

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 88 NO. 3 MARCH 2023

Kane Co. farm families featured in We Are the 96 campaign

A farm family from Sangamon County was featured in an Illinois Farm Bureau commercial during football's greatest game, promoting IFB's new "We Are the 96" campaign. Marty, Shelia, Martin Jr. and Evan Marr were spotlighted in a video series highlighting family farmers.

The Super Bowl commercial, which did not air in the Chicago market, launched a statewide campaign by Illinois Farm Families (IFF). The "We are the 96% campaign" features 25 families from across the state of Illinois and drives home the statistic that 96 percent of farms in Illinois are family owned.

The campaign will continue throughout the year, and two of the featured farm families are in Kane County – Andy and Sara Lenkaitis and family and their Lenkaitis Holsteins dairy farm in Campton Hills; and Chris and Dana Gould and family with Gould Farm in Maple Park.

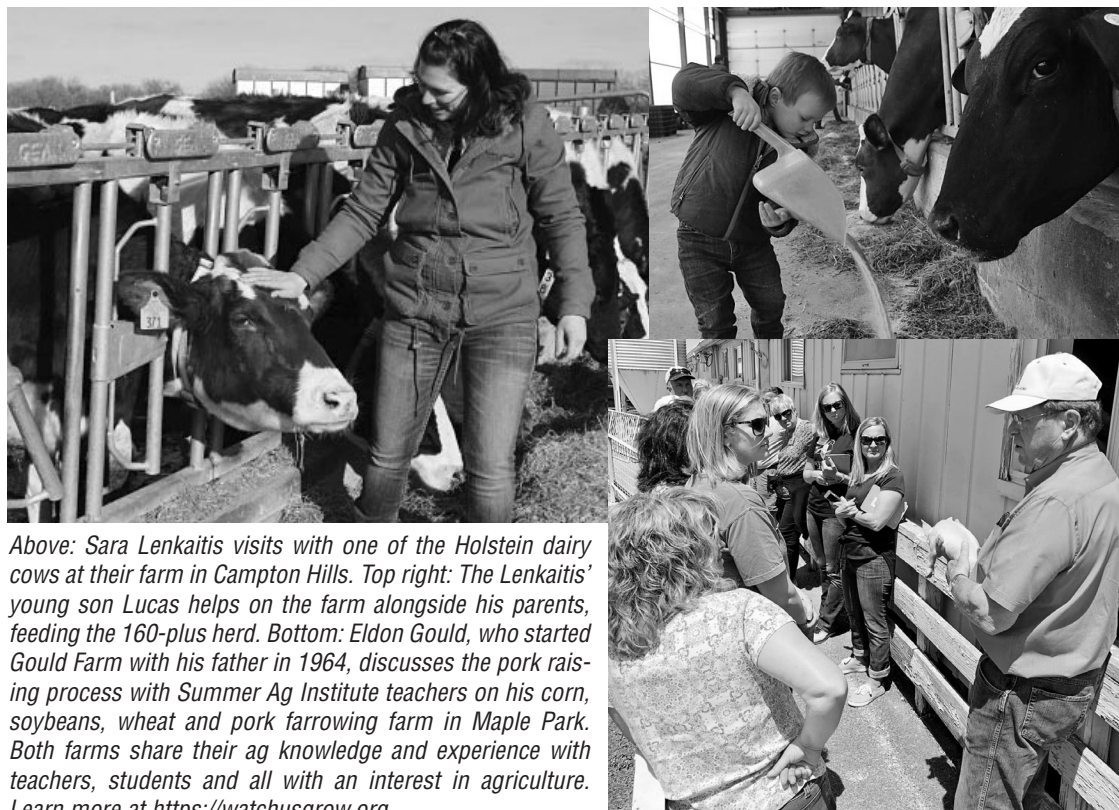
"A farm is a great place and lifestyle to raise a family," said Marty Marr. "Many lessons in life are learned in rural areas and produce not only crops and livestock, but strong character."

The campaign's website, Wearthe96.org, showcases the Marr family and other family farms. Viewers can learn more about each farm's history and the agricultural practices used on their land and with their animals. All families participating will be featured on Illinois Farm Families social media, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube accounts.

"It brings us joy to share our love for farming and agriculture with others," said Marr. "We feel honored to represent such an impactful industry."

About Illinois Farm Families

Illinois Farm Families (IFF) represents farmers of all commodities across the state of Illinois. IFF is committed to engaging in conversations with those curious about food, farmers, and farming, and sharing what really happens on the 96% of Illinois farms that are family-owned and operated. IFF is supported by farmer-led organizations, including Illinois Beef Association, IL Corn Marketing Board, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program, and Midwest Dairy. For more information about Illinois Farm Families including those here in Kane County, please visit www.WatchUsGrow.org.



