

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. 83 NO. 6 JUNE 2018

EPA Administrator visits Kane County farms

Cathy Stepp, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Region 5 administrator, visited two Kane County farms in early May to get a first-hand look at how farmers help protect the environment.

Stepp spent more than three hours at the farms of Steve Pitstick and Chris and Eldon Gould – her first visits to Illinois farms. Alec Messina, director of Illinois EPA; Raymond Poe, director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture; and county and state Farm Bureau leaders also attended.

Stepp learned about the history of the farms, the challenges farmers face and different nutrient-management and conservation practices they voluntarily adopted. She also started up a John Deere 9530 tractor, rode in a sprayer, toured a farrow-to-wean facility and held a baby pig.

During her visit, Stepp repeatedly emphasized the importance of building relationships. She also asked the group of farmers what worried them about dealing with federal agencies. Among the responses: Added costs of future regulations that result in no environmental benefit, jurisdictional questions between federal agencies and “environmental gotcha.” “If you can provide certainty and consistency, it would be most appreciated,” said host farmer Eldon Gould, in speaking of federal regulations.

“It’s our responsibility to make sure everyone who produces, whether it’s the ag sector or any other one, knows what the rules are upfront, that they understand what the expectations are, that we build a rela-

tionship so when there are questions, or worries, or troubles or struggles they can come to us without fear – and that’s a big thing,” Stepp said. “Sure, we’re going to have to regulate ... and enforce sometimes, but if we do a good job on the front end, then there’s no limit to the environmental successes that we can see on the ground in real life. That means working with people to help them comply.”

“That’s really the culture I’m trying to bring to the region,” she said. “There’s no better way to do that than to get out here, put my feet on the ground and talk with producers and help understand what’s facing them today. There’s a lot of challenges for farmers.”

Appointed to the post in December, Stepp’s responsibilities as regional administrator include overseeing environmental protection efforts in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal

governments. She previously served as principal deputy regional administrator for Region 7, as secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 2011 to 2017 and as Wisconsin state senator from 2003 to 2007.

Pitstick farms with his two brothers, his son and his nephew. He explained to Stepp how farming practices have changed at his farm during the last 40 years. Changes in technology, he said, allowed him to plant some no-till corn for the first time in a long time this year, as well as more efficiently apply fertilizer and nitrogen.

He also explained how sensors on the planter can pick up the organic matter on the field.

“We’ve got high-resolution maps, which are much better than any other grid soil sampling that we’ve done previously because it covers the whole field,” Pitstick said. “The hope is that we can use this informa-

(continued on page 6)



Top photo, L-R: Illinois EPA Director Alec Messina, Kane County farmer Steve Pitstick, U.S. EPA Region 5 Administrator Cathy Stepp and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Raymond Poe pause for a photo in front of a John Deere 9530 tractor following a presentation and tour at Pitstick Farms in Maple Park on May 9. After the photo, Stepp climbed into the cab and started the tractor.



Bottom: Administrator Stepp cradles a piglet from the farrowing house at Gould Farms in Maple Park while farmer Eldon Gould looks on. At the Gould farm, she and Illinois agency officials learned how Illinois farmers incorporate nutrients from livestock waste into crop rotations and cropping plans.

AGCO Parts raises money for farm accident victims

AGCO Parts, a division of AGCO Corporation (NYSE: AGCO), a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, awarded five scholarships worth \$6,500 through the KCFB Foundation at

the 13th Annual Touch-A-Tractor event in St Charles. An additional \$9,000 was raised by AGCO Parts for farm-accident victims.

The five scholarship recipients are all Illinois-resident students pursuing an agriculture-

related field of study. “Last year, we funded two scholarships,” said Andrea Achermann, AGCO Global Women’s Network (AGWN) president in Batavia. “We made a goal to raise additional funds this year and more than doubled that amount.”

AGCO Parts employees raised the scholarship fund money entirely from employees through events like a monthly donation in exchange for the privilege of wearing jeans to work.

Scholarship applicants were evaluated on academics, excep-

tional leadership involvement, professional goals, financial need, and references. The recipient’s biographies were reported in the May *Kane County Farmer*.

In addition to the scholarships, AGCO Parts, in cooperation with the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, raised over \$9,000 from toy and merchandise sales at the Touch-A-Tractor event, including “Pillow Pets”. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to farm-accident victims.

Top photo: AGCO Parts employees stand behind a mound of Pillow Pets and in front of rows photos of KCFB Foundation scholars for 2018-19 in this Touch-A-Tractor file photo. Nearly 2,000 Pillow Pets were sold to AGCO employees and Touch-A-Tractor attendees, and another 2,500 to county farm bureaus in Illinois, all to benefit farm accident victims.



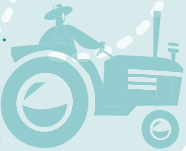
Bottom: KCFB Manager Steve Arnold (r) transfers boxes of Pillow Pets from one trailer to another to fill the order of Winnebago-Boone CFB and Manager Ann Marie Cain (l). Many county farm bureaus purchased Pillow Pets from AGCO in the effort to help donate money for the support of farm accident victims.

DATES TO REMEMBER

June

- June 5
Board of Directors, 7 pm
- June 12-14 & 19-21
Summer Ag Institute I
- June 14
IAA Foundation Ag-in-the-Classroom Golf Outing, Pontiac
- June 19
Young Farmer BBQ, Biddle Farm; 5:00 pm
- June 21
Ag Committee, County Bldg, 10 am
- June 21-30
FB Canyon Country Tour

Crops are in...
watch 'em
grow!



FATHER'S DAY IS COMING.



On her special day,
Mom wanted flowers...
Dad, he wants a vintage truck.
And we have one.

1965 F100 352 V8 4 SPEED

Raffle Drawing July 22. Tickets \$15, 2/\$25, 5/\$50
Call 630-584-8660
Order form on page 6.

