing season.

I heard from a number of you. Some asked "how did this happen" and "what is Farm Bureau doing."

From IFB President Rich Guebert



Other members expressed appreciation to IFB for working to find a remedy. And some members expressed disappointment that the Farm Bureau worked to allow the use of dicamba ... a product some members believe is flawed.

I'd like to stress, IFB was not working to sup-

port a specific product, but to protect the regulatory process.

Many farmers across Illinois made specific plans to apply dicamba to protect their soybeans from post-emergent weeds. Soybean farmers spent millions of dollars to purchase this product. The timing of the court's decision resulted in chaos and uncertainty. Simply put, it changed the rules in the middle of the game.

The integrity of the regulatory process must be protected.

# Longer-term impact of COVID-19 on farm commodity prices

Decreased consumer demand can be expected to depress prices throughout 2020, as a result of lost wages and lower disposable income. As they say, "people still need to eat," but consumers will shift their preferences toward cheaper, lower-value products. Demand for fresh fluid milk, artisan cheeses, and the higher quality beef and pork cuts are all sensitive to decreases in per capita disposable income and lower family incomes are expected to depress prices for most of 2020.

For post-COVID-19, Illinois

net farm income for the typical corn/soybean rotation farm is now forecasted to lose \$73/acre on average in year 2020 across all cash-rented acres at trend yields and current harvest price projections of \$3.30/bushel for corn and \$8.30/bushel for soybeans. (Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois, April 7, 2020)

	Before COVID-19	After COVID-19
Corn	\$3.90	\$3.30
Soybeans	\$9.00	\$8.30

Table: Corn and soybean prices, before and after COVID-19 (University of Illinois FarmDoc team, ACES, April 7, 2020).

# Farm Toy of the Month

For July we are featuring a replica of the Case IH Axial Flow 8230 Combine. While the full size version of this combine comes standard with a turbocharged diesel engine and weighs approximately 20,000 pounds, this one will fit in a standard grocery bag.

In case your little one has lots of wheat fields to harvest, this farm toy comes with a detachable grain head, and is offered just as the wheat in area fields begins to ripen. Regular price is \$34.99, but Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount in July and when you stop by, feel free to tell us your favorite combine story!

## Case IH

### Axial Flow 8230 Combine



Like us on Facebook for a weekly recipe and helping of humor

kanecountyfarmbureau

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 2020 THRU DECEMBER 2020

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

\* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Attending IFB Leaders to Washington program.

## Kane County Farmer

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# Drive-thru tickets support college scholarships

With a focus on Father's Day in early June, and a shift to registering kids for a FREE pedal tractor drawing later in the month, a "drive-thru" at the Kane County Farm Bureau to sell raffle tickets for its annual Vintage Truck Raffle has been a success so far. The Truck Raffle is the Foundation's biggest annual fundraiser to support the \$25-40,000 it provides each year in tuition support to local college students.

"COVID 19 caused the cancellation of the events and crowds where the Foundation typically sells the most tickets," said KCFB Foundation President Joe White of Elburn,

"like our annual Touch-A-Tractor community open house and the Kane County Fair."

Still, with a raffle license in hand, tickets printed and a drawing date set, the Foundation's volunteer Board committed to the July 19 drawing date and set to work seeking creative solutions to help make the fundraiser a success. "Early on in the pandemic, we hoped that we would be able to use area car shows and cruise nights to sell tickets," said White. "When COVID cancelled those events also, we decided to make the best use of area traffic patterns and our county Farm Bureau parking lot."

## Freesources still abundant at KCFB

Last month we offered classroom posters, AgMags, and assorted farm safety signs and pollinator signs, some of which are still available in our vestibule.

This month, we have some new free resources – assorted picture frames and t-shirts. The picture frames are standard sizes – 5x7, 8x10, 9x12 and 11x14 in assorted, attractive styles including black frames, metal and metal look frames, and wood and wood-look frames.

The t-shirts are available in

four styles and a range of sizes and are comfortable, quality tees for summer wear.

These new freesources are available on a table in the lobby "Country Store" between 8:30-4:30 M-F. Kane County Farm Bureau is located at 2N710 Randall Road in St. Charles.

Stop in, say hi, gather a few freebies, visit our Country Store for farm tractors, edibles and more, and take a chance on our Vintage Truck Raffle to benefit the KCFB Foundation.

*See you soon!*



"Having a Costco store behind our county Farm Bureau office has never been so helpful as it has this year!", said Steve Arnold, Manager of the not-for-profit. "It provides a steady stream of traffic 7 days a week, and lots of potential ticket buyers for the raffle."

The raffle's Grand Prize, a 1969 Chevrolet C/10 pickup truck, was placed at the intersection of the CFB and Costco entrance drives, along with a canopy and picnic tables for volunteers, and traffic control devices for safety. Signage invites ticket buyers and the public to also register their children and grandchild-

*With a 1969 Chevy in the background and pedal tractors out front, volunteers like Olivia Dowd have helped the KCFB Foundation make lemonade out of the lemon that 2020 has been due to the COVID 19 pandemic, with a drive-thru to support the Foundation's top fundraiser, a Vintage Truck Raffle.*



## Teacher training and virtual field trips available through IAITC

Please join Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom for weekly online teacher training sessions. Visit <http://www.agintheclassroom.com/> and look for the Register Now banner to sign up for Virtual Farm Field Trips and/or Teacher Training Sessions. Note that Professional Development Credits are available if a response form is filled out within one week of attending a virtual session.