Above: Sara Lenkaitis visits with one of the Holstein dairy cows at their farm in Campton Hills. Top right: The Lenkaitis' young son Lucas helps on the farm alongside his parents, feeding the 160-plus herd. Bottom: Eldon Gould, who started Gould Farm with his father in 1964, discusses the pork raising process with Summer Ag Institute teachers on his corn, soybeans, wheat and pork farrowing farm in Maple Park. Both farms share their ag knowledge and experience with teachers, students and all with an interest in agriculture. Learn more at <https://watchusgrow.org>.

State Rep Hanson, WCC President Knetl gather groceries for good cause in 22nd Shopping Spree

The Farm Bureau's 22nd annual Shopping Spree was a milestone event as KCFB con-

tinued in its third decade of shopping and scrambling for local food pantries. The fun and

festivities were conducted February 20th at the Jewel store on Randall Road in Batavia, our host for all 22 of the Shopping Sprees.

It was an unseasonably warm day, ideal for a heated race between State Representative Matt Hanson and WCC President Dr. Brian Knetl as they participated in the Kane County Farm Bureau's 22nd annual Shopping Spree. The two raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel-Osco, and helped to benefit two local food pantries in their 7-minute dash. The pair collected \$3,978.34 in groceries, purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry and the Two Rivers Head Start food pantry, respectively.

Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager, and Wayne Schneider, Chairman of the Kane County Farm Bureau's Government Affairs & Public Policy, began the pre-event announcements. They 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 Schneider.

"U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world," said Schneider, "but, while food is 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.

(continued on page 3)

FB hosts Rules for the Road trucking seminar

Kane County Farm Bureau will host a two-hour program focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry. The session will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at More Brewing Company, 13980 Automall Drive in Huntley and will be preceded by dinner. Doors open at 5:30. RSVP's are required by calling 630-584-8660 by March 7.

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misunderstood rules. Topics will include the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, and driver's license classifications, to name a few. "These presentations take a closer look at the rules and pro-

vide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to find clear answers for," said Rodney Knittel, IFB Assistant Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

This Rules for the Road seminar is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance and dinner are free, courtesy of Kane County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required. Free soft drinks and coffee will be provided. Please call KCFB at 630-584-8660 to reserve your place at the Rules for the Road Seminar by March 7.

March Featured Food

Homemade Corned Beef

The special this month is Inboden's corned beef rounds. Each corned beef will be brined in house and come sealed for your St. Patrick's Day celebration. Each package will be approximately 5 lbs. The Member price is (not including tax) \$6.00 per pound. Plus status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Quantities are limited so please call ahead to reserve!

KCFB CALENDAR MARCH 2023

- 2 * IL Soybean PAC, Elburn, 6pm
 - 3 Teacher Institute Day, 8am-3pm
 - 5 Collect water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage SWCD
 - 6 Return water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage SWCD
 - 9 KCFB Board of Directors, KCFB, 7pm
 - 12 Daylight Saving Time begins
 - 14 Rules for the Road session, 5:30 pm, More Brewing, Huntley
 - 20 KCFB Foundation Board, 8:30 (tentative)
 - 21 National Ag Day
 - 23 ^ Kane County Board Ag Committee, 10am
 - 24 Young Farmers Euchre Tourney, 6pm
- ^ County Administration Building, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva*
*Schmidt's Towne Tap. RSVP to 309-660-5492.



The 22nd annual Shopping Spree on February 20th started with a firm handshake between "contestants" Dr. Brian Knetl (L), President of Waubesa Community College, and State Representative Matt Hanson.

10 years of advocacy to be recognized with FREE signs for specialty crop farms/apiaries

Kane County Farm Bureau will celebrate 10 years of advocacy for sensitive crops and apiaries with distribution of FREE signs at Touch-A-Tractor (April 14-16) for farmers to mark these areas. Three different signs, "Specialty Crop"; "Beehive" and "No Drift Zone" will be

offered. All are designed to alert neighboring farmers and custom applicators of the sensitive nature of adjoining land uses and extra precautions that need to be undertaken to prevent spray drift.

As part of this campaign, KCFB urges all farmers with

specialty crop and apiaries to register those locations at *FieldWatch.com*, which maintains registries and mapping tools for use by farmers and custom applicators to be aware of the surrounding land uses before applying pesticides.

A limited number of these

FREE signs, 1 per KCFB regular membership, will be available at Touch-A-Tractor.

Additional signs can be ordered through the FieldWatch or Drift Watch websites.

