

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. 3 MARCH 2018

Touch-A-Tractor: Join us for farm, family & FUN!

Kane County is a unique area that is home to both rural and suburban landscapes. What we have here is not all that common, the ability to travel from a highly populated shopping center to a farmstead surrounded by cornfields in 10 minutes.

Kane County Farm Bureau hosts Touch-A-Tractor to bring a little bit of the rural side of the county to the suburban side for a fun-filled 3 day weekend. Now in its 13th year, the farm-city event has grown in popularity each year.

This family friendly event has a wide variety of activities for the entire family. Kids can sit in the seat of an antique tractor, see modern farm equipment, participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, shell corn, see farm animals, and enter for a FREE chance to win their very own pedal tractor.

Employees from AGCO Parts, Batavia, one of Kane County's largest agricultural related employers will be present all three days at Touch-A-Tractor providing kids games, contests and prizes. AGCO Parts employees are also huge supporters of the KCFB Foundation and through their efforts and generosity, 5 additional college scholarships will be awarded on April 8.

From toddlers to teens, this

event has something for everyone. Bring the entire family over to Kane County Farm Bureau on April 6-8 and see working tractor straight from a farm field and meet the hard working farmers who drive them.

A \$2 adult or \$5 family donation is required for admission at Touch-A-Tractor. Donations are used to fund Ag-in-the-Classroom and Scholarship programs of the not-for-profit KCFB Foundation. Attendees can show their Winner's Choice Raffle ticket stub for FREE

admission. Food, drinks, and snacks are available for purchase throughout the weekend. At the conclusion of the events on Sunday, April 8, KCFB Foundation scholarship winners for 2018-19 will be announced.

If you'd like to bring an antique tractor or other farm equipment to Touch-A-Tractor, to add to the ambience and enhance the learning environment for our city neighbors, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660. Mark your calendars now. We hope to see you at Touch-A-Tractor.

Bring the family to Touch-A-Tractor April 6-8 for a fun and educational experience like none other. Meet working farmers and see the tractors they drive. See livestock, and explore all that Kane County farms have to offer.

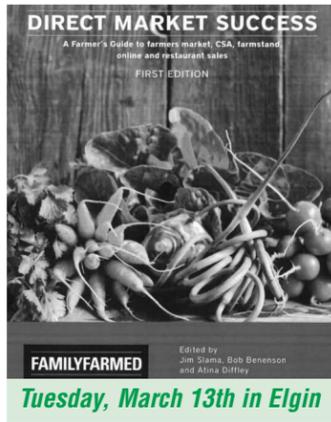


Touch-A-Tractor

Farmer training at Dream Hall in Elgin

March 13th from 8am-4pm, Growing Success for Direct Market Farmers will be hosted by Pam Benike, workshop presenter. Pam is a life-long farmer who is passionate about placing wholesome, locally grown food directly into the hands of the folks who will eat it. Her farm, Prairie Hollow, is located in southwestern Minnesota. This training will take place at the Dream Hall located at 51 S. Grove Street in Elgin, 60120. Cost to attend is only \$25 and pre-registration is required. Visit www.ilfma.org to sign up.

This training is focused on fundamentals like creating a



Tuesday, March 13th in Elgin

healthy long-term relationship by meeting the needs and values of your customers. It covers how to actively seek buyers, how to assess who your customer is, and why they buy. Learning to maintain the relationship requires attention to details from varieties, quality, pricing, communication, sequential planting, quality control, merchandising, trends, and more! Farmers who attend will also learn how to serve the direct market and make their farm a highly desired source of fresh produce.

Participants of the class will

receive a FREE copy of the Direct Market Success manual. The brand new Direct Market Success is a reference guide for farms selling in direct market venues such as farmers markets, CSAs, and farm stands. This manual is intended to be the definitive farmer's guide to selling, food safety, postharvest handling, and logistics for farmers who are seeking to enter and grow in this burgeoning consumer sector, mainly composed of farmers markets, CSAs, online retail sales, and farm stands.

Representative Kifowit, FB tour MightyVine

Growing businesses is a main focus of State Representative Stephanie Kifowit's (D-Oswego) immediate agenda and she is determined to make year-round farming in the Aurora area a reality. Kifowit reached out to the Illinois Farm Bureau to help arrange a tour of the Rochelle based MightyVine tomato "greenhouse" – to learn more about year-round, indoor and hydroponic production. Kane County Farm Bureau was fortunate to snag a couple of spots on the tour.

Daniel Murphy, Mighty Vine's Business Development

Director, met Rep. Kifowit, local Farm Bureau members, and KCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers and local grower, Ellen Kamps for the days activities. Murphy provided background on the operation and a tour of the facility. The inspiration for MightyVine came from his father, an Italian-Irish man who was raised in the Chicago area and has come to understand the food industry quite well.

MightyVine consists of two 7.5 acre glass-enclosed facilities that produce a total of nine million pounds of tomatoes annually. This state-of-the-art

facility uses hydroponic methods to produce fresh vine-ripened tomatoes year-round. "Visiting MightyVine was a tropical oasis out of the January cold in Rochelle, Illinois," said Kamps. She is the co-owner of Foxtrot Organic Farm and had previously worked on a small scale hydroponic farm, but for her to see the scale of acreage under glass was truly a remarkable experience. "I'm always trying to make labor more efficient on my farm, so witnessing the assembly line from harvest to packaging was

intriguing." Pest control was my biggest curiosity, and (I), found Mighty Vine's solution of biological control strips with parasitic wasps to be very creative." she added.

Representative Kifowit spoke of looking to sponsor some agricultural stimulus packages that would allow local investors incentives to redevelop property such as abandoned warehouses. Repurposing vacant buildings and using hydroponic technology would prove to be beneficial to the area as concerns are being raised for year-round, local produce production as well as water conservation.

Myers returned to the KCFB office enthusiastic about the tour, her second visit to the facility in

(continued on page 4)

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-Oswego) and Danny Murphy, Business Development Director at MightyVine in Rochelle, are lifted above the hanging vines of tomatoes for a true bird's eye view of the facility. From this vantage point, they can see the growing cycle starting with blooms at the top of the vines where they are tied, descending to the growing, green tomatoes, down to the ripe, ready to pick clusters toward the bottom.



DATES TO REMEMBER

March

March 1

Young Farmer-FFA Acquaintance Day, 5-7pm, Northern Illinois Food Bank Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm, Northern Illinois Food Bank

March 4-10

2018 Agriculture Safety Awareness Week

March 14, 15

2018 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, Springfield

March 19

AgDays set-up at Mooseheart, 10-4

March 20

National Ag Day

March 20-21

Ag Days at Mooseheart for 4th graders

March 23

KCFB Foundation Annual Meeting, 8:30am

March 30

Office Closed – Good Friday

Ag Days!



My tour to Mighty Vine to tour alongside other Farm Bureau members was very exciting! I appreciate that the Kane County Farm Bureau provides educational opportunities that add value to my membership.