**Teacher Training Sessions**  
Tuesdays in July at 9:00 am

**Virtual Farm Field Trips**  
Thursdays in July from 9:00 - 9:30 am  
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 28

Take a virtual tour of a dairy farm, a pumpkin farm in Utah, the Staley Museum in Decatur, and more!

Each session is archived and can be viewed at a later date.

## Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from May 15-June 16, 2020.



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

Donor	Beneficiary
<b>Harvest for ALL</b>	
ACGO Agriculture Foundation	KCFB Foundation > Northern Illinois Food Bank
*Dennis & Beth Engel	Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
*Mike & Carol Kenyon	South Elgin Food Pantry
*Mike & Carol Kenyon	Feeding Greater Elgin
*Steve Arnold	Northern Illinois Food Bank
*Alice Macha	Northern Illinois Food Bank

*\*Eligible Harvest for ALL "match" contributions for hunger relief*

2020 Hunger relief contributions	ACGO Foundation	KCFB Foundation (match)
8,700		
7,500		
4,500		
3,000		
1,500		

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

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Please dedicate my donation to:

Milk2MyPlate "match"

Foundation Scholarships

Other (indicate below) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Farmer's Markets**

**Aurora Farmer's Markets**  
630 264-INFO(4636)  
[www.aurorafarmersmarket.com](http://www.aurorafarmersmarket.com)  
Downtown - 233 N Broadway  
**Aurora Transportation Center**  
Saturdays, June 9 - October 20,  
8am-Noon  
Market West – 1901 W. Galena Blvd  
**West Aurora Shopping Center**  
Wednesday, July 11 - September  
26, noon-5

**Batavia Farmer's Market**  
North River Street (between Wilson & State) Saturdays, June 2-Oct 27, 8am-Noon  
630-761-3528  
[www.downtownbatavia.com](http://www.downtownbatavia.com)

**Geneva French Market**  
Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St.  
Sundays, April 27 - November 16,  
9am-2pm  
[www.bensidoun-usa.com](http://www.bensidoun-usa.com)  
724-800-0102

**Geneva Green Market, NFP**  
75 N. River Lane, Geneva  
<http://www.genevagreenmarket.org>  
(630) 313-9632  
June, July, August, September,  
October  
Thursday 7 am to 1 pm

**Elgin Farmer's Market**  
Grove Ave, Between DuPage Crt & Fulton St  
Fridays, June 1 - Oct. 5, 3pm-7pm  
[www.downtownelgin.com](http://www.downtownelgin.com)

**Old Dundee Farmers' Market**  
East Dundee, Illinois  
(847) 742-3432  
319 N River St.  
East Dundee, Illinois 60118  
May-October  
Saturday, 7a.m. - 2p.m.)

**East Dundee Farmer's Market**  
319 N. River St., East Dundee  
Saturdays/Sundays, May 12 -  
October 27, 8am-2pm  
847-426-4307  
[www.dundeepot.com](http://www.dundeepot.com)

**Huntley Farmers Market**  
11704 Coral Street, Huntley  
<http://www.huntley.il.us>  
(847) 669-9600  
June, July, August, October  
Saturday 8am - 1pm)

**St. Charles Farmer's Market**  
630-584-6680  
[www.bakermemorialchurch.org](http://www.bakermemorialchurch.org)

**Outdoor Market**  
Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64  
Fridays, June 1 - October 26, 8am-1pm

**Sugar Grove Farmers Market**  
Sugar Grove Village Hall, Rt. 30 & Municipal Drive  
Saturdays, June 2 - September 29,  
8am-12pm  
630-466-1014



The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is an IRS designated 501(c)3 charity. For more information visit: [www.kanecfb.com/foundationreport.html](http://www.kanecfb.com/foundationreport.html).

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



### Go Wild with Native Plants

Ready to try gardening with native plants? You don't need to go completely "native"—many of us appreciate an expanse of green lawn, a place to run through the sprinkler or have a game of touch football. But planting even a portion of your garden with native plants helps the ecosystem by feeding our birds, bees, and butterflies, and can improve soil health.

Stephanie Walquist, co-founder of West Cook Wild Ones, an organization dedicated to native plant gardening, presented a June webinar where she noted that native gardens are beautiful and can connect us to our biological heritage. Native plants are defined as those that are indigenous to a given area and have co-developed with other organisms.

Walquist says that Illinois was once 60% prairie and now that number is .01%. Native plants are part of the food web and have been providing food for wildlife here for thousands of years. They have co-evolved

with native birds, bees and butterflies. For instance, an oak tree supports 500 species of caterpillars (an important food source for many bird species), a Ginkgo tree only five. Native plants and trees are generally vigorous, hardy, and adapted to heat, flood and drought. Rain gardens retain water and remove pollutants.

Some of the benefits of using native plants in our gardens include reduced costs from less inputs and reduced need for irrigation, they can manage stormwater, solve landscaping challenges, support biodiversity, and sequester carbon. Some plants' roots are 13-15 feet. Carbon "travels down and stays down," she says. There are many benefits to human well-being: Nature promotes good mental health, builds concentration, and relieves eye fatigue from too much screen time.

Bees, butterflies and birds need certain native plants in order to survive. For instance, native bees like Bellflower Resin bees are "specialist bees"—they have to have pollen

of that particular kind of flower. Monarch butterflies need Goldenrod pollen in the fall because they have to gain weight to travel to Mexico and for hibernation. Native species are important to keep the bird population healthy, too. Walquist notes that 30% of bird species are in decline since the 1970s. Certain native shrub berries appear in fall, just in time to provide sustenance for migration.