From the March 6, 2014 minutes of the KCFB Board of Directors

"Next up were Wade and Kim Kuipers of Maple Park, owners of Kuipers Family Farm, and beekeeper Charles Lorence of Aurora. Lorence maintained bee hives on the Kuipers farm to pollinate the apple and pumpkin crops. The Kuipers addressed the board about bee losses sustained during 2012 and 2013. IFB Director of Natural and Environmental Resources Lauren Lurkins reviewed the authority and limitations of the Illinois Pesticide Act, administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Directors were provided a Q & A sheet on neonicotinoids and bee health from the American Nursery and Landscape Association, Society of American Florists and Association of Horticulture Professionals. A publication from Crop Life International, Factors Affecting Global Bee Health, was circulated."

"Directors were also informed of the newly updated DriftWatch website www.il.driftwatch.org, a site where beekeepers, orchardists, organic farmers and specialty crop farmers can register their sites and crops. KCFB will communicate availability of the site to area farmers, encourage posting of DriftWatch signs on registered properties and encourage all farmers to reference the site before applying pesticides. Farm Bureau will also seek to enlist the help of the University of Illinois in the development of agronomic and communication best management practices for beekeepers, specialty crop farmers and grain farmers in regard to pesticide application near sensitive crops and insects."

Sign up at DriftWatch™, Specialty Crop Site registry

Kane County Farm Bureau continues to encourage certified pesticide applicators to sign-up for the DriftWatch™, Specialty Crop Site Registry, a voluntary communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries through use of a registry and mapping program.

DriftWatch™ is intended to assist in the possible reduction of honeybee exposure to various pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.). The IDOA is promoting the use

of the website to pesticide applicators at Pesticide Safety Education Program clinics being held throughout the state from December through May.

The Illinois DriftWatch™ internet site includes two main portals, one for pesticide-sensitive crop producers (including beekeepers) and another for pesticide applicators. The producer portal allows producers to register the types and locations of their pesticide-sensitive crops so that they can be viewed by potential pesticide applicators. The pesticide applicator portal allows applicators to reg-

ister their service area which, in turn, will allow them to receive automatic notifications when pesticide-sensitive crop locations are added to the areas in which they work.

DriftWatch™ has interactive maps that allow any visitor to the website to find the location, name, acreage, crop and contact information of any registered specialty crop grower or beekeeper to foster better communications in regards to application of pesticides near sensitive crops and insects.

Agriculture Committee updates

The County of Kane is unique among Illinois' counties in many ways, not the least of which is in its attention to and support of Agriculture as a desirable land use in planning and zoning. Unlike Illinois' 101 other counties, the County of Kane has a functioning and active Agriculture Committee, that meets each month to educate, inform and when necessary, take action on issues that affect farms, food and the environment.

Nine of the County's 28 Board members meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 am at the County Administration Building in Geneva. They hear monthly updates from the Kane County

Farm Bureau and Northern Illinois Food Bank as well as County departments including Development and Community Services and Environmental and Water Resources. Various other county departments, businesses and not-for-profits in the farms, food and environment 'space' routinely appear before the committee.

At the January 2023 meeting of the Committee, KCFB presented a draft resolution for the County of Kane to go on record in support of agriculture. The resolution references the County's past support of many agricultural initiatives and land uses, and encourages the newly elected Board and county staff to continue their tradition of

work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of Kane County and all its residents.

As the proposed resolution makes its way through County Committee in February and early March, KCFB leaders will be available to answer questions of County Board members about the resolution's history and purposes. We hope to see the "PROCLAIMING KANE COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE" resolution presented and approved at the Tuesday, March 14 meeting of the Kane County Board, solidifying Kane County government's role as an ally in and for agriculture.

Welcome new members

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history-related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
JANUARY 2023 THRU DECEMBER 2023												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X										
B. COLLINS	X	X										
C. COLLINS	X	X										
K. ENGEL												
J. ENGEL		X										
G. GAITSCH	X	*										
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK	X	X										
M. KENYON	X	X										
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X										
D. LEHRER	*	*										
A. LENKAITIS		X										
D. PITSTICK												
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X										
J. WHITE	X	X										

**Attendance by electronic means.*

Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
 Steven J. Arnold, Editor
 Audre Pack, Bookkeeper
 Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator
 Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator
 Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator
 Jenna Rowe, Office Assistant

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Touch-A-Tractor

ALL TRACTORS & TRUCKS Welcome!

The KCFB Foundation's Touch-A-Tractor open house and fundraiser is scheduled for April 14-16 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. We are again looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – and trucks too! The more, the merrier.

If you are interested in bringing a farm tractor or truck to this family-friendly event, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

Help us make Touch-a-Tractor a success.



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and so much more!**



St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

Kane Co. 4-H Foundation to sponsor 14th annual dinner & auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 14th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 15 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Prairie Events Center of the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles.

Save the date for the April 15 fundraising event

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it helps support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension services," said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson.

Tickets are on sale now, with the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$15, a 1-chop dinner for \$13, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$10. The pork will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club and served by 4-H Foundation, clubs, families, and other Extension volunteers and supporters.