Ellen Kamps, Foxtrot Organic Farm



March SPECIAL Homemade Corned Beef Brisket

The special this month is a three-pound home brined corned beef brisket. Each brisket will come sealed with the seasoning and includes the cooking instructions for your St. Patrick's Day celebration. The Member price is \$19.50, PLUS Members \$17.50, and non-Members \$22.50.

KCFB Board meeting review

The February meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was preceded by a meeting of the 2018 Nominating Committee. Vice President Wayne Schneider called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:00. The Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance and reviewed and approved an amended agenda before President Joe White resumed the chair.

Guests at the meeting were introduced and included the Nominating Committee; Clayton Feldott, Trent Pierson, Gerard Fabrizius, Carolyn Gehrke, and Lloyd Goebbert. Mr. Bruce Anderson from Merrill Lynch was also present to discuss investments and the current climate of the markets.

Unfinished business included revisiting proposed options for upgrading office technology. Directors approved a recommendation to replace the server and 5 desktop/laptop computers.

New Business included approval of the AD&D Insurance reimbursements and 2018 Technology stipends for Directors and staff. Directors expressed a preference for a March 1 board meeting at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, where they could assist the Young Farmers and FFA Chapters during the Volunteer Night/Acquaintance program. Other topics included the need for farm animals at AgDays and the approval of a Gold level sponsorship for the upcoming 4-H FOUNDATION Pork Chop Fundraiser.

Local government issues were discussed followed by committee reports from members of the board. Bill Collins,

chair of the P.R. & Membership Committee, reported that 24 donors contributed to the KCFB FOUNDATION as follow: Sara Gramley, in memory of Elmer Gramley; Robert Swanson, in memory of Chuck Swanson; Jay Schrock, Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center; Michael Wurtz, St. Charles; Ryan Doty, Elburn; Richard Jenkins, St. Charles; Lester & Joyce Landmeier, Big Rock; Diane Christian, Aurora; David Earl Marshall, Sugar Grove; Bill Keck, Sugar Grove; Craig Spohr, Waterman; John Maynard Jr., Hampshire; William & Patricia Watson, St. Charles; Darlene & James Sims, St. Charles; J. Michael & Helen Biddle, Elburn; Francis Geisen, Maple Park; Eldon & Sandy Gould, Maple Park; Roger & Theresa Biddle, Maple Park; Janet Lee Spohr, South Elgin; David Feiza, St. Charles; James O'Connell, Elburn; Richard & Linda Kelley, Maple Park; Phyllis Koppen, Huntley; and Paul Diehl, Elburn. Harvest for ALL contributions included John Van Bogaert's donation for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The P.R./Membership committee will meet Feb 5 at 4pm to discuss a membership drive for COUNTRY Financial Representatives; a Professional Membership drive; volunteer membership drive incentives; the Feb 9 Shopping Spree; the Feb 22 Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off; Touch-A-Tractor (April 6-8); electronic signage for KCFB; and ideas for the County Fair, the FB discount app and member benefits.

A written Ag-in-the-Classroom report from Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi

Myers was distributed. AgDays is scheduled for Tuesday-Wednesday, March 21 & 22 at Mooseheart. There are 42 classes scheduled to attend.

Wayne Schneider gave the Government Affairs & Public Policy report. Shopping Spree is Feb 9, 10:30am, Batavia Jewel-Osco. This year's contestants are Theresa Barreiro & Jeffrey Walter. Lunches to Legislators will take place on Monday, Feb. 26. The IFB Government Affairs Leadership Conference will be held in Springfield March 14-15. To register to attend, contact the CFB office.

Joe White gave the FOUNDATION report, and distributed the January 23 meeting agenda. Chili & Cornbread Cook Off flyers were handed out and Directors were encouraged to distribute them and participate! Needs for Touch-A-Tractor were reviewed and included hay or straw bales, plastic culverts, and "peek boards" as well as gently used farm toys. This year a 1965 Ford F100 pickup will be the Grand Prize for the Winner's Choice Raffle. The winner will be announced at the Kane County Fair, at the conclusion of the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale. The Foundation will also review Adult scholarships application following its Annual Meeting on March 23.

Donna Lehrer, chair of the Direct Marketers and Specialty Growers committee, advised that the Food Hub Open House had been postponed; that IFB/KCFB is seeking 1-2 farmers for a Local Food Policy Summit on February 20. IFB is also developing a list for statewide Food Hub contacts.

President Joe White gave his

report, followed by Steve Arnold with the Manager's Report. Arnold reminded the board of upcoming grant opportunities. He also announced that Jessica Bowgren has joined the KCFB staff as a part-time employee while she attends Waubesa Community College.

Informational items included a review of the Food for Thought Regional Advertising Committee meeting on Monday, January 29 at KCFB. The Kane County Board Ag Committee will meet on Thursday Feb 15 at 10am at the County Administration Building. COUNTRY Financial Agency Managers and area county FB Managers meet on April 4 in

Mokena.

Correspondence was circulated, which included Kane County 4-H FOUNDATION seeking support for the 2018 Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser and K-D SWCD seeking sponsorship of a film at WCC by the Oak Park based One Earth Film Festival. Kathy Chwee of Elgin sent in an update, Bill Freiberg of Elgin thanked the FOUNDATION for the 31 Days Raffle and FOUNDATION events, and Janet and Sara Gramley thanked KCFB for flowers and memorial in remembrance of Elmer Gramley.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 1 at 7pm at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

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										
F. CARLSON	X	X										
B. COLLINS	X	X										
C. COLLINS	X	X										
J. ENGEL		X										
G. GAITSCH		X										
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK		X										
M. KENYON	X	X										
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X										
D. LEHRER	X	X										
N. LONG	X	X										
D. PITSTICK	X	X										
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X										
J. WHITE	X	X										

Kane County Farmer

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Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator

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Raise scholarship funds, get FREE T-A-T entry with 'Winner's Choice' raffle

Get your chance to win one of 6 great prizes in the KCFB FOUNDATION'S Winner's Choice Raffle. All proceeds from this annual fundraiser benefit college scholarships and Agricultural Literacy programs.

Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25, or 5 for \$50 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles), from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2, with VISA or MasterCard at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

In 2017, over \$22,000 in tuition assistance was provided by the FOUNDATION. Your contributions through the annual raffle and other events throughout the year play a huge role in helping students attain

their degrees, reach their goals, and assist in securing a bright future for farms and food.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn on July 22, 2018, at 3pm during the Kane County Fair. Winners can choose a Vintage 1965 Ford F100 (41K miles), OR John Deere CX350 lawn mower, OR \$3,500 cash. There's a great lineup of food, fuel, and Farm Bureau prizes that include second prize of \$500 in groceries, third prize \$500 in fuel, and fourth prize is \$250 in Kane County Farm Bureau Bucks.