June Featured Product Seasoned Pork Chops

Our featured product for this month is Imboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops. Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. (10 per box) or 10 oz. (8 per box) and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop comes in a vacuum sealed plastic bag. Just thaw, cut it open and you're ready to cook up a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. Price (not including tax) is \$25 per box for KCFB members, \$24 for plus members and \$28 for non-members. It's a Farm Bureau member favorite! Available at Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Road and Oak Street in St. Charles.

On the road

by Steve Arnold

2 a.m. on a weeknight is no time to find yourself stranded in Hollandale, Mississippi (pop 3,437). But that's where I found myself on an early Wednesday morning in April.

Having put KCFB's 2018 Touch-A-Tractor event to rest, I was anxious for some R&R with family in New Orleans. So anxious, in fact, that I left a meeting at the Illinois Farm Bureau in Bloomington late in the afternoon on April 10 and headed straight for the Big Easy. So anxious that I was determined to drive through the night. And yes, so anxious that I "tuned-out" the occasional squeal when I made sharp right turns.

But when the occasional squeal turned into a grind after hitting a pothole, I knew a wheel bearing was shot – and with only 228,000 miles on the odometer! In my defense, I had had an oil change on my truck the day before leaving, and had asked for a front end inspec-

tion. Unfortunately that brief inspection – and my lack of preventative maintenance – conspired to leave me a stranded on



The IFB Member Benefit app saved KCFB Manager Steve Arnold \$64.37 (15%) on a \$409.42 emergency road repair bill in Mississippi. KCFB members can download the app by visiting ilfb.abenity.com or by searching for "Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits" on the App Store or Google Play. The app offers over 302,000 discounts at locations across the U.S., from nationwide retailers to "Mom & Pop" shops.

US 61, a stone's throw from Hollandale, Mississippi.

So, I eased off the Blues Highway and into Hollandale. 2

mph at 2 a.m. I pulled up Google maps and found a service station. As I limped the truck in, it revealed itself to be a convenience store on a lonely stretch of dimly lit highway beyond the downtown. It appeared near bankruptcy and eventual abandonment, with bars on the doors and windows. Not a good sign - but the truck was in no condition to proceed.

As I parked in front of the "store" and zoomed in on Hollandale in Google maps on my phone, a true auto repair shop appeared. Saved? Hardly. A quick 4-block, 2:30 am stroll (back through downtown) led me to the conclusion that it could more accurately be described as auto salvage than auto repair. i. e. – this was definitely a place where cars go to die, not to have new life breathed into them.

My walk was also instructive. I passed a police station and opposite, a post office. Several downtown storefronts were empty. Some had broken glass, others plywood, and those with merchandise had, similar

to the convenience store, bars on the doors and windows. A rough neighborhood this downtown. A fact confirmed by the police car passing by, shining its spotlight up the alleys and through the backyards. The officer paid me no heed. Apparently VERY early morning strolls are commonplace in Mississippi?

Upon returning to my truck I made two decisions. The first, to limp it back down the street and park between the Post Office and police station! The second, to start searching for a tow truck.

After five calls explaining to towing companies that I wanted to go south, to Vicksburg, rather than back north to Greenville, I secured a tow. It arrived an hour and one half, and two police patrols later. Sitting on my tailgate on the town's main street, drinking Diet Mt Dew til 4 in the morning – and the only acknowledgement I got from law enforcement was a nod of the head. I guess there is no curfew!

I wanted a tow south for 2 reasons. First, it put me nearer my final destination, New

Orleans. Second, there was a Firestone store in Vicksburg – and I have an IFB Member Benefits app on my phone. Regardless of the cost of the tow – or the repair bill, I knew I would save 15% on parts and labor (and that COUNTRY Financial would reimburse the first \$100 for towing).

My truck was unloaded at a Vicksburg Firestone store at exactly 5:40 am. Ninety minutes later, at 7:11, it was on a lift and parts were on order. Repairs were complete before 9 am and I was on the road again, having saved \$64.37 using the IFB Member Benefits app.

My 5 days in New Orleans could not have been more enjoyable. I returned north via the Natchez Chase Parkway, a 400-mile linear National Park and scenic travel route I'd highly recommend if you're ever in the area. There I did get noticed by law enforcement. A U.S. Park Service Ranger in Tennessee was kind enough to write me a reminder me of the speed limit. But that's a story for another day, and ... the Farm Bureau has no Member Benefit app for that!

Didn't get your Pillow Pets? KCFB provides second chances

When AGCO Parts of Batavia announced a limited time "fire-sale" on tractor shaped Pillow Pets to fulfill a community need, these cute & cuddly items flew off the shelves. If you're not familiar with Pillow Pets, they are stuffed chenille toys with Velcro straps that allow them to be changed from a stuffed animal (or tractor, as the case may be) into a decorated pillow.

Those provided by AGCO included tractors in their line-up or history (Oliver, Massey-Ferguson and Challenger) in 18" and 16" sizes and in traditional colors, or for the Massey and Challenge, also in pink. The Pillow Pets normally retail for \$20-25, but AGCO slashed prices to serve the community.

In addition to the estimated 2,000 sold to local AGCO employees and at the KCFB Foundation's Touch-A-Tractor, and a similar number sold to area county Farm Bureaus, the Kane County Farm Bureau stocked hundreds as "membership extras", to incentivize future membership and "PLUS" members, and to help grow the association.