Tickets may be purchased through your local 4-H club or 4-H Foundation volunteer, or by contacting the dinner co-chairs Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an additional \$1 per meal.

The event also features a

silent auction of popular items and themed baskets donated by Kane County 4-H Clubs, Master Gardener volunteers, local Home and Community Education (HCE) groups, and other area supporters. Silent auction bidding ends at 7 p.m. and the live auction begins.

Proceeds from the dinner and auctions will benefit University of Illinois Extension programs in Kane County including: 4-H Youth Development, Home and Community Education Association, Horticulture, Master Gardener, and Nutrition and Wellness Programs.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at bronze, silver, and gold levels, and all donations are tax deductible. Donors may request a set number of complimentary tickets based on sponsorship level, and they will receive recognition at the event. To donate, contact Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 and Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955.

"We are grateful for the community support we receive each year and are proud to give back to Extension," said Collins. "As state funding becomes less available, local support through fundraisers such as this one is vital to maintain the quality of Extension programs offered to the entire county."

Shopping Spree

(continued from page 1)

Arnold thanked Jewel-Osco Assistant Store Manager Spiro Piperi for the store's 20 plus years of support and for hosting the event. Arnold told the crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Sprees have raised over \$40,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort has contributed the equivalent of more than 2 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. Northern Illinois Food Bank's Tom Hong took over the store's loud speakers, announced the start of the race, added play-by-plays, and count-

ed-down the minutes.

Both contestants were winded 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. Both then started the "check out" process at opposing registers that began the race for dollars. 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 race to the finish with everyone coming out a winner!

Representative Hanson gathered groceries with the help of Orlando Vazquez, Food Pantry Coordinator of Two Rivers Head Start; Dr. Knetl collected non-perishable items, assisted

by Shannon Cameron, Executive Director of the Aurora Interfaith pantry.

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.



Rep. Hanson reaches for groceries during the 7 minute spree.

See more photos on page 8.

Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service the Farm to make sure your soil is ready for spring planting.

Three different tests available and results are sent by e-mail or mail directly to you. For a soil test form, visit www.kanecfb.com and click on benefits and services, or pick one up at the KCFB office. Deliver samples to Kane County Farm Bureau with payment. Prices listed are for Kane County Farm Bureau members, non-members, and PLUS status members. Ask us how to save even more when you upgrade your membership to a PLUS status. Call 630-584-8660 for more details.

Why test your soil? Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abun-

dant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

When is the best time to test soil? Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

How often should I test? Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for the best comparison.

Why does Farm Bureau provide this service? Kane County Farm Bureau was founded in 1912 as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, to help farmers improve their production prac-

tics and increase the fertility and productivity of their soil. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

Additional help for your lawn & garden is available through the University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Contact them at 630-584-6166 or visit their office at 535 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles.

Soil test costs

Basic PH Test
\$20 per sample for members, \$30 non-members
This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test
\$30 per sample for members, \$40 non-members
This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

Association seeks director candidates

The 2023 Nominating Committee of the Kane County Farm Bureau held its first meeting in mid-February to learn about bylaw and organizational policy changes regarding Director elections, to interview potential candidates for a May ballot and to discuss the needs of the organization from a governance perspective.

KCFB relies on a 5-person nominating committee composed of non-Directors. The organization seeks nominating committee members to provide diversity in geography, age, experience and gender, as well as size and type of farming operations. The committee is encouraged to seek the same in candidates to place on the ballot

for election to the organization's governing Board.

For elections in 2022 and beyond, the organization's bylaws allow for at-large elections, rather than representation by township or district. A recent bylaw change makes those classified as Professional Members eligible for nomination and election to the association's Board of Directors. Up to 5 Directors will be elected for three-year terms from ballots mailed to voting members in May.

At their initial meeting, the committee interviewed incumbent directors who wish to seek re-election, as well as new candidates who wish to have their name appear on the ballot. They also identified potential candi-

dates to stand for election and assigned responsibility for making contacts to committee members.

KCFB nominating and electing policies allow for any voting member to submit eligible candidate names to the Nominating Committee, up to 45 days prior to the scheduled mailing of election ballots. For 2023, that deadline is April 5.

To recommend potential candidate names to the Nominating Committee, members are encouraged to contact 2023 members; Wayne Gehrke, 847-373-2538; Eldon Gould, 630-330-0921; Jeff Keifer, 630-669-9022; Kent Kleckner, 630-327-8350 or Nan Long, 815-693-7214.

Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Join **KANE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION** for great food and support U of I Extension, which serves Kane County communities with local education & volunteer programs, including:
4-H Youth Development | Home & Community Education | Master Gardeners | Master Naturalists | Nutrition & Wellness

For more information about local Extension programs | go.illinois.edu/extensiondkk

14th Annual
PORK CHOP DINNER
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023
4:30-7 PM

Kane County Fairgrounds | Prairie Events Center | St. Charles



All dinners include sides, dessert & beverage. Choose from:

- Two Chop - \$15
- One Chop - \$13
- Pulled Pork Sandwich - \$10

Thank you to the Elburn Lions Club for grilling!

50/50 Raffle - Silent Auction - Live Auction
Silent Auction bidding ends 7 p.m. | Live Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Get your tickets by March 31 through:

- Kane County 4-H Families or call Bill at 630-484-6852 or Karen at 815-784-2955
- U of I Extension office, 535 S. Randall Road, St. Charles
- Limited tickets available at the door for an additional \$1 per meal

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, contact the Extension office at 630-584-6166. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Win a pedal tractor at Touch-A-Tractor

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the conclusion of Touch-A-Tractor on April 16th. Return the form at right to KCFB by April 16th or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 14-16. The pedal tractor drawing is open only to children 8 and under. Entrant's name, age, and phone must appear on the form.

You can also receive one (1) additional entry to the FREE

Pedal Tractor Drawing for each child or grandchild in your family by bringing non-perishable food items to Touch-A-Tractor. Food items will then be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.

Give your child or grandchild the chance to win a pedal tractor! In 2018, 5-year old Liam Sickafoose of St. Charles was the winner of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Pedal Tractor Drawing at Touch-A-Tractor.



FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing

(For children 8 and under. Entrant's age must appear on the form below)

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

Name _____ Age _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____

Return by Sunday, April 16th to:
Kane County Farm Bureau,
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

As we celebrate National Agriculture Week later this month, I think there is no better time than now to reflect on and appreciate the influence of agriculture has in our daily lives.

It can be easy to take both farmers and the professionals in the field of agriculture for granted. We all get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our own lives. We can all be at fault for mindlessly rushing through the grocery store or adding items to our online carts and not think twice about where they came from or how much work was necessary in order to produce the products we enjoy right at our finger tips. Think about it. Would you have the tools and resources to grow and harvest all of your own food? How about to make your own clothing items from scratch? Did you brush your hair and teeth this morning? Would you be able to make those items all on your own? What about the paper you

have in your hands right now? Do you see where I'm going with this?

Agriculture influences every aspect of our daily lives whether we recognize it or not. If it weren't for farmers and ag professionals working hard, educating themselves in their crafts, being a voice in local and state agricultural policies, and being good stewards of the land our lives would be completely different. They are an essential backbone to the lives we have today.

In our technology and media driven world, it is important for the right message about agriculture to be communicated to consumers. Leading the charge, Illinois Farm Families declared 2023 as "The Year of the Farmer." Through their "We Are the 96" campaign that kicked off last month, this is the year we create more of an awareness with consumers about where their food and products come from. To help put faces and names to the men and women

who dedicate a large portion of their lives to help keeping the world fed and clothed. The year we help break stigmas and barriers and have conversations so we can strengthen trust between consumers and farmers. The year we educate ourselves about agriculture and the need for the hardworking individuals who never quit until the job is done. The year we support and appreciate the work that farmers do each and every day.

This month I encourage you to reach out to any friends or family who are farmers and/or work in the field of agriculture and give them a call – or better yet stop by their house and sit down and have a face to face conversation! Ask them about their experiences in farming, lessons they've learned along their journey, their favorite moments – and most of all thank them. Thank and appreciate them for their years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance! Farming to them is more than just a job or a piece of land, it's their family legacy and future.

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude and thank your local farmers each and every day for the positive impact they have in our daily lives.

Happy March and thank you farmers!

Book of the month

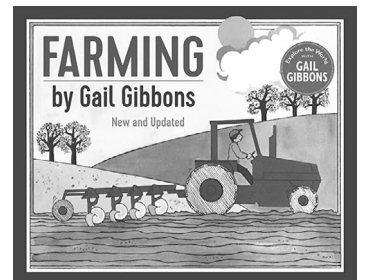
Did you know that 96% of farms in the state of Illinois are family owned? Farms come in all shapes and sizes. Some have been passed down from generation to generation and some are operated by first-time farmers. Some specialize and produce one or two crops or farm animals or a little or a lot of both!

To help celebrate the "We Are the 96" campaign and National Ag Week this month, the book of the month for March is *Farming* by Gail Gibbons. In this youth-friendly book, Gibbons takes readers on a journey during every season on the farm and what is happening both inside and outside the barn. What makes this book special is how Gibbons highlights different areas of the farm such as in the fields, garden, barn stalls, and silos! Gibbons explains common farming terms and what they all mean in language that is easy to follow and understand.