Winner's Choice ticket stubs also serve as FREE family admission to KCFB's annual Touch-A-Tractor farm/city event, scheduled for April 6-8 on the Farm Bureau lawn.

For more information and

rules on this year's raffle, scholarship programs or other KCFB FOUNDATION programs and services, visit www.kanecfb.com or contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.



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.

KCFB FOUNDATION Winner's Choice Raffle

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

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 ____ / ____ / ____

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A morning with long-time farm broadcaster, Max Armstrong

By Marty Keltner

A published author of *Stories from the Heartland*, Max Armstrong has been broadcasting agricultural news for over 40 years on the radio waves and on the television screen. Born and raised in Indiana, his “agriculture roots” run deep and he credits the path his life has taken to growing up on a soybean and corn farm under the guidance of his hard working parents.

Armstrong, a radio and television graduate of Purdue University, early on found a way to blend his passions for agriculture and journalism. Before graduation, he started his career as a part-time announcer on two local Indiana radio stations. He followed suit as a broadcast editor for the Illinois Farm Bureau, a contributing reporter and host for U.S. Farm Report, Co-Host and Co-Founder of This Week in Agribusiness, and last but not least, Director of Broadcasting at Farm Progress. Along the way, he found time to serve as a substitute meteorologist for WGN, fire commissioner for the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, and President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Accolades include receiving the Oscar in Agriculture not once, but twice along with being awarded the highest honors by the National Agri-Marketing Association, the American Agricultural Editors Association, and the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. In 2002, he was given the highest civilian honor presented by the Governor of Indiana, the “Sagamore of the Wabash” recognition. He definitely knows agriculture and agriculture knows him.

A man with a good sense of humor, Armstrong’s first meeting with former Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Earl Butts, a colorful, straightforward guy, proved to be an experience to remember when the color of his hair was questioned. About 5 years before Dr. Butts’ death, he was at a Farm Progress Show and motioned Max over with his cane, calling out, “Why is your hair so dark?” Armstrong responded, “Dr. Butts, what do you mean?” Butts then proclaimed, “It shouldn’t be that

dark.” Well, after hearing that, Armstrong has never dyed his hair again. Being cured of that notion, Armstrong admitted, Earl Butts had provoked his vanity in a way only he could do.

Dr. Butts was also the very first of 14 Secretaries of Agriculture that Armstrong would be introduced to. Butts was a memorable Secretary of Agriculture, Armstrong



Who doesn't love Max Armstrong, I asked myself, after meeting him December 7th at 22 Creative Group studios in Batavia. With a firm handshake and voice that warms the room, I instantly felt like I'd known him for much longer than just a few minutes. And after listening to him for over 40 years on the radio, I'm sure our readers can agree, he's one of America's favorite Farm Broadcasters and for good reason; Armstrong is relatable to anyone who crosses his path. What follows comes from a December 7 interview with him after a filming for This Week in Agribusiness with Orion Samuelson.

remarked, “Farmers who are still around and remember him, will definitely light up at the sound of his name. He was the reason the U.S. went from trading township to township to trading continent to continent. He was instrumental in opening up the grain trade with our enemy, the old Soviet Union, a country that spanned a dozen time zones.” John Block is another notable Secretary of Ag, being an Illinois farmer himself, and a veterinarian by trade, he understood the Ag Industry and he really loved meeting with people, said Armstrong.

Another one of the greats, Armstrong declared, is Harold Steele. Mr. Steele is featured in his book and was definitely one of a long progression of great leaders the Illinois Farm Bureau has had. President for 13 years and Armstrong’s boss for two and a half of those, he was also a WWII Veteran who served four years as chairman of the federal Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D.C., appointed by George W. Bush.

When discussing the challenges that farmers and production agriculture face in the coming years, Armstrong gives credit to the Farm Bureau. “One of the things this organization does

so well is engage in governmental affairs. It’s absolutely critical because you can still exist with some misinformed consumers if you are still engaged in that regulatory and legislative process. Our farmers maintaining an open line of communication with our appointed and elected officials is absolutely essential,” he says. He also adds that sometimes farmers don’t want to be

involved, they want to keep it at an arm’s length, especially after they see what is happening in the media every day, but thankfully, some folks are still involved in the state legislature. A perfect example, cited by Armstrong, is Mr. Robert Pritchard. “He has given farmers a presence, along with others, in the state legislature. Maintaining a presence, whether in Springfield or Washington, with so many battles still looming out there to be fought, is very important to agriculture’s future.”

Maintaining a presence on social media and utilizing current technology is another way that farmers, young farmers, and members of agriculture can share their world. Armstrong began his career with access to three wire service machines that typed out the news right there in the office. His smartphone is now his wire service, providing him with instant access to everything going on in the world. When speaking to farmers, he likes to tell them that Twitter is a valuable tool to share and bring in information with. He actually has a few different accounts, one that he actively tweets things that he wants to share with farmers and another he calls his “shadow twitter account.” On this account

he follows certain economists, grain traders, grain analysts, and a few politicians as well as the Wall Street Journal. Besides gathering news much differently, he also disseminates it differently. For years, he spent his life at the Tribune Tower downtown while Orion Samuelson was traveling the world, to Beijing or to Moscow. It was a necessity for him to be in the office until technology evolved and he was then able to build a home studio and catch the last few years of his daughter growing up.

A few pieces of advice that Armstrong shared were to be an active listener to any and all

farmers, and for young farmers, to engage their grandparents. “Active listening is a key part of being able to be a good “advocate” for our industry. Providing feedback, data, science, and leads to where information can be reviewed, is an important part of what a farmer can do when speaking with consumers. Engaging your grandparents in stories from their time is the best way to pass information down the line.” Armstrong recalled listening to his dad’s stories of the highs and lows of farming as well as recording his grandparents; treasured pieces of family history and memories.

The first person we shadowed at 22 Creative Group was Angelo Lazzara, co-owner and co-creator of the studio in Batavia. Master of the technology used to create the magic we see on television, we watched him coordinate, time, direct and position the hosts, and adjust the sound all from the control room.



Angelo Lazzara

Angelo Lazzara, currently of Orland Park, began his college career on a path down the road of being an accountant. This path quickly took an entirely different course during a spring break trip to Daytona Beach, Florida. While there, he became involved with a crew that had a side project, filming for MTV. He knew then that he was more interested in media and broadcasting than accounting and numbers. After returning from spring break, Angelo decided to switch his major to TV Broadcasting and hasn’t looked back since. Lazzara has always been creative, so when his kids ask about following their dreams, he tells them “Pursue degrees in the arts if that what’s your interested in, follow what you love and the money will come later.”

During his senior year in college, Angelo had an internship at Polycom, specifically working on “At the Movies” with Rex Reid and Dixie Whatley, formerly “At the Movies” with Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert. By chance, the next project he worked on was the “U.S. Farm Report” with Max Armstrong and Orion Samuelson. This is also where he met Ryan Ruh, the man who would be his future partner in opening 22 Creative Group studios. After working for Tribune Broadcasting for nine years, he then decided to part ways and focus on freelance.