At their May meeting, the Board of Directors approved a "distribution" plan for the Pillow Pets. It includes incentives for non-members, and for existing members of all classes (regular or voting, professional and associate), to receive a FREE Pillow Pet. Here's how:

NEW MEMBERS

A limited time offer, good ONLY in person at the Kane County Fair, July 18-22. Join the KCFB and receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Cost \$20. Includes first year of membership, information services and benefit eligibility.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Upgrade your membership to a Professional Membership by July 31 (restrictions apply –

must be employed in a farm, food or agriculture related career) to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Professional Membership includes additional information services and eligibility for no-cost educational conference attendance. See page



They were all the rage at Touch-A-Tractor, now the KCFB is providing members several options for obtaining Pillow Pets – while enhancing their Farm Bureau membership benefits and services, or by helping us expand our reach by recruiting new members.

8 for info. Call (630) 584-8660 to upgrade. (Cost, an additional \$17 at October 1 membership renewal date, if eligibility criteria are met) Note: Regardless of current membership due date, ALL Professional Membership renewals are due annually on October 1.

— or —

Add the PLUS Package to your membership to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. PLUS package additions for memberships expiring in 2018 include 1 FREE Pillow Pet & a 10% discount on all products and merchandise in the KCFB Country Store. PLUS package additions for memberships expiring in 2019 include the above, AND 1 complimentary entry to the 31 Days of Christmas Raffle and 1 complimentary entry to the 2019 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle. Call (630) 584-8660 to add. (Cost, \$25)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS & REGULAR (VOTING) MEMBERS

Add the PLUS Package to your membership to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. PLUS pack-

age additions for memberships expiring in 2018 include 1 FREE Pillow Pet & a 10% discount on all products and merchandise in the KCFB Country Store. PLUS package additions for memberships expiring in 2019 include the above, AND 1 complimentary entry to the 31 Days of Christmas Raffle and 1 complimentary entry to the 2019 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle. Call (630) 584-8660 to add. (Cost, \$25)

MEMBER GET-A-MEMBER

Already belong to the KCFB? You do if you're receiving the *Kane County Farmer!* Tell a friend or neighbor about the benefits of membership (and the Pillow Pet). Go to www.kanecfb.com/membership for an application and print you name

(continued on page 7)



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*.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FARMERS! Text FARM to 52886

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2018 THRU DECEMBER 2018												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X							
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X							
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X							
J. ENGEL		X	X	X	X							
G. GAITSCH		X		X	X							
B. GEHRKE	X		X	X	X							
W. KECK		X	X	X	X							
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X							
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	X	X							
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X	X							
A. LENKAITIS					X							
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X							
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X	X								
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X							
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X							

Kane County Farmer

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Steven J. Arnold, Editor

Suzi Myers, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Audre Pack, Training Specialist

Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator

Valerie Johnson, Administrative & Program Assistant

Marty Keltner, Communications Specialist

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38

Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles

PHONE: 630-584-8660

info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

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KCFB FOUNDATION Ag and General Scholarship recipients

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION will award over \$27,000 in scholarships this year to 24 high school and college students. The Kane County Farm Bureau established the FOUNDATION in 1989 to carry out charitable work in the advancement of agricultural literacy and prepare students for careers in the agriculture industry. Since then it has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships and internships.

Ten scholarship recipients are not listed below and were profiled in our May issue. They are: Andrew Gould of Elburn (President's Scholarship); Jessica Yaeger of DeKalb and Claire Plapp of Malta (John Buck Memorial Scholarships); Erik Dunteman of Big Rock (Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship); Mary Carr of Hampshire (Blickle Family Scholarship); Kristen Hoffman of Kingston and Heidi Smith of Sycamore (AGCO Parts Division Scholarships); Susie Thompson of Maple Park and Catherine Austin of Harvard (AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships); and, Erin Kettelkamp (AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship).

The following students were selected to receive \$1,000 KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships. Congratulations to these future Ag industry leaders.



ELENA CHAPA of Maple Park, daughter of Paul Chapa and Angela Stastny, is currently a senior at Burlington Central High School. She looks forward to attending Black Hawk East College in the fall where she will be a part of their Ag Transfer Program. She then hopes to further her education by attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in Animal Science. Her involvement in agriculture started at the young age of 5 when she began taking horseback lessons. Fast forward several years to a greater involvement in the equine industry, 4-H, and FFA. Being a part of these organizations has made her aware of the many career paths available to her in the Ag industry. She hopes to positively impact the agriculture and agribusiness industries by working with different feed companies to develop new feeds and products for livestock.



JACKSON KETTELKAMP, son of Karl and Julie Kettelkamp of Elburn, currently attends Joliet Junior College and will graduate with an Associates in Applied Sciences. His interests in Agriculture Production and Agribusiness will suit his future plans of growing Kettelkamp Farms, increasing hay production, and growing their customer base. Jackson has also been active in community activities through his church, KUMC Youth Events, Feed My Starving Children, and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. When needed, he also volunteers for the Kaneville Fire Department.



MONICA ZIMMERMAN is currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she is studying Crop Sciences. Monica is the daughter of Steven and Julie Zimmerman of Maple Park. She actively gained knowledge about the agriculture industry by taking on varied internships each summer. Last year she interned at Mighty Greens Farm in Elburn and prior to that she worked for the Geneva Park District. Each of these positions taught her different aspects of the industry ranging from planting to weeding, harvesting, and even pest management. After graduation, her goal is to work in urban areas to develop urban farms, greenspaces, and community gardens.

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Burlington Central Senior, **JAKE THOMPSON**, is well on his way to fulfilling one of his life goals of gaining a degree in the field of agriculture. With plans to attend Black Hawk College in the fall, he is ready to broaden his knowledge of agriculture to then be able to focus on a specific area of Ag by pursuing his Bachelor's at a university. Son of Mike and Jennifer Thompson of Maple Park, Jake has been raising and showing Hereford beef cattle at state and national levels for years. He has even helped to expand their family farm's national presence by diversifying their business into genetics. An active member in FFA, he has also held officer positions as well as winning chapter and state awards. Volunteer work is important to Jake and throughout his life he has helped at local food pantries, been a volunteer at many Kane County Farm Bureau and 4-H events, and has even been an advocate for Came One Step Camp.