Like with the weather, farm-

ing duties change from day to day and no two days are the same. Each day is an adventure and new lessons are gained daily. To better understand farming and what all occurs during each season around the farm, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and visit our FREE Ag Literacy Library to check out *Farming*.

The addition of titles to the indoor Ag Literacy Library, outdoor Little Lending Library and other agricultural literacy programs are made possible by the continuing support of the Konen Family Foundation.



Farming by Gail Gibbons

Farm toy of the month

Spring comes on March 20th and budding farmers will want to prepare with this Tomy John Deere Farm Toy Playset. The tractor and wagon are great for hauling, and a planter can be attached to the tractor to get corn and soybeans in the ground. A horse and foal, dairy cows and calves, and fencing for spring pastures is included. This toy set has plenty in play for spring on the farm! This 1:32 scale set recommended for children 3 and older is

regularly \$36.70, but visit our Farm Bureau Country Store during March for a 10% discount on this toy set. Supplies are limited – stop by soon!



See you at Touch-A-Tractor

Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman
St. Charles
630-584-0001



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Miryam Cabrera
St. Charles
630-762-1329



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0004



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer
Elburn
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Charles Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



David Berreles
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600

Story Time at T-A-T – sign-up to share stories

Have you heard the moos ... I mean news? Story-Time is coming back to Touch-A-Tractor this year! Every hour, on the hour, (weather permitting) volunteers will read a book from

the list below to children and their families. Are you or someone you know interested in helping bring these books to life and help promote Ag Literacy? Sign up today!

— Story Time title list —

April Foolishness by Teresa Bateman
Clarabelle by Cris Petersen
Extra Cheese Please! by Cris Peterson
Leah's Pony by Elizabeth Friedrich
Pizza for the Queen by Nancy Castaldo
Pod to Plate by Julie Blunier
Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell
Right This Very Minute by Lisl H. Dettlefsen
Seed, Soil, Sun by Cris Peterson
The Apple Orchard Riddle by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas

The Barn at Night by Michelle Houts
The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza by Philemon Sturges
The Reason for a Flower by Ruth Heller
Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco
Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto and Ed Martinez
Water Dance by Thomas Locker
Who Grew My Soup? by Tom Darbyshire
With Love, Little Red Hen by Alma Flor Ada
You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees! by Alex Woolf

I would like to participate in Story Time readings of farm friendly books to kids.

Sat. _____ am / pm. Sun. _____ am / pm

Book(s) preference:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

"COUNTRY Financial" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.
1220-509HC_07683-1/17/2023





Farm Facts @ Fun

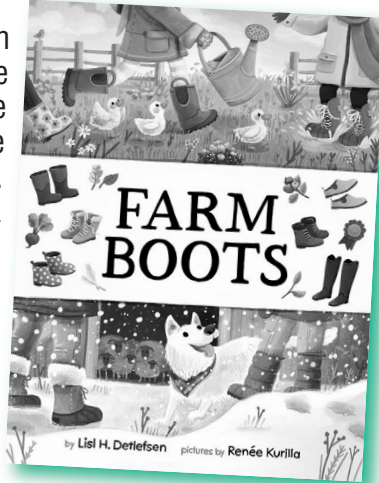
Show Us Your Boots

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) is launching a "Show Us Your Boots" social media campaign to celebrate the release of the children's book *Farm Boots* by Lisl Detlefsen. This joyful, rhyming tale shows readers the many boots needed throughout the seasons on the farm.

IAITC is currently requesting video submissions from 4-H and FFA Members, as well as farm kids from around the state, to "show us your boots." IAITC hopes to showcase the diversity of Illinois farms and farm families and the many "boots" they wear to get their work done on the farm.

These videos will be posted on IAITC's social media accounts from March 20 through April 20 of this year. Individuals interested in participating are invited to visit <https://iaitc.co/boots> for more information and to find a video submission link.

Farm Boots, by Lisl H. Detlefsen, will be released March 21, 2023 - National Agriculture Day! Learn more at <https://www.feedingmindpress.com/our-books/farm-boots>.



Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Muddy boots call for sloppy joes! Sloppy joe french bread slices

Ingredients

- 1 loaf of french bread
- 1/2 yellow onion (diced)
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 (15 oz) can sloppy joe sauce
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Cut the bread loaf in half (lengthwise) and place it on a lined baking sheet.

In a large pan, cook the diced onions with a little butter or oil over medium heat until soft (3 min).

Add the ground beef and crumble until no longer pink.

Drain or use a paper towel to remove any excess grease, and then stir in the sloppy joe sauce.

Spread the mixture evenly over the bread halves, and then top with shredded cheese.

Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and edges of the bread are toasty.

Allow to cool for a few minutes, slice, serve, and enjoy!