Two "Wild Ones" chapters serve Kane County: Greater DuPage and Northern Kane. These organizations offer educational programming, Q & A with experts, field trips, yard tours, native plant sales, seed exchanges, monthly newsletters, and the comradery of fellow native plant enthusiasts.

Pat Clancy, chapter president at Greater DuPage Wild Ones, said she got interested in native plants because she has a creek running through her yard, which made mowing in that area difficult. She realized that it was best to grow native grasses and shrubs in places she couldn't mow. That led to creating some other garden spaces in the yard, such as planting woodland natives under oak trees.

She offers some tips for planning a native garden. Even

if you don't buy from them, check out the catalogs of various nurseries. They put together "how to get started" packages and offer groupings of plants that go together. She notes that seeds take longer to establish themselves, saying, "People need to be aware of that before they start with seeds—you don't just scatter the seeds then see results right away." Clancy recommends growing from both seeds and plants.

Clancy says that while most in-person events are cancelled this year, Greater DuPage is offering free and fee-based webinars throughout summer. Recent topics have included composting, native design and foraging. The Greater DuPage website is a wealth of information. They have recommendations for "easy to grow natives" and a section that offers suggestions of native plants with similar attributes as invasive species. For instance, people may like the hedge or screening attributes of buckthorn, but it spreads aggressively, shading out other plants and disrupting ecosystems. There are a number of native shrubs and bushes that provide the same screening benefits.

Both Walquist and Clancy suggest visiting a restored

prairie, woodland or wetland for inspiration. Nature knows what grows best together. Some of my favorite places to go in Kane County include Creek Bend, LeRoy Oakes and Ferson Creek in St. Charles, Bliss Woods in Sugar Grove, and Fabyan in Geneva. These are just a few of the many forest preserve and open spaces we are privileged to have in Kane County.

Without concerts, baseball games, fairs and festivals—all the things that normally entertain us—this summer is suddenly wide open. This seems like the perfect time to get out and explore our Kane County prairie, woodlands and wetlands, and bring those ideas back to our own gardens.

Resources:

- DuPage.Wildones.org
- NorthernKaneCounty.Wildones.org
- WestCook.Wildones.org
- KaneForest.com
- Inaturalist.org
- Illinoisplants.org
- *Design your Natural Midwest Gardens*, by Pat Hill
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, by Claudia West and Thomas Rainier
- *Living Landscapes*, by Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke
- *Bringing Nature Home*, by Doug Tallamy

## Book of the month

Find this FREE downloadable book at [FeedingMindsPress.com](http://FeedingMindsPress.com) and look for "Our Books" and "My Little Ag Me" book series.

When Jonah's dad take him and his sister, Brynn, to visit his old college campus, Jonah hopes to catch a glimpse of his sports hero, college basketball star Moose. Instead, dad takes them

to an open house at Horticulture Hall. Dad explains the science of growing plants. Although Jonah is initially disappointed, he and Brynn smell french fries. They follow their noses and meet Dr. Jade, a plant scientist, whose specialty is potatoes. Jonah asks, "How do you study a potato? They don't do anything." She explains that her work involves helping food processors and restaurants create foods from potatoes, such as French fries. Dr. Jade explains what a "variety" means and says that it is a specific type of potato with unique characteristics. Reid, a produce buyer for a company that makes potatoes into French fries, stops by to meet with Dr. Jade. He had a problem: the potatoes his company was getting were of different sizes. This made cutting them into uniform fries difficult. His company wanted a potato that was nice and long so they could cut them into the same lengths. She shows the kids how



The Vibrant Variety by Rick Henningfeld

the scientists create a new variety. They identify a problem, in this case, the need for all the same size. They go out to the greenhouse and Dr. Jade shows the kids how she takes pollen from the flowers from one type of potato plant and transfers it to the flowers of another plant, "hopefully creating a new one with the characteristics we want."

How do they know those two varieties will create what they want? They use a test plot and collect and analyze data. After they're done helping collect data, Jonah turns to see his hero, Moose, standing beside him. What is he doing at Horticulture Hall? Turns out Moose's major is Life Science Communications and he is writing about the partnership between Dr. Jade and Reid for his Ag Journalism class. Now Jonah has one more reason he wants to be like Moose: he wants to be an Ag Journalist, too!

After you've finished *The Vibrant Variety*, go to [MyAmericanFarm.org](http://MyAmericanFarm.org) and have your kids try out the game, "My Ag Job." If they choose ag journalist, like Moose, you will then have the opportunity to watch a beautiful 5-minute long video of ag journalist and photographer Paul Mobley as he photographs farmers around the country for his book, *American Farmer*.

## Helping you protect what matters most



**Bob Effner** CLFP, LUTCF  
St. Charles/Elgin  
Agency Manager  
630-584-0001



**Todd Wilcox**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1326



**Bobbi Boston**  
St. Charles  
630-485-5155



**Keith Eakins**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1324



**Kelly Landorf**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1328



**Donna Tonovitz**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7694



**Orazio Difruscolo**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



**Ashraf Gerges**  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



**Edward Stuehm**  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



**Deb Stob**  
Geneva  
630-208-0890



**Michael O'Brien**  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



**Jeff Jones**  
Geneva  
847-989-9989



**Victor Alvarado**  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



**Luke Fawkes**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**Sherry Lochen**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**Bob Kearns**  
S. Elgin  
847-888-3200



**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



**Chuck 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

### Frozen Hot Cocoa Recipe

As temperatures warm up this summer, try this refreshing twist on hot cocoa!