Not being able to imagine herself in any industry other than agriculture, **CATHERINE GORENZ** selected her major to be in Agricultural Communications. Catherine, the youngest of five children, is the daughter of Edward and Anne Gorenz of Maple Park. Her passion for agriculture and animals shines through her current work as a Veterinary Technician. Working her way in to this position from stable hand, hard work and dedication, even at odd hours of the day, have been defining factors in her success. Currently attending Waubesa Community College with plans to transfer to the College of Central Florida, Catherine plans to travel across the country educating and informing others on the benefits and what agriculture can do for them.



VANESSA GOULD, daughter of Chris and Dana Gould, has been involved in agriculture all her life. Her family both farms and runs a "breed to wean" swine facility in Maple Park. Growing up, she worked on the farm, was a part of FFA, showed livestock in 4-H, and still continues to play sports throughout her college career. Knowing it's important to give back, she also has donated her time to organizations like Feed My Starving Children, Children's Hunger Fund Food Pack, has helped out at Marklund, HorsePower, and has gone on Mission Trips through church. She currently is

attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is now majoring in Agricultural Education, minoring in Animal Sciences. In order to combine her love for agriculture and its community with her desire to open doors to agriculture for others, her hopes lie in becoming a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.



KYLIE LINDLEY-BOHMAN is the perfect example of what organizations like 4-H can provide for young people. Her first year in college at the University of Illinois, Kylie chose to live in the 4-H House Cooperative Sorority and this experience resulted in a change of majors from Political Science to Agriculture and Consumer Economics, with a concentration in Public Policy and Law. Being exposed to agriculture and farming, Kylie quickly fell in love with the industry. Interning for Illinois Corn last summer, she traveled to Springfield and Washington D.C. to learn about policy and lobbying for agricultural issues. Seeing herself as a lobbyist who brings about positive change for farmers and farm profitability foremost in mind, Kylie knows everyone will benefit from agriculture policy. Daughter of Brian Bohman and Tiffany Sleezer, Kylie is originally from Yorkville.



Securing a degree in Crop Science is what **BRADLEY GORENZ**, son of Edward and Anne Gorenz of Maple Park, is focused on while he attends the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In high school, he realized he was interested in genetics and plants, so combining the two was the perfect answer – plant biotechnology and molecular biology. Being involved in revolutionizing seeds is where Bradley wants to be, hopefully as a part of creating the next "big" thing in soybeans or corn. In college, he has also been a member of the Horticulture Club and Field and Furrow Club, which has helped him to become even more involved in his reaching his future goals.



With a strong farming background, **ALEXANDER TURK** credits growing up on his grandfather's farm to his sense of strong work ethic. Alexander is the son of Nicholas and Ezliabeth Turk Not afraid, even at a very young age, to help fix tractors or other machinery that had broken down in the fields, he learned quickly about the business of farming as a way of life and how immediate decisions could affect the future. Alex now will be attending Illinois State University, majoring in Agronomy Management and Engineering Technology. After graduation Alex would like to work on improving existing GPS technology for agriculture and developing new programs/technology.



Daughter of Steven and Gaye Bowgren, **JESSICA BOWGREN** grew up in Maple Park and has been present on the family farm her whole life. With a love of animals and experience raising, caring for, and showing them in 4-H, she began her college path in Animal Science. A short time later, she realized that her passion was aimed more towards talking to and building relationships with people. Ultimately, Jessica would like to be a crop seed salesman or consultant and work with farmers to make them suc-

cessful in their businesses. Successful farming, if only one acre at a time, means long term success for everyone in the food industry. Starting in the fall, Jessica will attend Illinois State University and will major in Agribusiness and Agronomy.



Currently a senior at Eagle's Wings Christian School, **BRANDON GRIFFITH** of Lee, IL, has actively participated in the Student Council and 4-H. While at school, he also participated in a dual-credit program at Kishwaukee College – EMSA (Engineering, Math, & Science Academy) this year to help prepare him for college this fall at LeTourneau University in Texas. His interest in welding and welding engineering are what push him to pursue a Bachelor's in Engineering, focused in material joining. He then hopes to pursue his Master's degree in mechanical engineering or materials joining engineering. Besides being busy with school work, Brandon has worked at Monsanto as a research assistant collecting data. Long term, his interests lie in working for the auto industry or heavy machinery industry, preferably at Caterpillar or John Deere. Brandon is the son of Dan and Julie Griffith.



Fond memories from **SARAH CARR**'s childhood often took place at her family's farm equipment dealership. It was then when she was introduced to the world of agriculture and farming while listening to farmers who visited the dealership and spoke with her grandfather. She is the daughter of Chris and Kathleen Carr. Agriculture is inspiring her path towards an Engineering degree starting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this coming fall. Currently a senior at Hampshire High School, Sarah is interested in the arts as well as sports. Her interest in engineering will give her the ability to examine the design, construction, and improvement of farming equipment.



ANASTASIA KURTH, daughter of Gregory and Regina Kurth of Geneva, is a senior at Geneva Community High School.

This fall, she will attend the University of Wisconsin Platteville and major in Crop and Soil Science. Not growing up on a farm, Anastasia's interest in agriculture began when she was diagnosed with many different food allergies. This peaked her interest in corn and soy alternatives and availability. She then became involved in horticulture through the Fox Valley Career Center and was able to join the Kaneland FFA Chapter. In FFA, she learned about agronomy and agricultural scientists and after college she hopes to work in research and development at a seed company.