Just over 10 years ago, he teamed back up with Ryan Ruh and together, along with Armstrong and Samuelson, started “This Week in Agribusiness.” 22 Creative Group recently found a home in Batavia right off of Fabyan Parkway, in a building nearly perfectly suited for their needs.

Travel is still part of Lazzara’s rapidly changing schedule and he has been a key part of filming “This Week in Agribusiness” all over the world. Some of his favorite places to visit overseas have been Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Domestically, visiting rural communities and farm families have been the most meaningful to him as they (Angelo, Ryan, and the crew) are always treated as guests in people’s homes, often staying for lunches and dinners.

Barreiro & Walter pile up \$2,585⁵¹ in groceries for pantries

An abundance of snow and less than ideal driving conditions didn’t keep Kane County Board member Theresa Barreiro and Elburn Village President Jeffrey Walter from participating in the 17th Annual Food Check-Out Challenge Shopping Spree. They braved the cold, raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel-Osco, and helped to benefit local food pantries. During their 7 minute dash around the store, the pair collected \$2,585.51 in groceries, purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora and the Elburn Food Pantry in Elburn.

Barreiro gathered \$1,066.39 worth of approved food items with the help of Bonnie Wegman from the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. Her efforts were concentrated on proteins. Walter collected \$1,519.12 in non-perish-

able items, assisted by Carrie Walter and KCFB members Chris Gould and Bonnie White

Steve Ericson, Director of Food Procurement of the Northern Illinois Food Bank,



The Winner's Circle. Sponsors, represented by KCFB President Joe White (l) and NIFB Director of Food Procurement Steve Ericson (r) gather with the contestants and their traveling trophies after the event. In the words of White, “Both of the contestants and both of the food pantries scored a win”.

in place of Rita Burnham of the Elburn Food Pantry who was unable to attend. Walter’s carts showed a strong leaning toward carbohydrates.

began the pre-event announcements, filling in for Wayne Schneider, Chairman of the Kane County Farm Bureau’s Government Affairs & Public

Policy, who was unable to make it due to the weather. He explained the concept of the Food Check-Out Week and why KCFB sponsors this celebration of food and farming.

“The event is traditionally held during February and is devoted to hunger relief, while teaching consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food.” said Ericson.

“U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world. But, while food is really affordable in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, the shopping spree recognizes the fact that for many people, their resources are stretched to the limit.” Each year, the “Challenge” allows two food pantries to stock their shelves with much needed items. Two dozen local food pantries have benefitted since

the event’s inception.

KCFB Manager, Steve Arnold, thanked Jewel-Osco Store Director Gus Elioupolis and Assistant Store Manager Amanda Battistella for the store’s 17 years of support and for hosting the event. Arnold told the crowd gathered around for the event that the Shopping Sprees have raised over \$30,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau’s Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort had contributed the equivalent of 1.75 million meals to local food pantries since 2009. KCFB President Joe White of Kaneville introduced the contestants who were provided with decorated and themed shopping carts. NIFB’s Tom Hong took over the store’s loud speakers, announced the start of the race, added play-by-plays, and counted-down the minutes.

(continued on page 8)

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Seasons; we in the northern part of Illinois, are lucky enough to experience four seasons. As I write this, we are in the heart of winter. I see only snow outside ... LOTS of snow. With the beauty of this snow come the Bald Eagles. Can you believe that we have Bald Eagles in this part of the Fox River? When I grew up, people in Illinois never saw a bald eagle, in fact, the first one I ever saw was in Colorado and I was 40 years old. Now we have nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in Batavia, Aurora and other areas close by. I believe this increase in our beautiful national bird is due to the cleaning up of our Fox River. Much progress has been and is being made by many individuals and groups to help restore the health of the river. As I watch these amazing birds soar above me, I can't help but thank all these dedicated people.

Also coming soon to our area, is the running of tree sap. All trees give us sap, but the one we love the most is maple sap.

This maple sap can be made into maple syrup. There are many stories and tales of how people learned that maple trees gave us sap to be made into syrup, one of which is in our March Book of the Month.

Do you ever wonder how the process of making maple syrup works?

When the sun starts to warm up the earth in late winter, early spring, the sap starts to flow. Generally the sap starts to flow between mid-February and mid-March. The exact time of year depends upon where you live and weather conditions. Sap flows when daytime temperatures rise above freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit / 0 Celsius) and nighttime temperatures fall below freezing.

The rising temperature creates pressure in the tree generating the sap flow. This is basically a transfer of the sap from the tree above the ground and the root system below the ground. The sap generally flows for 4 to 6 weeks, with the best sap pro-

KANE COUNTY FARMER
duced early on in the sap-flowing season.

Tapping trees is done in a scientific manner. The tree must have a diameter of at least 12 inches to be sure it is big enough to tap without hurting the tree. I tell folks that you wouldn't ask a child to donate blood ... same for a young tree. Some trees can have more than one tap, again depending on the diameter of the tree. The taps are done on the south side of the tree because the sun hits that side, and the warmer the tree, the more flow.

The sap drips into a bucket that is retrieved when full. (Or in large operations, the sap flows through plastic tubes to large vats.) Once the sap is col-

lected, it is slowly heated, burning off the water until the syrup is finished. It takes about 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.

All good things come to an end, and the sap flow is no exception. Once the temperature consistently remains above freezing and buds start to form on your maple trees, it is time to stop collecting.

Maple tree sap is not the only one used to make syrup, but it does have the highest sugar content, therefore it is the favorite.

If you are interested in learning more about maple sugaring, there are some local programs coming up this month. I'll be at LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve in

St. Charles, March 3-4th tapping my favorite maple tree. The whole maple sugaring process will be demonstrated with fun activities for the children and free tasting. There is no entry fee for this program which is open to the public. If you can't make it then, there are many other maple syrup festivals in the area, some are free and others charge a nominal fee.

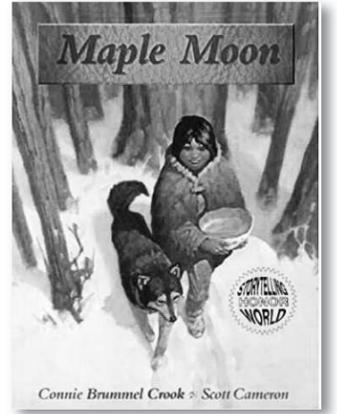
With winter coming to an end, soon the beauty of the snow and eagles flying above my house will cease. That's okay; the other three seasons have their specialness also. Hope to see you outside enjoying each of these amazing seasons.

Book of the month

Maple Moon by Connie Brummel Crook and Scott Cameron is based upon both fact and fiction. It speaks of the founding of maple sugar. The book was the winner of The World Guild Canadian Writing Awards Children's Book category (2006).