Directions: Blend all ingredients in a blender until the consistency of a milkshake. Serve immediately and enjoy!

#### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup cocoa mix
- 2 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- 1 cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup ice cubes



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## How do Plants Grow?

First, the seed is planted. Next, the “cotyledon” emerges. This is called the seed leaf because it becomes the first leaves of the seedling. The seedling grows, pushing through the soil, and becomes an adult plant. Many plants – like trees, grasses and shrubs – produce a flower next. The flower produces seeds and the cycle begins again. Most of the fruits and vegetables we enjoy grow from the flower. The fruit or vegetable protects the seeds.

We love to eat plants – but how do plants “eat?” That is, where do they get their energy? Plants have the amazing ability to turn energy from the sun into food for the plant. This happens through a process called photosynthesis. Plants use light from the sun, CO<sup>2</sup> in the air, and water to make sugar. This takes place in tiny structures called chloroplasts. Most photosynthesis takes place in plant leaves. The next time you see the sun shining on a leaf, know that you are seeing the plant make its own food!

- Most vegetable plants need at least 8 hours of direct sun per day.
- Some things, like lettuces and leafy greens, can get by with as little as 2-3 hours of sunlight a day.
- Many veggies and herbs can grow in a pot. Try tomatoes, lettuces, basil and thyme.
- Bugs can be beneficial to your garden. You can attract bees, butterflies and ladybugs by planting flowers such as sweet alyssum, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers.
- Location is key! Don't plant in a windy area, or one that receives a lot of foot traffic or standing water.
- These veggies are known for being easy to grow: tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, bush beans, lettuce, beets, carrots, chard, and radishes.
- While most vegetables are annual (planted each year), some are perennials, such as asparagus, rhubarb and some herbs.
- Create a natural bird feeder by planting sunflowers. You can leave the dry flower heads standing in your garden and watch as birds eat seeds right out of the flower head.
- You can plant a theme garden. A pizza garden might have tomatoes, peppers, onion, and basil. A stir fry garden might have Asian greens such as bok choy, tatsoi, chard, garlic, snow peas and sweet bell peppers. A salsa garden may have cilantro, jalapenos, tomatillo and tomatoes.

## How does your garden grow?

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

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by July 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a garden themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

## Make your own rain gauge

You'll need:  
 Glass jar (Mason jar, Spaghetti Sauce jar or the like)  
 1 plastic ruler  
 Tape

Have you ever wondered how much it rains at your house? Or maybe you want to know just how much water is coming from your sprinkler. Now you can find out by creating your own rain gauge. Rain gauges are used by scientists to study the weather. Water is important to farmers because plants grow best when they get just enough water—not too much and not too little. Ranchers who raise animals also need to know about water because their animals eat grass

or hay that must have water to grow.

### Step 1: Location

First, find a good location for your rain gauge outside. Make sure it is in a safe place where it won't get knocked over or bothered by animals. If you make more than one rain gauge, you can place a gauge in town, at school, and at home to compare rainfall. Or, you can set up your rain gauge in your yard to catch water from a sprinkler.

### Step 2: The Gauge

Place your ruler inside your empty jar, with the numbers facing out. Make sure the end of the ruler rests on the bottom of the jar and it stands straight up. Use

a piece of tape on the top of the ruler to hold it in place.

### Step 3: Collect and Record

Place your rain gauge outside where it will collect water and begin recording your measurements. It is a good idea to measure rain for an entire month. Check your gauge each day and record the amount of rain to the nearest tenth of an inch. Add up your measurements at the end of the month. This is a great way to practice adding fractions!

### Step 4: Weekly Average

Calculate average rainfall per week by taking your total rainfall and dividing by the number of weeks you collected information. (From MyAmericanFarm.org)

## Blueberry graham cracker ice cream

It's National Blueberry Month AND National Ice Cream Month! Cool off and celebrate with this no-churn summer treat.

Takes: 25 minutes plus freezing time

Makes: About 1.5 quarts

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup fresh or frozen blueberries (or berry of your choice – raspberry and strawberry work too!)
- 1/4 cup sugar

- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 4 whole graham crackers, coarsely crushed

### Directions

In a small saucepan, combine berries, sugar and vanilla, bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until mixture begins to thicken, about 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Cool completely. Refrigerate until chilled.

In a large bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form. Add condensed milk, beat until mixture thickens. Gently fold graham crackers into cream mixture. Transfer to freezer containers, allowing space for expansion. Drop berry mixture by the spoonful over ice cream. Cut through ice cream with a knife to swirl. Freeze for 8 hours or overnight before serving.

## Savor summer... shop local for the freshest produce

### Interesting Facts:

There are 321 farmers markets registered in the state of Illinois with over 8,600 farmers markets registered throughout the United States.

Illinois is ranked 3rd in the nation for the number of regularly occurring farmers markets.

In Illinois, there are more than 64 types of vegetables and 15

types of fruit and nut crops grown commercially.

Buying from farmers markets provides shoppers with the freshest and most flavorful produce while stimulating the local economy.

### Locate a Market or Farmer Near You

Whether you are looking for fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, herbs, a pumpkin patch, or a pick-your-own farm, the Illinois Specialty Growers Association has a great resource to make

local products easier to find. Visit <https://www.specialtygrowers.org/shoplocal> to explore opportunities to buy directly from local growers!

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has also created a running list of the registered farmers markets available. Visit [www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/consumers/FarmersMarkets](http://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/consumers/FarmersMarkets) to register your local market or find a market close to you!