This year's General Scholarship from the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION was awarded to **ALLISON WETSCH**, daughter of

Tom and Lori Wetsch of St. Charles. Currently a high school senior at St. Charles East, she will attend Iowa State University in the fall, working to complete and graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. A member of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, Key Club, and school volleyball team, school marching band, concert band, and Peer Leadership, Allison is also very busy working at two different jobs in her spare time: Fusion Volleyball Club and Volleykidz. Not being raised in an agricultural environment, Allison has learned just how much agriculture impacts each facet of her life. For example, the balls used in the volleyball games she both participates in and coaches for are made from cow hide and the concessions like popcorn and ice cream sold at the sporting events all come from those in the Ag industry. She even relates the medical industry back to the agricultural industry as her grandmother was a recipient of an artery from a pig for a surgical procedure.

2018 Kane County Plat Book

A new 2018 Kane County Plat Book is now available for purchase from the Farm Bureau office – 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles. Books are priced at \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. Digital versions and wall maps are available from Rockfordmap.com. For more information, call 630-584-8660.

Order fresh peaches

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

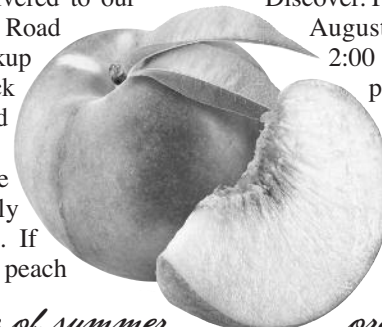
These delicious peaches are washed, hydrocooled, graded to U.S. #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, and packaged in a 25 pound wax coated fancy box with a lid. They are delivered to our office on Randall Road in a refrigerated truck for freshness and long lasting quality.

The peaches are freestones (easily comes off the pit). 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.

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 Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Pickup will be

August 23rd from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office, west side of the building (in the shed).



The sweet taste of summer order today!

Fresh Peaches

Quantity: _____ \$30.00/box (Plus Member),
\$31.00/box (Member), \$33/box (Non-member)

Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

Member Number: _____

Credit Card # _____

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Another successful spring here at Kane County Farm Bureau is drawing to a close. Looking back on all the programs, I'm so thankful for all the volunteers that help make these programs a success.

Ag Days is steeped with volunteers, some who have been with us for the last 34 years, many that have helped out each year that I've been the coordinator, and the new folks. It's like a reunion every year when we all gather together in the lunchroom. Families like the Klein family have passed the baton from parent to child when the parent could no longer help out. Randy Klein made the barn front that has been used throughout the years for the very first Ag Days which was held at Spring Hill Mall. His son, Dan, stands in front of this barn to tell the children about the goodness of vegetables each year. This year, Dan brought his 5th grade daughter to help out ... maybe some year she'll be the one standing in front of the barn

front telling the students about the healthy vegetables.

Touch-A-Tractor isn't as old of a program, but one that flourishes with the help of many volunteers. To successfully run a program that has over 2,000 folks visit, takes a good amount of help. Once again, we have some folks that volunteer each year to set up, help with the daily tasks, bring their tractors, shell corn, supply that corn, supply the straw needed for safety and fun, and the modern day machines. The farmers who come to share their knowledge with the general public or reminisce about the old days when their grandparents owned a farm, are very special indeed.

For those of you who don't know the history of Touch-A-Tractor, it started quite simply. At Ag Days, one of the favorite stations for the students was, and still is, the modern day farming equipment; the combine, tractor, finisher, and planter are explained to the students by current FFA students.

KANE COUNTY FARMER

We thought, why not bring those machines to the Kane County Farm Bureau and have a time for the public to learn about farming? We talked to Bruce Nagel (the farmer who has supplied the machinery for Ag Days for many years) and asked if he could drive the machines to the Farm Bureau for the weekend. He agreed and the program began. My memories of the first year are blurred, but I do remember one young boy who knew so much about the combine that I had to get help to answer his questions. He informed Steve and I, "I will be back tomorrow with my Dad, because he just has to see this." Next day, he did show up with Dad and even more questions ...

the teacher in me loved it.

To me, this is the core of Touch-A-Tractor...learning while having a great time with your family.

After Touch-A-Tractor, SPROUTS (Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students) begins for 3rd graders, so they can know a bit about agriculture before they attend Ag Days as a 4th grader. During the SPROUTS program, volunteers go into classrooms and read the HEARTLAND to the students while explaining farming in Kane County; what crops we grow, planting, harvesting and transportation of those crops, as well as a year in the life of a farmer. Volunteers make this

program possible also. I have had many volunteers in the past years, but my core group contains Beth Gehrke, Sandy Gould, Jan Strauss, Ryan Klassy, and Barb Konen. My deepest thank you goes out to these volunteers, as we literally could not reach over 1,000 students in one week without them. I also want to thank Alyce Konen for her generous funding of this program.

A big thank you to all of the fantastic volunteers that have given so much to make these programs a success ... you are too many to list in this article. The students, teachers, and I appreciate all that you special people do. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Book of the month

"We Both Read" is a series of books designed to help interest your child in reading. The idea is that the adult read one page that has more difficult verbiage followed by the child's easy to read page. These are "books that enable parents to help their children learn to read while having fun together."

This particular book explores the seasons scientifically, simply explaining the why of the season, as well as how the changing seasons affect plants,

animals and the children. The photographs show the ways we participate in each of the seasons. These photographs could make for a good discussion between the parent and child concerning the seasonal changes.

Thanks to Alyce Konen's generous donations in her husband's memory, our Kane County Farm Bureau continues to be stocked with a good selection of books concerning our world. With summer approach-

ing, bring your children in and check out some books for those lazy summer days.



About the Seasons by Sindy McKay

Want a greater connection to the farm? Professional membership is tailor-made for you!

If your paycheck depends on food, farms, or agriculture, we would like YOU to consider becoming a Kane County Farm Bureau "Professional" member. This new class of membership was designed for those with farm connections - whose career path may have led them away from daily chores. It seeks to offer a greater connection to the world of agriculture, local farms and food.