This quick and easy recipe found here: <https://www.the-lazydish.com/sloppy-joe-french-bread-pizza-slices/>



Congratulations

Rhesa Davis of Elburn! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a fun prize! Thank you Rhesa, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



JOKES

What is a farmer's favorite Bruce Springsteen song?
Born in the USDA!

Why were the baby strawberries crying?
Their ma and pa were in a jam!

What farm animal keeps the best time?
A watch dog!

How did the farmer find his lost cow?
He tractor down!

What new crop did the farmer plant?
Beets me!

Work boots and Farm fools

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

- Accountants
- Agriculture
- Agronomists
- Boots
- Careers
- Chores
- Crops
- Dryer
- Family
- Farmer
- Feed
- Fields
- Illinois
- Insulated
- Livestock
- Mechanics
- Mud
- Plastic
- Production
- Rubber
- Scraper
- Veterinarians
- Weather
- Western

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

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

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

Start your spring planting!

Seed germination with egg cartons

Farms come in all shapes and sizes! Start sowing the seeds of your very own vegetable farm right from your home!

Materials

- Paper egg carton (recycled cardboard preferred)
- Potting soil
- Seeds (of your choice)
- Toothpicks
- Plastic wrap
- Water

Instructions

Take an empty paper egg carton and poke a small hole in the bottom of each dimple to allow for water drainage

Fill each individual dimple with seed-starting soil

Plant seeds according to the planting-depth instructions found on the back of the seed packet in each individual dimple.

Place a plate or plastic liner under the egg carton and mist with water regularly keeping the soil moist, but not soaked.

To give extra warmth and humidity (if needed), cover the top of the egg carton with plastic wrap, and use the toothpicks to help prop it up which can work as a little heat tent.

Place the carton in a sunny spot and watch your plants grow!

Once the seeds start to sprout, cut apart the individual dimples and plant the seedlings straight into your prepared garden or pot. No need to remove the sprouting seed from the carton - you may plant the whole thing!

This craft and other sprouting ideas found here: <https://survival-life.com/egg-carton-seedlings/>



March is ...

National		
Pig Day	1	Sloppy Joe Day 18
Peanut Butter Lover's Day	1	Poultry Day 19
Read Across America Day	2	Ravioli Day 20
Banana Cream Pie Day	2	Crunchy Taco Day 21
Cold Cuts Day	3	French Bread Day 21
Snack Day	4	Agriculture Week 21-27
Frozen Food Day	6	Ag Day 22
Cereal Day	7	Cheesesteak Day 24
Flapjack Day	7	Spinach Day 26
Meatball Day	9	
Popcorn Lover's Day	9	Celery Month
Ranch Day	10	Crafting Month
Plant a Flower Day	12	Frozen Food Month
Pi Day	14	Noodle Month
Potato Chip Day	14	Nutrition Month
Artichoke Day	16	Peanut Month
Farm Rescuer Day	16	Sauce Month
St. Patrick's Day	17	Reading Month
Corned Beef & Cabbage Day	17	
Corn Dog Day	18	

Courtesy of: <https://national-today.com/march-holidays/>



Farming: A job with as many boots as hats

Before the first puddles of spring arrived, I would rummage through the supply of hand-me-down rubber boots, searching for the size that our young kids had grown into for the season. The

appropriate footwear lined the back hall, ready for water to pond in the driveway.

Today, my teenagers splash less, but the boot dryer has a permanent space near an outlet and the family's boots now take up more space for a household with adult-sized feet. Shoes and boots for "farm" and "good" fill cabinets and cubbies by the back door. Rubber boots – both insulated and not – line part of the

garage wall. Shelves display the nicer western boots that our kids wear to school, FFA events and the 4-H fair for showing livestock. Boots for the chicken coop stay in the garage.

Farmers wear as many boots as hats on the farm, symbolic of a wide range of skills worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on March 21, 2023. In Illinois, families (not corporations) own and operate an overwhelming 96% of farms. Those families pull on boots as agronomists, veterinarians, accountants and mechanics. They operate heavy

machinery, manage employees, build fence and monitor weather to know what boots to wear.

In this job of many boots, we may scout bean fields on a dewy summer morning or clean a livestock stall for the next cow to give birth. Hard-soled boots climb from the tractor to check seed depth behind the planter. We attend farm conferences in our best boots or spend a winter afternoon with the family in snow boots, sledding the slope southeast of the farmstead.

For some farms, plastic boot covers protect animals from devastating diseases that could transmit from boot treads. That's not the case for us but boot covers would help at times.

Someone occasionally leaves a trail of mud in the farm office, despite the boot scraper outside the door.

Three boot dryers await their duties along the footwear wall where Dad and the guys store boots for every season and task, from chores to cheer – or sometimes, the unexpected. I wore rubber boots to my aunt's funeral a few years ago to keep my heels out of the mud. It was my nod to the career farm woman, who would have done the same.