## Jokes

How do you make a lemon drop?

Just let it fall.

Two pickles fell out of the jar on to the floor. What did one say to the other?

Just dill with it.

What did the little corn say to the mama corn?

Where is Pop Corn?

Pretty corny!



## Congratulations

**Tom Hosey** of **Elgin** is this month's winner! His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives a dairy themed prize. Thank you, Tom, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

## July ... Month & Day holidays

- National Blueberry Month
- National Anti-Boredom Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month
- National Picnic Month

- July 1:** Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day
- July 3:** Eat Beans Day
- July 4:** Independence Day; International Cherry Pit Spitting Day
- July 6:** National Fried Chicken Day
- July 7:** National Strawberry Sundae Day
- July 8:** National Blueberry Day
- July 10:** Teddy Bear Picnic Day
- July 12:** Pecan Pie Day
- July 15:** Cow Appreciation Day
- July 23:** Vanilla Ice Cream Day
- July 28:** National Milk Chocolate Day
- July 30:** National Day of Friendship

- ANNUAL
- BEAN
- BROADCAST
- COMPOST
- DIGGING
- DINNER
- DRAINAGE
- FLOWERS
- INSECT
- LETTUCE
- MAINTENANCE
- PEPPER
- PERENNIAL
- SCARECROW
- SEEDLING
- SOW
- STRAWBERRY
- TOMATO
- TRANSPLANT
- VEGETABLE
- WATER
- WEEDS
- WORM
- ZUCCHINI



**Roots run deep in the garden**

I literally followed Mom's footsteps into my gardening hobby. As a youngster, I walked behind my mom while she guided the tiller across the garden.

When her heel lifted from the freshly tilled soil, I put mine down onto her footprint that formed in that soft black medium for vegetable seeds and transplants. I stretched to reach each footprint, careful not to step on her heel as she slowly guided the front-tine machine. We steadily paced back and forth across the garden with me right on her heels through the last pass.

Those early moments sowed my deep-rooted passion for growing fruits and vegetables for my family. Mom taught me how to plant, weed, identify insects and harvest, as well as

store, prepare, and preserve homegrown food. At night in front of the TV, we shelled pea pods that filled five-gallon buckets. We cured and stored onions, snapped and canned green beans, and ate meals entirely of our own fresh produce and freezer meat.

Gardening makes me feel good, which empowers me to fill our backyard with vegetable plots, fruit trees, berry beds and flowers like the farm women before me. I like feeding healthy produce to my family. I equally enjoy looking at the garden like a piece of artwork. I

consider the soil a blank canvas, where my kids and I plant seeds to paint groupings of feathery carrot tops, scratchy squash vines and sky-reaching sunflower blossoms.

Suddenly, more people seek this wholesome experience. Sales of flower and vegetable transplants doubled this year for the small-town greenhouse that I frequent. The coronavirus pandemic stimulated business from new customers who wanted to shop local and first-time gardeners with rekindled thoughts about self-sufficiency. I hope their sensitive plants survived the season's abnormally late-spring frosts, which challenged even experienced gardeners.

Our daughter recorded those nights of frost-protective cover-

ings for her FFA and 4-H projects. Soon, her recordbook entries will include picking zucchini, arranging fresh-cut flowers, and canning pizza sauce made from homegrown tomatoes. Our son helps, too, but shows the most enthusiasm for the garden when digging potatoes and gathering apples with the 10-foot picker pole.

At a minimum, I hope gardening teaches our kids to appreciate the skill, responsibility and dedication required to produce food. At most, maybe they will make more footsteps to follow.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.*

**Welcome to the next level!**

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

**Regular Members**

- Andrew Kenyon** South Elgin
- Marcia Lindquist** Huntley
- Maxx Miller** Sycamore

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

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement

- with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
- Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel

- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods
- \*KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.*

**The dirt on perspective-taking**

By: Adrienne DeSutter

**What is dirt?**

To the ordinary person, dirt is icky. It's stains mean more laundry, and it's trails lead to extra mopping. To most, it's filthy, unwanted, and inconvenient. But to the farmer, dirt is precious. The farmer spends hours each day surrounded by dirt. They eagerly pick up dirt and run it through their fingers. The farmer looks at dirt and sees opportunity. Potential. Growth. Life.

Farmers have a refreshing ability to look at something as common as dirt- something most of the world views as unfavorable – and by embracing a creative and hopeful perspective, they see something worthwhile.

While so many things are beyond our control in agriculture, our perspective is something we own. We get to choose how we're going to view an imperfect situation, and how we're going to respond to it. It's within our control to look at something as an obstacle, or to look at it as an opportunity.

For example, an equipment breakdown is undoubtedly frustrating. It interrupts your day, throws off your plans, and costs you money. But it can also allow you time to work on a dif-

ferent project, or head home early to spend time with your family (that chances are, you haven't felt able to prioritize in awhile). All of these outcomes are true, and it's fair to be frustrated about the negative aspects of the situation. Choosing optimism isn't the same as "just being positive." It's acknowledging those valid, negative outcomes, but then recognizing that there are ALSO positive outcomes. You get to choose what perspective to focus on most (and since realistic optimism leads to higher productivity, less depression, and generally better health, there are obvious benefits to choosing the latter).