The Board of Directors has approved NEW exclusive member benefits in information services, educational offerings, leadership development & professional networking for KCFB Professional members. This includes Ag, Farm, & Food news delivered to your door weekly through the Illinois Farm Bureau's *FarmWeek*, monthly via this publication, the *Kane County Farmer* and quarterly through *Partners* magazine.

Another exclusive of Professional membership in KCFB is FREE registration to attend 1 of 6 Illinois Farm Bureau statewide conferences on farm, food and agriculture topics. Registration for these networking and learning opportunities alone cost several times the annual cost of membership dues,

and included is the American Farm Bureau Federation conference and trade show, held in various sun-belt cities throughout the US each January. This offer is valid during the first year of membership and conferences are held during various times throughout the year.

As a professional member, you will also receive a directory of local farms that sell direct to the public, notification of Farm Bureau seasonal direct food sales (peaches, fall harvest, fresh turkeys, citrus, etc.) and can help us advocate for area farms & farmers, promote local foods & global trade, support farmland protection, champion hunger relief & awareness, protect national resources, and defend property rights.

In addition to these exclusive *(continued on page 6)*



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Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Summer solstice

Nearly every agricultural society has marked the high point of summer in some way, shape or form. On this date – usually around June 21 or 22 (or December 21/22 in the southern hemisphere) – the sun reaches its zenith in the sky. It is the longest day of the year, and the point at which the sun seems to just hang there without moving.

The Summer Solstice, known to some as *Litha*, Midsummer, or *Alban Heruin*, is the longest day of the year. It's the time when the

sun is most powerful, and new life has begun to grow within the earth. After the solstice, the nights will once more begin to grow longer, and the sun will move further away in the sky.

Midsummer is the time when we can celebrate the growing of crops, and take heart in knowing that the seeds we planted in the spring are now in full bloom. It's a time of celebrating the sun, and spending as much time as you can outdoors.

Midsummer was traditionally

celebrated in Ireland by the lighting of bonfires. It was the custom for the cinders from the fires to be thrown on fields as an "offering" to protect the crops.

Litha is a time to find a balance between fire and water. Europeans celebrated this time of year by setting large wheels on fire and then rolling them down a hill into a body of water. The water mitigates the heat of the sun, and subordinating the sun wheel to water may prevent drought.

celebrate the summer solstice

Celebrating Midsummer is a great way to connect children with nature, as it highlights the transitions that are taking place on Earth as the crops are starting to grow in earnest, daylight is at its peak and one season morphs into another.

Make flower wreaths

Homemade flower wreaths are to Midsummer what the American flag is to the 4th of July. If you only have time to do one thing to celebrate the longest day of the year, make a flower wreath for your hair. And yes – boys wear them too!

Eat seasonal foods

In Sweden, the arrival of the first local new potatoes and strawberries is almost treated with religious reverence. This usually coincides with the summer solstice, which means both are a mandatory part of a traditional Midsummer dinner. Midsummer is also believed to

be a tribute to the fertility of the crops, so what better way to honor it than by eating local produce. Try creating something using mostly local and seasonal ingredients – maybe it will be the start of a new tradition.

Pick seven kinds of flowers

This one is for the girls. Swedish legend has it that if you pick seven kinds of flowers and put them under your pillow on Midsummer Eve, you will dream about your future husband. Not to be taken too seriously, of course, but a lot of fun for kids.

Have a bonfire

In Norway, Denmark and Finland, people light bonfires to celebrate the summer solstice. According to the old pagan tradition, the bonfires would scare off witches and other evil creatures, but today people gather around them to eat, drink and dance in a circle, just like with the maypoles in Sweden.

Summer solstice craft and treat

Whenever you're out in the sun, you always wear a hat, cap, or visor. Now you can be super cool with these easy-to-make visors. (Idea from Crayola Crayons)

4. Use Crayola® Erasable Colored Pencils to draw a half moon on a plain paper plate. Cut it out with Crayola Scissors.

5. Decorate your visor with crayons.

6. Punch holes near both points of the moon. Thread a rubber band or elastic through each hole and knot. Enjoy wearing your cool visor.



Pineapple Sunshine Cake

A light and fluffy pineapple-infused cake, topped with a sweet and creamy whipped cream frosting. This cake is always a crowd pleaser

Ingredients

- Cake:**
 - 1 box yellow cake mix
 - 4 eggs
 - 1/2 cup oil (I used vegetable oil)
 - 1 (8 oz) can crushed pineapple with juice
- Frosting:**
 - 1 (8 oz) container whipped topping, thawed
 - 1 small box instant vanilla pudding
 - 1 (8 oz) can crushed pineapple with juice

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, eggs, oil, and 1 can

crushed pineapple with the juice. Mix well.

3. Pour into prepared baking pan and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Allow to cool completely on a wire rack.

4. In a medium sized bowl, fold together whipped topping, box of vanilla pudding, and 1 can crushed pineapple with the juice. Spread over the top of cooled cake. Enjoy!

Author: Ashlyn, Belle of the Kitchen



Jokes:

- What is the best day to go to the beach? **SUN**day.
- What does the sun drink out of? **Sun**glasses.
- Why do bananas use sunscreen? **Because they peel.**
- Do fish go on vacation? **No, because they're always in school!**



Summer solstice

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

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TRADITIONS
VIKINGS
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Name _____
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Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Did you know?

The word "solstice" comes from the Latin words "sol" (sun) and "stitium" (still or stopped).

Neolithic humans observed the summer solstice as a marker to figure out when to plant and harvest crops.

In ancient Egypt, the summer solstice corresponded with the rise of the Nile River.

In Northern Europe, Summer Solstice often is referred to as Midsummer. Wiccans and other Neopagan groups call it *Litha*.

Some churches recognize the summer solstice as St. John's Day to commemorate the birth of John the Baptist.

According to ancient Greek calendars, the summer solstice marked the start of the New Year.