Rides the Wind is a young boy who hurt his leg when young, so is called "Limping Leg" by the other children. He is unable to join in during many physical activities. One day, when the children were dancing in anticipation of the men

returning with a deer to stop the hunger of the camp, Rides the Wind went into the forest. He stopped by a maple tree and noticed a squirrel who had scratched a hole in the tree and was drinking a liquid that was coming from the tree. After a bit, Rides the Wind did the same, found the liquid to be so sweet that he snuck home to get his hatchet and some baskets. He was able to fill one of the baskets with the sweet liquid and returned home. What happens next is worth reading to the children in your life.



Maple Moon by Connie Brummel Crook and Scott Cameron

Thanks to our Donors...

Our FOUNDATION is dedicated to providing agriculture based education for the next generation, and to meeting the challenge of providing food for a hungry planet. We look forward to continuing support for these scholarships, along with local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education through grants to local FFA Chapters and 4-H.

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions in response to our December Agriculture in the Classroom fundraising appeal. Names shown are pledges received from January 16th through February 15th.

KCFB FOUNDATION Donors

Phyllis Thelander & Connie Porter, Batavia
Steven & Kathy Austin, Hampshire
Betty Jessen, Aurora
Chris and Suzan Arnold, Beach Park
Shirley Wirsing, Elgin
Mary, Ronald, and Gerald Grommes, North Aurora
Janet Gramley, in memory of Elmer Gramley, Elburn
Kane County Corn Growers, Elburn
Stephen Downen, Kaneville
Amanda Thomas, Geneva

Phyllis Meredith, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Marjorie Spellmeyer, Hampshire
Dunteman Ag Partners, Kaneville
David & Carol Bateman, Oregon
Stanley Skirmont III, Maple Park
Carol Fabrizius, Maple Park
Edward & Karen McCarthy, Elgin
Betty Jessen, Aurora
Ronald Hartmann, Elgin
Thomas & Janet Runty, Maple Park



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

MightyVine tour

(continued from page 1)

the past year. (KCFB takes teachers on tours of the facility as part of its graduate credit Summer Agricultural Institutes.) "Looking down the aisle at all the tomato plants that reach toward the ceiling, which is at least 20-30 feet tall, is amazing," she said. "As the tomatoes grow, they are strung up so they don't fall over. These strings stretch high above my head. Danny explains that it takes about 8 weeks before the tomato plant starts producing flowers and then continues doing so each week. Each stem has 10 flowers on it, which, once pollinated by the bees found in hive boxes throughout the growing house, will turn into 10 small tomatoes. As the tomatoes are harvested, the stem is twisted to

lower the plant for harvesting purposes. The tomatoes to be harvested are just high enough so there is no bending or stretching involved."

"My teachers really enjoy visiting Mighty Vine during the Summer Ag Institute classes. Danny Murphy is so passionate about growing tomatoes, which makes his tours very informative. He never seems to tire of answering the many questions we ask."

Hydroponics growing is such a new aspect of agriculture, so for the teachers to experience such a large and successful plant is an exceptional learning experience."

KCFB thanks Representative Kifowit and the Illinois Farm Bureau for the invitation, and the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at this amazing local facility.

Helping you protect what matters most

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AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

	Bob Effner , CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles - Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001		Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245
	Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326		Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852
	Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155		Victor Alvarado Geneva 630-492-5290
	Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324		Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001
	Kelly Landorf St. Charles 630-762-1328		Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001
	Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694		Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434
	Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696		Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110
	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200		David Murray Montgomery 630-897-2364
	Ashraf Geroges Aurora 630-898-3750		Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500
	Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737		Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
	Josh Austin Hampshire 847-683-2100		Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
	Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600		Sonny Ellen Sugar Grove 630-466-9600

Auto, home and business insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. Fixed annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

AG SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK



The 2018 Agricultural Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) Week will be celebrated March 4-10, 2018. The theme for the week will be "Remember: No One Can Take Your Place" and will highlight a different safety focus each day of the week.

- **Monday** – General/Mental Health
- **Tuesday** – Fire Safety
- **Wednesday** – Impaired Driving (drunk and distracted)
- **Thursday** – Hearing Protection
- **Friday** – Respiratory Safety

During this week and throughout the year, Farm Bureau is encouraging farmers to make safety a priority on the farm.

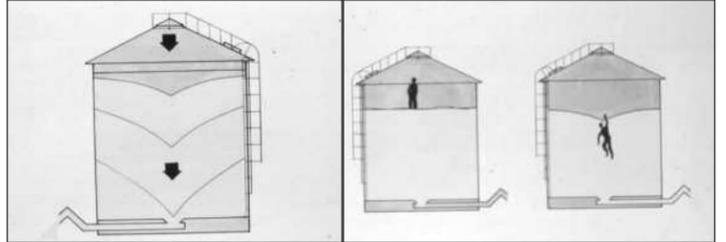
Understanding the reason for the grain bin emergency tube

Grain bins are commonly found on Illinois farms. These bins are used to store grain such as corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, and grain sorghum.

Grain being stored is removed through an opening in the center of the bin. As you can see, this process pulls the grain down and toward the center of the bin. You can see how a depression in the middle of the grain is formed.

If someone is in the bin when the grain is removed, they, too, will be pulled down and toward the center of the bin. If grain continues to be removed the person will be covered with grain in a matter of seconds.

Once the person has been pulled into the grain above their knees, they cannot get out of it by themselves. The pressure of the grain on their legs and the grain flowing down as they try to move gives them no place to go.



AGCO Parts, Batavia's affiliated grain storage and handling created affiliate, GSI created a model grain bin with a rescue tube used to free a person from the grain in an emergency. In this photo, Jeff Grzywa, an engineer with the Maple Park fire department explains to Superior Air-Med helicopter pilot Jerry Renninger how a rescue tube is used in a grain bin rescue using the AGCO display model. Pieces of the rescue tube (in the middle of the small bin) are stuck into the grain and latched together around a victim. Grain inside the rescue tube is removed by hand or with a rescue auger rescue, ultimately freeing the victim.

The model will be at this year's Touch-A-Tractor April 6-8th here at the KCFB if you'd like to see it and learn more about grain bin rescue.



Since 4th graders are 9-10 years old, an age when they begin to be more independent and helpful around the house, it is a perfect time to teach them safety. Therefore, safety has been a "learning station" at Ag Days using various ways to convey the message to the children. In the photo at left, the fourth grade students were learning about how to work safely with machines found around the house by Karl Kettelkamp.

Students last year saw the dangers of a grain bin and the equipment used for rescuing a trapped farmer, thanks to Monsanto and Daniel Buck.

An elementary class is visiting the farm for a field trip. The teacher goes over the rules and says "Horseplay is dangerous, so it's not allowed here." One of the kids raises his hand and asks, "Then what do horses do for fun?"

Why did the crossing guard cross the street? Because that's his job!

Making a family safety booklet

1. collect.

Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.

2. Share.

Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your Family Emergency Communication Plan online at ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.

3. Practice.

Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.