Developing an optimistic perspective is a tool that takes effort and practice, especially when it's not something you've made a habit of in the past. Start by making a small goal to challenge a negative thought – right in a moment of chaos – once a week. Give one coworker or family member permission to help you identify when you could be looking at something in a new way. Take a moment each morning to reflect on the stressful parts of the previous day, and think about how you could have approached them differently. Whatever efforts you make to practice taking

control of your perspective puts you one step closer to making optimism a habit. But remember, making an effort to "be better" becomes more and more difficult if you neglect your mental health. Stress weighs us down, and we can grow irritable, cynical, impulsive, forgetful, or careless. At that point, decision-making can feel like an exhaustive burden, and changing your perspective turns into a much harder choice.

If we create a habit of finding the good in difficult situations, we build a personal defense against the blow of defeat.

And as the farmer sees good in the dirt, so too can they see hope in the struggle, if only they make the choice.

**Resources:**

Controlling attitudes/perspectives – <https://www.ags.ndsu.edu/publications/kids-family/farm-stress-factsheets-stress-management-for-farmers-ranchers>

How stress affects us – <https://www.ilfb.org/resources/mental-health-wellness/how-stress-affects-you/>

Optimism – <http://positivepsychology.org.uk/optimism-pessimism-theory/>

*About the Author: Adrienne DeSutter is a Mental Health Consultant with a Master's degree in Counseling and a Bachelor's degree in Education and Child and Family Studies. A former School Counselor and National Certified Counselor, she has always had a passion for encouraging others to realize their full potential. After marrying Farmer Drew in 2014, Adrienne embraced the world of farming and began advocating for Agricultural Wellness. The couple raises corn, soybeans, cattle, and their most precious commodity, daughters Everly and Emalyn.*

**Summer is here!**  
Fresh abunds at these farms and markets

**— Farm Stands —**

**Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch**  
42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire; Lloyd; 847-464-5952; emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com

**Heritage Prairie Mkt & Edu. Ctr.,**  
2N308 Brundidge Rd., Elburn; Nate; 630-443-5989; hpmfarm.com

**Klein's Farm & Garden Mkt.**  
Rt 20, Udina/1175 Lillian St., Elgin; Matt Klein; 847-683-9647; kleinsqualityproduce.com

**Kuipers Family Farm**  
1N318 Watson Rd., Maple Park; Wade & Kim Kuipers; 815-827-5200; kuipersfamilyfarm.com

**Prairie View Farm Market**  
48W130 Rt 72, Hampshire; 847-683-4970; Cheryl; prairieviewfarmmarket.com

**Randy's Vegetables**  
I-90 at Randall Rd., Elgin/Sleepy Hollow; 847-428-5244; randysvegetables@aol.com

**Stojan Vegetables**  
2N874 Howard Rd., Maple Park; Phil Stojan; 815-827-3265; stojans.vegetables@gmail.com

**Theis Farm Market**  
6N953 County Line Rd., Maple Park; 815-757-1090; theisfarmmarket.com

**Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse**  
10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley; 847-669-3421; tomsfarmmarket.com

**Wiltse Farm Produce**  
50W379 Rt. 38, Maple Park; Joe Wiltse; 815-739-2573; wiltsefarm.com

**Windy Acres Farm**  
37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva; Amanda Srail; 630-232-6429; windyacresfarmstand.com

**FREE PEDAL TRACTOR DRAWING**  
*(For children 8 and under. Entrant's age must appear on the form below)*

Please enter me in the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Return by Friday, July 17 to: Kane County Farm Bureau,  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

**Recycle**

**Scrap for CASH**

Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars

**Trucking & Dumpster Service Available**

*"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"*

**Zimmerman Recycling, Inc.**  
301 Industrial Drive, DeKalb  
(815) 756.8600

# Meatpacking capacity roars back from April lows

By Daniel Grant, FarmWeek  
U.S. meat production capabilities ramped back up in a big way in recent weeks following plant closures and slowdowns caused by COVID-19.

Cattle, swine and broiler facilities operated at more than 95% of average capacity compared to the same time last year, according to USDA.

"We've ratcheted things back up fairly quickly," Kenny

Burdine, associate professor and University of Kentucky Extension livestock economist, said during a webinar hosted by the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE). "It's been encouraging."

U.S. beef and poultry facilities led the charge as those two sectors reached 98% of capacity this week compared to last year. Pork processing recovered to

95% capacity. This follows meatpacking capacity declines of nearly 35% in the beef and pork sectors and 6% for chicken in April.

The situation caused a steep decline in livestock prices at a time when retail prices skyrocketed due in part to local supply shortages.

"Producer margins were already thin going into this," Maples said. "COVID-19 negatively impacted producer prices. We're talking a short-term processing shock, but there's broader economic concerns going forward. The short-term relief program will help."

The two major shocks to the livestock markets caused by the pandemic include a significant drop in food service and restaurant demand and the temporary challenge of converting live ani-

mals to meat, according to Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State professor who studies the cattle and hog industries.

"The good news is the public wanted meat and demand has been strong," he said. "We're still slated in 2020 to produce more meat than we did in 2018. It was really only a second quarter decline where we had a hiccup in production."

How did the meatpacking plants ramp up production quicker than many expected?

USDA worked with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), state and local officials to ensure a safe and stable supply of protein available for Americans, all while keeping employees safe.

CDC and OSHA issued guid-

ance for plants to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure employee safety while maintaining operations.

"We have a large, very efficient system with low-cost (meat) production facilities supplying meat," Burdine said. "Does this make us more vulnerable to something like this (pandemic)? You can argue it might."

"But, if we didn't have this system, (meat production) costs likely would be higher," he added. "So, we'd have lower livestock prices and higher food prices."