The summer solstice marked

the one-month countdown to the opening of the Olympic games.

Kronia, a festival celebrating Cronus, the god of agriculture, was also held around the solstice.

In ancient China, the summer solstice was associated with "yin," the feminine force. Festivities celebrated Earth, femininity, and the "yin" force.

June is:

- Adopt-A-Cat Month
- Country Cooking Month
- Dairy Month
- Great Outdoors Month
- National Camping Month
- National Candy Month
- National Fruit & Veggies Month
- National Ice Tea Month
- National Rose Month

Special Days in June:

- 6 D Day, WWII.
- Ramadan begins.
- 10 Iced Tea Day
- 11 Corn on the Cob Day
- 14 Flag Day.
- 19 Father's Day – third Sunday
- Juneteenth Day.
- 20 Summer Solstice (*The longest day of the year!*)
- 23 Let It Go Day
- 26 National Canoe Day

Congratulations

Sue Lehmann of St. Charles! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. She receives a box of Inboden's Meats Pub Burgers for summer grilling. Thank you, Sue for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by June 15, 2018 to be entered in our drawing for a summer solstice themed prize.

EPA visit

(continued from page 1)

tion going forward to make better nitrogen and fertility plans because we have this one kind of unknown piece of data. We keep unlocking doors and finding new things. It's kind of fun."

About 10 miles away, the Goulds raises several thousands of acres of grain – about 60 percent corn and 40 percent soybeans. They have a 700-sow farrow-to-wean operation. Chris Gould explained how he handles and stores manure, why he plants cover crops and installed a grass waterway, among other things. "Most of the things farmers are doing right aren't because someone is making them do them", said Gould.

He also explained the evolution of tilling. He planted about 500 acres of no-till corn this year.

"I think this is more and more possible with the technology we have. There are certainly challenges," he told Stepp. "The benefits are obvious – less trips, less fuel, less labor, less machinery. But it does rely on chemicals for

weed control. And that's becoming more and more of a problem. We're having to get smarter about controlling weeds."

Stepp said she was impressed – but not surprised – by the different practices used by the Gould and Pitstick families.

"We in government could do well by listening and learning from them," she said. "I'm going to help in whatever ways I can to spread the message about what's really happening, what farmers are really talking about and how they're trying to make ends meet and yet still doing the right thing by the environment."

"We can do both," Stepp said. "We can have people make money and support a business and their family and still do the right thing by the environment. But we have to work together to do that."

Kane County Farm Bureau extends its thanks to the Pitstick and Gould families for welcoming the EPA onto their farms, something not a lot of farmers, or anyone in a regulated community, would willingly do.

and receive all the benefits offered in addition to what you have already been enjoying. Do it by July 31 and get a FREE Pillow Pet!

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to encourage any Associate Member who is employed in an agriculture related field and has a strong interest in the future of agriculture to consider upgrading to the Professional membership classification. Please contact Liz at the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 or email us at member@kanecfb.com for more information.

Professional membership

(continued from page 4)

member benefits, you will also have access to \$500 Ford Bonus Cash or \$750 Lincoln Bonus Cash, hundreds of other money saving benefits – and will be able to download our Illinois Farm Bureau phone app, with over 302,000 member discounts!

For those who are already Farm Bureau "A" (Associate) members – you can upgrade or "re-classify" to this new Professional membership class

Looking to get more involved in the Community? Join the Young Farmers for a BBQ

You're invited to join the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers for their annual Summer BBQ! Join young (18-35 years), local agriculture enthusiasts from around Kane County as they socialize, dine on pork chops, and learn more about upcoming local and statewide activities for 2018. Daniel Hueber, General Manager for The Hueber Report

Team, the advisory arm of Diversified Services, will be on hand to discuss commodity analysis, markets, and risk management.

The pot-luck (please bring your favorite side) dinner will take place Tuesday, June 19th at the Biddle Farm in Elburn. Young Farmer project tasks (Farm Zoo, County Fair display construction, etc.) will begin at

5pm. Social hour begins at 6pm with Farm Bureau provided pork chops and a presentation to follow. Anyone is welcome to join, and new faces are always welcome!

For more information or to RSVP (by Friday, June 15), please contact Marty Keltner at (630) 584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com.

In search of the best movie app ever? Check your IFB Benefits App

If you've been to the movies lately, then you know that there are so many choices before you arrive and after you get there. Do you buy your tickets before you leave the house to save you time once you arrive at the theater? Do you take a risk and wait in, what might be a long line filled with unsure and indecisive patrons, or do you use one of the towering kiosks provided and hope that it's easy to navigate and actually gives you your tickets this time.

As a Farm Bureau member, you already have the best answer to the above movie-going dilemma and you have it right at your fingers tips. Grab your smart phone, which most likely was already in your hand anyway, and tap the black IFB Benefits app. Voila! Instant access to not only tens and hundreds of discounts on businesses immediately surrounding you, but also one of the BEST movie apps ever!

Say you searched for movies. Immediately the venues closest to you pop up – for us here at the Farm Bureau on Randall Road, that includes, Cinemark, Regal Cinemas, Marcus Theaters, and AMC. And the app expands the theatres in an ever widening circle from your present location – or, you can search by city or zip code if you want to know what's playing in say, San Francisco (or Elgin, Wheaton, Sycamore, etc., you get the picture!).

What's great about these theaters popping up is the SAVINGS. The IFB Benefits app saves you 21% at Cinemark on e-tickets with NO expiration date.

Scroll down to Regal Cinemas and you can save 30%, again, with NO expiration date! Prefer Marcus theaters? Well, you can save 28% on a 4-Pack of Platinum tickets. At AMC, you



Search the app store on your iOS device (iPad or iPhone) or the Google Play on your Android for "Illinois Farm Bureau member benefits" to download the member benefit app and start saving at many of the local stores, restaurants, THEATERS and service providers you already frequent in the Fox River Valley and beyond. Enable location service to get alerts and reminders while you travel. Call 630 584-8660 for more information.

can save a whopping 40% on AMC® Yellow eTickets. And almost anywhere you go, Redbox offers "Rent 1 DVD, Get 1 DVD Free for the first night".