If you are using a mobile



phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not. This is because a text message requires far less bandwidth than a phone call. Text messages may also save and then send automatically as soon as capacity becomes available.

Food Check-out Week

N N D M X J U H Y L M R J L I A R R T M AWARENESS
 G O B O G C P P D E E A O P W B E T E S BIN
 R H I L C S S I C T S E C X P F G A X P CONTACTS
 X C A T Z T B J S K U E L H L R N D T K DANGER
 T E T J A L O A M C Y Z F M I T A A I B DOCTOR
 A R B V U T S R S R C U E C T N D A E H EMERGENCY
 J W A G B I R E I R A D N O U W E C A F EQUIPMENT
 U L A C D J R O D P I F T N B S Q S A B FARM
 T L I R T K S G P C J C L T E S B M X B GRAIN
 I F K V E O B A A S N H U A U M I S I T HEALTH
 E N I Z Q N R L F D N Z R C F L D N G D KIT
 H T L A E H E X Y Q A A O T Y K Y T C T MACHINES
 W X S D P B M S F O U Q R S Z U Y I X E MEDICAL
 E C I T C A R P S N D O T T L M I K J S PLAN
 Y C N E G R E M E T N E M P I U Q E A N PRACTICE
 P R E S S U R E H G K B I T Z K P F I P PRESSURE
 N M R S R S J T M T A Q K J F G E A L E RESCUE
 N U P B G L G T U K Z Z U M Y T R A Y X SAFETY
 J O K U D F O Y A Y V F H E Y G N A F U TEXT
 F R K F L T W X H O V B W V F U M B K P TUBE

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

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

Interactive safety game

Two interactive games concerning how to make an emergency kit and what to do in various emergency situations help children learn necessary facts. These games can be found at: <https://www.ready.gov/kids/games>.

Disaster Master

Get ready for some serious adventure! Step into the heart of

the action as you help the Heroes face everything from home fires to earthquakes. What should they do? Make the right choice and earn points to get to the next level. Make the wrong choice and watch out! Winners get their own graphic novel!



Congratulations

Valerie Moser! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives an innovative 14 piece food storage set! Thank you, Valerie, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

At 55 miles per hour, it will take only five seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and a tractor going five miles per hour.

Home for the holidays

By Marty Keltner

Every year since graduating High School, like a homing pigeon, I have made the trek home for the holidays to rural Eastern Montana. People return home for the holidays all the time and it can either be an adventure involving multiple flights, long drives, and bad weather; or it can be as easy as a quick trip to a nearby neighborhood. Mine just happens to be the "adventure" type pilgrimage and involves a minimum of two flights and a potentially icy, snowy, and sub-zero 200-mile drive home after arriving at the airport. Three-quarters of a day later, I'm finally home on the ranch!

To backtrack into my history a bit, the town I went to school in, Terry, population just over

600 and about 25 miles away from our ranch, was incorporated in 1910 and was named after Alfred Howe Terry. He was a General in the Union Army and led expeditions in the late 1800's alongside General George Armstrong Custer, now known for Custer's Last Stand and the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Going to school every day was also an adventure. I had two options to get to the bus - one being 12 miles of gravel and the other 4 miles of dirt road with two gates to open. The dirt road option was faster when it wasn't muddy or there wasn't 3 foot of snow, but it was definitely more labor intensive. Opening gates meant the risk of getting my school clothes dirty!

Once on the bus I was able to gaze out the window as the countryside flew by. It never got old, creating different shapes out of the hills, watching the cows graze or the calves run and play when the bus drove by, see-

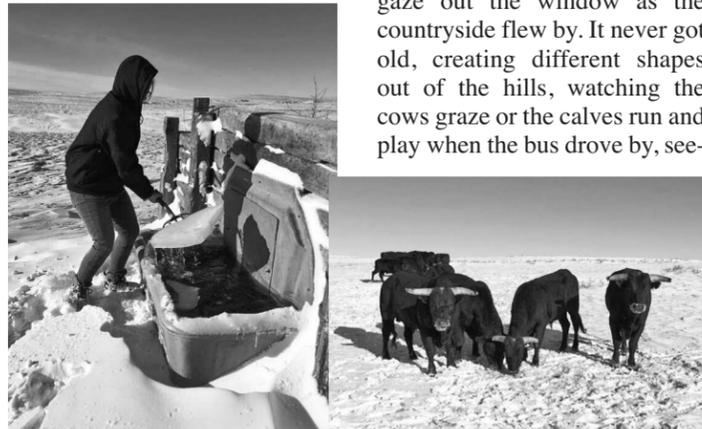
ing a hawk or maybe an eagle searching for prey, and marveling at just how vast the prairie or the badlands could be. Each season painted a different picture of the countryside, the animals, and the ride to school.

Growing up, I was involved in many different activities. Attending a Class C school with a total of less than 100 kids in grades 9-12 meant nearly everyone did everything. I played sports, including basketball, volleyball, ran track, belonged to FHA (Future Homemakers of America), and I was also a member of the pep band, concert band, and jazz band.

Outside of school, I belonged to a 4-H group. In this group I was a member of shooting sports, I learned how to sew and cook on a competition scale, and I trained and brought animals to the fair each year. I have so many memories of what being in 4-H meant, not just having fun, but it providing me so many important "life" skills. I not only learned functional, everyday skills, but I was able to gain valuable public speaking skills by giving speeches and demonstrations. 4-H also supported and helped build my self-confidence by providing local and national competitions

where I was able to make and model clothing. Coincidentally, my first visit to Chicago was for the 72nd National 4-H Congress where I modeled in the fashion review.

For me, coming home is not only part of my yearly routine; it's a part of me. I am a juxtaposition of rural and urban, domestic and global, fashion and farming. Returning to our ranch is the best reminder I could possibly have as to where I came from and where I'm going. Agriculture will always be a part of my life and for that, I'm grateful.



KCFB seeking donations for T-A-T

KCFB is gearing up for its 13th annual Touch-A-Tractor event scheduled for April 6-8. The team is working hard to make it the best one yet, but we need your help! KCFB is now seeking donations of items to help with this endeavor.

One of the goals of the event is to engage children while teaching them about farms and food. New additions to the event will allow children to explore the world of agriculture by: getting the chance to dress up like farmers, play with kitchen essentials, experience the thrills farm kids get by playing on straw bales or crawling through culverts.

KCFB is seeking donations of youth sized farm clothing



1. Plastic culverts



2. Hay bales

(plus boots and hats), and various other items commonly found or used on farms. This list includes such items as plastic culverts suitable for crawling through, clean plastic 30 gallon drums and even hay or straw bales of any size.

If you are interested in providing a donation, or know of a business or individual that might be interested in doing so, please

contact the KCFB office at (630) 584-8660 or feel free to stop by our office with your item(s).

Your donations will help make our 13th Annual Touch-a-Tractor a success.