Tonsor believes the U.S. meat industry can continue to grow exports, which support carcass prices, during the recovery. U.S. hog farmers increased domestic pork production 20% the last decade to meet growing global demand.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Jeff Jones! Jeff has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since November 2019. His office is located at 2172 Blackberry Dr., Geneva and may be reached at: 630-492-5293. Thank you for your

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



Jeff Jones

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

DAVID BERRELES has been named the Agent of the Month for May 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. David 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 and Retirement. Let David's expertise help you! You may reach David at 847-683-2100, david.berreles@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.country>

financial.com/david.berreles/. Congratulations, David!

**Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager**

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for March 2020. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6900. Zach's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Zach!

## 4-H Foundation auction online auction

Among the many COVID related cancellations of 2020 was the annual Pork Chop Dinner, one of the biggest fundraisers for the Kane County 4-H Foundation. Having gathered prizes from sponsor before the stay at home order was enacted, the 4-H Foundation has decided to hold an online auction. Auction proceeds will help fund Extension programming for 4-H Youth Development, Home & Community Education, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and

Nutrition & Wellness.

Online bidding on 60+ auction prizes will end July 10. The auction site is <https://www.32>

[auctions.com/KC4H](https://www.32auctions.com/KC4H).

Prizes are available for viewing at the Kane County Farm *(continued on page 8)*



A Yeti cooler, handmade quilt and a beehive are just 3 of the 60+ items available through an online auction to support the Kane County 4-H Foundation. Find them at <https://www.32auctions.com/KC4H>. Auction ends July 10.

## Raging Waves

### 45% savings at Illinois' largest outdoor water park!

**A Message from Raging Waves with a Covid-19 Update:**

"Like all of you, we are anxiously awaiting the start of summer fun, but we all must continue to do our part to keep our families healthy and safe. Therefore, we have adjusted our

schedule and plan to open later in June or soon thereafter. Rest assured, we will be following all guidelines outlined by the CDC and State of Illinois. As always, your safety is our number one concern!"

Head on out for some fun in

the sun (and water) this summer! Grab your family and friends and check out Aussie-themed Raging Waves, located just south of Kane County in Yorkville, it's also Illinois' largest outdoor water park! Enjoy summer with a visit to this family-friendly water park featuring 32 water slides, 3 separate kiddie pool areas, wave pool, lazy river, 26 private cabanas and more.

New for 2020! Raging Waves welcomes the Aussie Mat Dash 6 lane racer, it is just 1 of 3 in the world!

Other attractions include: Quokka-Nut Island, a new interactive play area for the Lil mates (ages 2-5) including slides and zero-depth pool. Also home to Wonambi – the only of its kind in the Midwest, a four person tube and a slide.

Tickets purchased this year from KCFB will be available to be used for Raging Waves 2020 & 2021 season, so stop by Kane County Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for only \$19.00! Regularly priced tickets are \$34.99 (for over 42" tall) but with your Farm Bureau membership discount, you will save 45% off of the original price! To purchase discounted tickets, click on <https://tickets.ragingwaves.com> store name "KANE".

## Master Gardener help desk

University of Illinois Extension is still here to help you grow! They can assess and give advice on issues with vegetable and flower gardens, trees and lawns.

Please send a detailed message with your question to [uiemg-kane@illinois.edu](mailto:uiemg-kane@illinois.edu), and a volunteer will get back to you. Please see the tips below to guide your submission.

**General Help Desk Submission Tips:**

- In addition to your question, please include as much additional information as possible:
- This could include planting date, age of plant, chemicals

used, number of plants affected, where found, patterns, when symptoms were first noticed, etc.

- Please check your photos before submitting them. Are they clear and in-focus?
- When possible, please include a size reference in your photos (such as a pen, ruler, or a coin).
- For plant identifications, please include photos of the whole plant AND close-ups of plant parts.
- Parts may include leaves, flowers, roots, fruit, seeds, etc.
- Send a maximum of 10 images per sample/question.



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### 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.



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# AGCO Agriculture Foundation provides \$78,300 for COVID-19 aid program

June 10, 2020

The AGCO Agriculture Foundation (AAF), a private foundation committed to ending hunger through sustainable agricultural development, is expanding its COVID-19 Aid Program to support four non-profit organizations in North America.

The COVID-19 Aid Program has committed \$500,000 in funding to non-profit organizations since its launch last month. The amount of grant funding in North America is \$78,300, and the funds will be used in communities where AGCO's customers, dealers, suppliers and employees live and work.

"The AGCO Agriculture Foundation is committed to making long-term impacts in our vulnerable communities as the presence of COVID-19 calls for ongoing support," said Metti Richenhagen, managing director, AGCO Agriculture Foundation. "We are proud to provide local funding to support local resources and initiatives to help people in North America who are impacted by the pandemic and economic uncertainty."

Each non-profit organization will utilize the donation differently to provide the greatest impacts to their communities. The recipients include:

### Feeding America

Feeding America responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

with a national food- and fund-raising effort to support people facing hunger and the food banks that help them. Feeding America has also partnered with school districts and local government agencies to ensure the 22 million children who rely on school meals have access to food outside the classroom. The AAF will provide Feeding America with \$52,200 across six locations. For more information, please see [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).

### Flint River Fresh

Flint River Fresh launched a Produce Box pilot program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Albany, Ga., residents will receive a hot meal purchased from a locally owned restaurant and a box of fresh, healthy produce, sourced directly from Flint River Fresh community sites in Albany and emphasizing Georgia Grown for supplemental produce. The AAF will provide Flint River Fresh with \$8,700. For more information, please see [www.flintriverfresh.org](http://www.flintriverfresh.org).

### Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation

Kane County, Ill., farmers have proven farming is essentially a humanitarian enterprise through the Foundation's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort. Since 2009, the

Foundation has provided the equivalent of over 2 million meals to local food pantries, including a unique 10,000 Gallon Milk Challenge in 2019 to support the Milk2MyPlate program at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The AAF will provide Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation with \$8,700. For more information, please see [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com).

### Peoria Area Food Bank

Peoria Area Food Bank provides 80 pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters in Illinois with large quantities of food from name brand manufacturers and USDA commodities on a daily basis. They also operate two mobile food pantries in Mason County and assist eight pantries that provide backpacks to hundreds of children on the weekend. The backpacks are dispersed to qualifying children on Friday afternoon by various schools. The AAF will provide Peoria Area Food Bank with \$8,700. For more information, please see [www.peoriafoodbank.org](http://www.peoriafoodbank.org).

"AGCO's mission is to support farmers and ranchers across North America in any way we can," said Bob Crain, senior vice president and general manager of AGCO North America. "We firmly believe that the agriculture industry is

essential, and our top priority is maintaining access to food

throughout the COVID-19 pandemic fight."

**Second phase of grants provide funding to four non-profits**

## Fundraising thanks!



On behalf of past and future scholarship winners, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of the Boards of Directors of the KCFB and the KCFB Foundation for ticket sales to support our Vintage Truck Raffle, our biggest fundraiser for Scholarships, and especially:

- |                        |                     |                      |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Olivia Dowd</b>     | <b>Sandy Gould</b>  | <b>Lisa Geisler</b>  |
| <b>Anastasia Kurth</b> | <b>Audre Pack</b>   | <b>Liz Polovin</b>   |
| <b>Matthew Polovin</b> | <b>Regina Kurth</b> | <b>Kathy Konishi</b> |

for volunteering their time for this worthy cause by staffing our raffle drive-thru, meeting the public, promoting agriculture, education and scholarship and being Ambassadors for our Foundation!

There's still time for others to join in this effort. To assist anytime up to the July 19 drawing please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660.

### JULY FEATURED FOOD PRODUCT

## Bratwurst

Our featured product is Bratwurst. This box contains 20 delicious award winning Inboden's bratwurst (while supplies last). A definite crowd pleaser at any cookout! Price (not including tax) is \$26.20. Plus status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. We are located at Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.

## 4-H Auction

(continued from page 7)

Bureau, M-F , 8:30-4:30, and can be picked-up by winning bidders at the same location once the auction concludes.

We realize that these are difficult times for some families. If you are able to purchase an item or make a donation it would be greatly appreciated. And while you're at the Farm Bureau to view or pick-up prizes, we also

recommend you check out their not-for-profit Foundation's Vintage Truck Raffle. It also concludes in July, and has provided many college scholarships to area 4-Hers.

Thank you for your support!

# Don't miss out on fresh peaches

The Kane County Farm Bureau is now taking orders for juicy, homegrown Peaches fresh from Rendleman Orchards, a southern Illinois grower.

These delicious peaches are washed, hydro-cooled, graded to US #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, approximately 60 packaged in a 25 lb. wax coated fancy box with a lid. They are delivered to our office on Randall Road the morning of pickup in a refrigerated truck for freshness and long lasting quality.

The grower recommends the peaches, which are available in the month of August, for their sweetness and juicy flavor. If you like to make peach pie or cobbler, or you like to can or freeze peaches, now is the time to take advantage of this once a year offer.

Peaches are highly perishable. They are shipped when they are a little green so that when they arrive they are not bruised with juice running out of the box. The grower recommends that the peaches be refrigerated immediately when you get them unless you are planning to can or freeze them

within the next day. Then when you want to use them, you can take out however many you think you will use in the next day, let them sit out in a paper sack overnight, and they should be ripe and ready to eat or cook with. Peaches should not be out of the refrigerator for more than 24 hours. If they are left out too long, they are very susceptible to mold.

The price for a 25 lb. box is \$36.00 and Plus status mem-

bers: \$34.20. PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER. You can order by filling out the form and sending it in with your check, or call the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 and pay with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Pick-up will be Monday, August 17 from 10:00pm - 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office, west side of the building.

### DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 4PM Wednesday, August 12

Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on **Monday, August 17** from 10:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



~~~~~ Fresh Peaches ~~~~~

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$36.00 /box (members) \$34.20/box (Plus)  
 \$38.00/box (Non-members)

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau,  
 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660

## Win this Truck!

The Grand Prize for the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's "Vintage Truck Raffle" this year is this 1969 Chevy C/10 pickup truck, and boy is it a beauty! Tickets are 1/\$15, 2/\$25 or 5/\$50, and you can be the lucky winner of this truck OR \$3,500 in cash (winner's choice). Other prizes include \$500 in groceries for 2nd place and \$500 in fuel for 3rd place. Kids 8 and under can be entered into a FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing that will precede the grand prize in the Vintage Truck Raffle.



5pm at the Kane County Farm Bureau, right after our (COVID-19 Phase 4 dependent) Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Call us at 640-584-8660 or stop by our office to buy your tickets.

A raffle drive-thru has been set up in that parking lot and is open most days, including weekends, from 9am-6pm. The KCFB Foundation can accept cash, check, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover) and with all proceeds benefiting farm and food related career scholarships and Agricultural Literacy programs, you'll win in more ways than one.



## Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Visa  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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