Please do read the details in

the app for further information on redemption, but how exciting knowing that you have the ease of buying tickets wherever you are AND can save money. Try finding savings like this on any of the other movie apps, in fact, you might get charged more, "convenience fees" are often \$2 or more per ticket and who wants to pay more?

On the app, click on "Movie Showtimes". This downloads all of the movie theaters within 10 miles of your current location, within 20+ miles, and then 30+ miles (or again, by city or zip code selected). Click on a particular theater and you have instant access to each movie that is playing, the main actor(s), show times, run time, trailers, reviews and a synopsis. It's that easy! Click the back arrow to find another theater until you finally find your happy place in that plush reclining chair with the big screen in front of you.

Don't have the app but now you're curious? Type https://ilfb.abenity.com into your browser or go to the app store on your iPhone and search for ILFB Member Benefits or the Google Play Store on your Android and search for Abenity. Follow the prompts and you'll be ready to start saving!



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Winner's Choice Raffle

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

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Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Drawing July 22 at the Kane County Fair 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale



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For iPhone: (1) Go to the App Store (2) Search for Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits
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Pillow Pets

(continued from page 2)

in the Recommended by Field. If the application is received and approved by August 31, YOU and he/she will each get 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Questions, call (630) 584-8660.

All membership applications and requests for re-classification of membership are reviewed by our Association's Board of Directors for eligibility and proper classification. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

In appreciation

To thank those who have helped the Kane County Farm Bureau & FOUNDATION in some way, big or small, to remind us of our history, who we are and whom we serve, and to advance our mission to make a brighter tomorrow for farms, families and food.

John Biddle & Mike & Helen Biddle – for hosting not 1, but 2 “work nights” for the KCFB

JUNE 2018 KANE COUNTY FARMER

Young Farmers to retro-fit the Grain Bin Rescue/Farm Safety Display by adding a viewing platform.

Lenkaitis Holsteins – for providing the steel for the retrofit of the Grain Bin Safety Display.

KCFB Foundation Directors – for reviewing hundreds of pages of Scholarship application.

Bruce Nagel – for supplying tractors, a combine and other farm equipment for at least 20 consecutive years at Ag Days and the 13th year at Touch-A-Tractor.

AGCO Parts, Batavia employ-

ees – for contribution to the KCFB FOUNDATION for AGCO scholarships, for providing Pillow Pets for fundraising & for help organizing, staffing and carrying out Touch-A-Tractor.

Beth Gehrke, Sandy Gould, Jan Strauss, and Ryan Klassy – for reading books to 3rd grade classrooms as part of our annual SPROUTS program.

Alyce Konen – for the funding needed to buy materials and books for the SPROUTS reading program as well as the library at

Kane County Farm Bureau.

Pillow Pets purchasers – at Touch-A-Tractor – over \$9,000 was raised thru this and other sales to benefit farm accident victims.

Pitstick Farms & Gould Farms – for being gracious farm hosts for the Region 5 EPA Tour.

Frank Carlson – for 10 years of exemplary service on the Board of Directors. And for returning at the May meeting to share his insights, encouragement and enthusiasm with Directors.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

EDWARD STUEHM has been named the Agent of the Month for April 2018 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Edward has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto,

Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Ed's expertise help you! You may reach Ed at 630-845-8245, edward.stuehm@countryfinancial.com or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/edward.stuehm/. Congratulations, Ed!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for

April, 2018. 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!

Last Chance! Don't miss being featured in the Bounty of Kane

The Bounty of Kane, a KCFB directory of direct to consumer farm markets is available online at www.kanecfb.com/bounty.html. We are in the process of updating our information and need your help!



also an excellent source for retailers looking to find growers to provide product for restaurants, grocery stores, and schools, among others.

Bounty of Kane helps consumers support local farmers and buy farm-fresh produce and products at farms and farmers markets across the county. It is

Farmers interested in adding their names and farms to the Bounty of Kane should contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com, or pay us an in-person visit at 2N710 Randall Road in St. Charles!

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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JOIN OUR TEAM!

The KCFB is growing!

We are always seeking outgoing and energetic individuals with exceptional communications and organizational skills; working knowledge of farms and agriculture; and, education or experience in:

- Journalism,
- Communications,
- Agricultural Leadership,
- Social Media
- and/or Marketing.

To discuss volunteer and/or CAREER opportunities, contact Steve Arnold at 630 584-8660, or steve@kanecfb.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



Felipe Rocha

August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

Thank you

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Kane County Farm Bureau, its staff, and its members for allowing me to be involved with the many events that took place during my three short weeks there. I was lucky enough to train under Steve Arnold, Kane County Farm Bureau Manager, from late March through early April.

I absolutely enjoyed helping at Ag Days at Mooseheart as well as the Touch-A-Tractor event over the course of my time there. I am very fortunate to have worked with exceptional volunteers, board members, and of course the staff that showed me the ropes and welcomed me in.

Wyatt Williamson,
IFB Farm Bureau Manager Trainee, Newark, IL

Update: 5/15/18 – Wyatt Williamson, IFB Manager Trainee, has been hired by the Edgar County Farm Bureau as their manager effective June 23, 2018. Wyatt replaces Joe Melisi, formerly of Aurora, who will be relocating to Arizona in June. Congratulations Wyatt!



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IFB Young Leader Conference	January	\$100
IFB Governmental Affairs	March	\$70
IFB Farm Income & Innovation	June	\$70
IFB Live Local Conference	October	\$100
IFB Annual Meeting	December	\$35

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