Touch-A-Tractor Wish List

Below is a list of "wish list" items wanted for Touch-A-Tractor

1. 30" Plastic culverts will make fun additions to our children's activities center.
2. Round, square, large and small, to add to our Touch-a-Tractor children's activities area to be used for climbing and recreational purposes.
3. Gently used Farm Toys for the kids to play with during the event

Long to attend Young Farmer Ag Industry Tour to Washington state

Kane County Young Farmer's Committee member Michael Long will be part of a group of 30 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders to tour agricultural operations in Washington State as part of the IFB Young Leaders annual Ag Tour. Michael is looking forward to touring food processing plants, research facilities through the University, dairy farms, and various crop growers. Not all details have been finalized, but there is also hope to visit a vineyard/winery.

Dates for the tour are July 23-28. Long will share his experience with other members of the Young Farmers Committee and the Board of Directors.

The Young Leader Ag Tour is one of many activities coordinated by the IFB State Young

Leaders Committee. Other activities include annual awards and recognition programs, conferences, a discussion meet, quiz bowl, hunger relief activities, and Collegiate Farm Bureau events all designed to promote education, build skills, and develop future leaders for the county and state associations. To learn more about Young Farmer events, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at info@kanecfb.com.



Michael Long

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 105th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, April 5th, 2018, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2017, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

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Kane County Farm Bureau members receive 10% discount on all service work.

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Slap You Silly Hot Sauce, a real smack in the face

Founder of Slap You Silly Hot Sauce Company, Bill "The Big Pepper" White has been a "Chili-Head" for over 30 years and is also a Kane County local. Bill started his company back in 2006 after demand from family, friends, and friends of friends became too much for him to handle in his own kitchen.

Being able to combine his life-time love affair with spicy

foods and the bounty of his garden, Bill started experimenting with different pepper and ingredient combinations fresh from his garden, and created his first addictive sauce, "User-Friendly" Habanero Hot Sauce. This sauce came about after he found that most companies were only trying to make their sauces hotter and hotter vs. focusing on heat and taste; pouring molten

lava on his food was NOT something he enjoyed. Since then, he has added more hot sauces to his Slap You Silly lineup and with every seasonal harvest; he is able to come up with new combinations of flavors and heat.

Stop by Kane County Farm Bureau's Country Store, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm, to pick up a bottle or several of the following flavors: "User-Friendly"

Habanero Hot Sauce, Sofa King Hot Sauce, Widow Maker Hot Sauce, Sweet and Sassy Banana Pepper Mustard, Peaches & Scream Hot Sauce, and Bar-B-Que Sauce. Heat profiles range from 0-10+ and each bottle is

\$6.50. We'll see you soon and hear you "scream" sooner.



Step on down to our KCFB Country Store where we sell 6 different Slap You Silly sauces sure to put a little fire in your life and pep in your step!

In search of local foods

KCFB is in search of member-produced "cottage food" products for our blossoming County Store. We are looking for unique, local items. Things like snack foods, sweeteners, mixes or spices that will add a special flavor to a meal.

If you have a locally produced, professionally packaged and shelf-stable product that

helps make the perfect sauce, or a flavorful snack that you just



can't put down, we want to hear from you - and help you grow your market! Please contact us - in person, via e-mail, or give us a call to discuss. Here is our contact information:

2N710 Randall Rd,
St. Charles, IL 60174
info@kanecfb.com
630-584-8660

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.

To all 31 Days of Christmas Raffle ticket buyers, we raised over \$7,000!

Darlene Dorman for her donation of various USDA bulletins dating back to the 1930's, 1940's, and 1960's as well as a Farm Journal from April of 1976.

Orion Samuelson for promoting our new shipment of Farm Toys and the KCFB Country Store for the holidays.

FB ACT (Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team) members who have texted or e-mailed elected officials in support of the key agricultural issues. To join, text FARM to 52886.

Harold Marks of Marks Christmas Trees, De Soto, WI and his helpers for braving the wind, the rain, the snow, and the cold to provide Kane County residents with the freshest fresh-cut trees for the holidays.

Jay Schrock and his staff at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse in St. Charles for the use of their

greenhouse and assistance with the KCFB annual citrus sale distribution in December.

Ryan White for supplying us with Harvest Decorations to raise funds for the KCFB FOUNDATION. Our beautiful mums and assortment of pumpkins and gourds were well received and we were often told that we had the best assortment of anyone in the area.

Michael Heinrich and Dan Heinrich for repairs and service on the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2018 Raffle Grand Prize, a 1965 Ford F-100 pick-up truck.

Our KC Young Farmers for their generous donation to the family of Michael Koster of Dixon, IL, as an underground pipeline accident burn victim in December.

To all volunteers who braved the inclement weather and bad roads to help make our 17th Annual Shopping Spree to benefit Marie Wilkinson and Elburn Food Pantries. We are so thankful for your help and support!

And to the scores of donors, to Harvest for ALL to benefit local food pantries of your choosing, and to our annual appeal for the KCFB FOUNDATION's Scholarship and Ag Literacy programs!

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

BOB KEARNS has been named the Agent of the Month for JANUARY 2018 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Bob 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 Bob's expertise help you! You may reach Bob at 847-888-3200, robert.kearns@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/robert.kearns/. Congratulations, Bob!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora

Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for January 2018. 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!

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

HELP WANTED, MULTIPLE ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS:

CUSTOMER SERVICE Position, 30-35 hours weekly, applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. Some over-night travel required.

Part-time CUSTOMER SERVICE position, perfect for the parent with child in school. Applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. This day-time position may include over-night travel.

SHOP ASSOCIATE position, 15-20 hours weekly depending on available work; Basic computer skills necessary to use engravers and other equipment.

All applicants must be self-starters and able to work as part of a team. Our office is located on East side of Saint Charles. We work occasional Saturdays as required and do not work Sunday. We offer paid vacation, a Self-

Directed Saving Plan, and Partial Tuition Reimbursement. Call: Bob: 630 377 5807

FOR SALE

1952 Ford F-6 farm truck/Omaha dump grain box, V8, 2 speed axel 28,000 original miles, barn kept, engine runs great-\$7,000. JD & New Holland 8 ton hay wagons \$1,200 & \$1,000. Box wagon-\$800. Call: Victor: 630 988 5726

220V Rockwell/Delta wood lathe 42" table - \$850, Industrial drill press-\$250, Rockwell 2 wheel bench grinder \$125, 220b wood/metal buffer-\$125, Misc barn timbers, antique wine presses-1 large -\$450 & 2 small-\$200 each. Call: Victor 630 988 5726

Looking for placement for cats: homes, nice barns, workshops. Several Friendly males, two skittish females (mouser cats) reply: jspriet2@aol.com, reference: Farm Bureau. Cats are fixed and vaccinated.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SERVICES

Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. - Tree removal, tree trimming, & stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured - Free Estimates - Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730

Tree pruning & removal BEFORE spring rush - www.arborjoe.com. Call ISA Certified Arborist Joe: 224-789-8773.

WANTED

Good, used fork lift - 4,000 lbs Lift capacity. Call 847 436-2538

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora. As a token of our appreciation,

Felipe receives two tickets to Charlestowne Movie Theater. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Felipe Rocha

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FARMERS! Text FARM to 52886

2nd Location in Wasco

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2N492 Kirk Rd. St Charles, IL
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Shopping Spree

(continued from page 3)

Both contestants were wind- ed after piling up cart after cart of food from the shelves. Dry goods, canned goods, soups, baking ingredients, cereals and sauces were among the items their “helpers” pointed out to each to collect. Barreiro and Walter then started the “check out” process at opposing registers that began the race for dol- lars. With each scan of each food item, the tension mounted and when it was all said and done, both contestants were winners as well as the food pantries they represented. It was an exciting fight to the finish with everyone coming out on top!

Special thanks to Jewel-Osco and the Northern Illinois Food bank for their partnership in this Food Check-Out Week activity, sponsored by the KCFB Government Affairs Committee.



2.

‘Gathering of the Green’

If you are a devoted John Deere fan, chances are you know that 2018 is the 100th anniversary of John Deere entering the farm tractor business with the acquisition of the Waterloo Gas Engine Company in 1918. This is one area of focus of this year’s Gathering of the Green conference, an every-other-year event for John Deere two-cylinder and New Generation tractor and implement collectors, restorers and enthusiasts. Over the years, thousands of event participants have traveled to the Quad Cities (Davenport) from coast to coast and other countries to be a part of this benchmark event.



Gathering of the Green” – a Destination for John Deere Fans
10th Conference Stated for March 21-24, 2018 in Davenport, Iowa

attended there are many, many John Deere enthusiasts who have not ... and some are not aware of this top-notch event dedicated to those who have an appreciation and passion for every-thing John Deere.

March 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2018 are the dates for the 10th “Gathering” to be held at the RiverCenter, 136 E 3rd St., Davenport, Iowa.

Highlights include 60+ workshops, a Vendor Hall with over 70 vendors, displays celebrating 100 years of John Deere tractors and a toy auction. For details or registration, visit www.gatheringofthegreen.com. Single day admission is \$10 at the door.

Defensive Driving Class

The Kane County Farm Bureau has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for Wednesday and Thursday, March 21 & 22. The class runs from 9am to 1pm each day at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

The eight hour course covers driving in various road and weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defensive driving meth-

ods. Many insurance companies may offer a discount on auto insurance to those aged 55 and older who qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

Attendees must be licensed drivers. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15 per person for AARP members and \$20 for non-members (payable the first day) to cover the cost of materials. For more information or to register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Ford F-150 sweepstakes

It’s that time of year again where you can enter the lucky winner of a new Ford truck! As an Illinois Farm Bureau member, you are eligible to enter the “Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes” for a chance to win a 2-year lease on a brand new 2018 F-150! To enter, visit www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps or text the word SWEEPS to 46786 by October 1, 2018. Last year an Illinois Farm Bureau member from DeKalb County was the big win-

ner – you can be too!

Don’t forget about your \$500 BONUS CASH available to current Farm Bureau members! Illinois Farm Bureau members planning to buy or lease a new Ford vehicle may receive a \$500 cash bonus through January 2, 2019; eligibility is dependent upon 30 days of consecutive membership prior to the purchase or lease. Get more info at www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/il.

Competitors raced around Jewel-Osco in Batavia, raising funds for local food pantries. Kane County Board member Theresa Barreiro chose the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry to benefit from this event and Elburn Village President, Jeffrey Walter, raced in support of Elburn Food Pantry. A grand total of \$2,585.51 was raised at this year’s Food Check-out Challenge.

1. **Strategizing.** Before the race, Elburn Village President, Jeffrey Walter

2. **And they’re off!** Walter leaves the starting gate like a runner from the starting blocks, pushing a shopping cart decorated for the occasion.

3. **Til the whistle blows!** KCFB Manager Steve Arnold (l) blows the whistle while County Board member Theresa Barreiro scans the shelf for the last food item requested by Bonnie Wegman (c) to benefit her chosen food pantry – Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry of Aurora.

4. **At the check-out.** KCFB Directors and volunteers, Craig Bradley and Jerry Gaitsch load the food from Theresa Barreiro’s carts during the check-out process.

5. **The check signing.** Barreiro signs the presentation check for Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. She was able to collect a total of \$1,066.39 worth of food items, all purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the food pantry.

Your ticket to ...

Family entry at **Touch-A-Tractor** Cash & prizes in the **WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE**
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

and support for **AGRICULTURE in the Classroom™**

WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

Name (print) _____
Daytime Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(To receive future raffle notifications, please provide)

Save for FREE admission
Touch-A-Tractor
April 6, 7 & 8, 2018 - St Charles

Win this GRAND PRIZE 1965 Ford F-100
or a John Deere X350 riding mower or \$3,500 cash

2nd prize: \$500 in groceries
3rd prize: \$500 in fuel
4th prize: \$250 in Farm Bureau Bucks

Tickets: \$15 each
2 / \$25
5 / \$50

Drawing 3 p.m. Sunday, July 22, 2018, 4H Blue Ribbon Sale at Kane County Fairgrounds, Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois.
Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all applicable local, state and federal taxes associated with prize chosen. © local FFA chapters.

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

Get your ticket today.
630.584.8660 or kanecfb.com

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

Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of Spring!

13th ANNUAL

ADMISSION:
A donation of \$2 Adults, \$5 Families
or show a Winner's Choice Raffle ticket stub for FREE family admission all weekend long.

Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

A farm-city & community open house & fundraiser that brings a little bit of the farm to the city.
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION welcomes urban & suburban neighbors to learn more about farming.

Bring the whole family!
Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors.
Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine.
Play on the seat of real farm tractors.

AGCO Your Agriculture Company presents kids games, contests and Saturday face painting.

"Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes" for FB members for a chance to win a 2 year lease on a 2018 F-150, and see new Ford trucks from Hawk Auto Group.

Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor. (*1 per child)

*Bring non-perishable food items for an additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.

Friday - Sunday April 6-8

Kane County Farm Bureau Randall Road at Oak Street, St. Charles, IL

Friday	12 - 4
Saturday	10 - 4
Sunday	10 - 3

WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE

Grand Prize: (Winner's Choice) Vintage 1965 Ford F100, 41K mi or John Deere X350 lawn mower or \$3,500 cash

2nd prize: \$500 in groceries
3rd prize: \$500 in fuel
4th prize: \$250 in KCFB Bucks

Tickets: \$15 each, 2 for \$25, or 5 for \$50

Drawing 3pm, July 22 at Kane County Fair

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION Scholarship Awards
Join us April 8 at 3 pm as we congratulate these future agricultural industry leaders!

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

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION
2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174
info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

Find us on Facebook

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FARMERS! Text FARM to 52886