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

Items sought for Touch-A-Tractor

Touch-A-Tractor is coming your way! April 14-16 marks our farm-to-city celebration of everything "farm": larger-than-life vintage and new tractors, farm equipment, farm toys, farm animals, pedal tractors, corn corrals, and so much more.

Each year our volunteers and donors help to make this event happen. Items we need for Touch-A-Tractor include:

1. **Tractors** – gas, diesel (or steam!); large or small; waxed & polished or muddied & rusted, new, old or antique – it's all the same to a kid.
2. **Hay/Straw bales** – round, square, large or small, to use as barriers, for traffic patterns, social distancing and 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.
4. **Farm animals** – sheep, lambs, pigs, goats, baby calves, chickens, etc. We have the pens, we just need the critters!

Call Steve at the KCFB (630-584-8660) or e-mail him for more information (steve@kanecfb.com) if you could donate or loan any of the above to us for the event or if you know anyone we can contact. We appreciate your help!

The joy on these children's faces is genuine – it's not every day that they get to sit in the seat of an antique tractor or modern, massive combine, one they usually only see from a distance! Farm equipment like combines, trucks and maybe even ATVs and UTVs are all available for you and your family to see, touch, and climb up on once a year at the Kane County Farm Bureau's Annual Touch-A-Tractor event. This year, mark your calendar for April 14-16, you don't want to miss it!



Lesson in a Bucket

KCFB has monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes, like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, dairy, and corn.

March's Lesson-in-a-Bucket theme is all about Soil. Stimulate students with a bucket of lessons about soil and its importance to agriculture including a classroom set of Soil Ag-Mags and Soil Ag-Ventures. Teachers will dig into soil themed activities like "Soil Sam," that is designed to help students deepen their under-

standing of seed growth by creating a fun charter named Soil Sam!

Also included is a Multi-disciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lesson in which students will learn about the different layers and identify the components of a soil profile with "Soil Logic Puzzle."

Bring agriculture and a bucket full of Soil knowledge into your classroom this March with Lesson-in-a-Bucket. Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve your bucket today.

Next month, students will learn all about soybeans and agriculture!

Young Farmers euchre tournament March 24th

The 18th annual Young Farmers Euchre Tournament promises a competitive, fun evening for young farmers ages 18-35 from Kane, Winnebago-Boone, McHenry, DeKalb and Kendall-Grundy counties.

The evening will begin at Kane County Farm Bureau at 6:00 pm with pizza and snacks. Euchre teams will be chosen by drawing lots, then the cards will be dealt and the Round Robin competition starts at 6:30. A \$5.00 buy-in gets pizza, snacks and free lessons. No experience

or partner necessary – just an appetite for fun and competition with peers. The winners of this highly competitive event will take home the coveted title of Euchre Champs 2023.

Farm Bureau members and others aged 18-35 with an interest in farms and food are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve Arnold or Kelcee Miller by calling 630-584-8660, email airc@kanecfb.com, or reach out to any current Young Farmer member!

17th Annual Touch-A-Tractor

Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of spring!

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

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

ADMISSION: A donation of \$2 adults, \$5 families **OR** Show a Vintage Truck Raffle Ticket stub for FREE Family admission all weekend long

Continuous viewing of **Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story**
Illinois Farm Bureau's first ever documentary

Find out why ... WE ARE THE 96%

VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE
2023 Grand Prize: This 1965 International Harvester D900 stepside pickup truck
Tickets are \$15 each / 2/\$25 / 5/\$50
Proceeds benefit college scholarships & ag literacy programs.

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

Bring the whole family!
Friday-Sunday, April 14-16
Friday noon-4pm Saturday 10-4 Sun. 10-3

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

- Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- See technology that makes America's farmers the most productive and efficient in the world, side-by-side with machines of days gone by
- Learn about America's most essential industry ... Agriculture!
- Free IFB zip sandwich bag with grilling guide and recipes

Kids Story Time every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday.
Fun, FREE, hands-on activities including marshmallow catapults, paper origami and garden in a glove.
Bring non-perishable food items for one additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.

Find us on Facebook

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

AGCO
Your Agriculture Company

18th Annual Young Farmers Euchre Tournney

For Young Farmers in IFB Districts 1 & 5

Friday, March 24th, 6:00pm

Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles
(6:00 pizza/lessons/socialize, 6:30 start)

For Young Farmers and anyone 18-35 years old in Northern Illinois with an interest in agriculture, farms and food.

Cash Prizes
Lessons
Refreshments
B.Y.O.B.

\$5 entry fee
Cash prizes
Pizza, Snacks, & Sodas
Euchre refresher lessons

RSVP to Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or airc@kanecfb.com, Brett Dienst (815) 693-6888 or Michael Long (815) 508-7119 by Thursday, March 23rd

Young Farmers meeting recap

KCFB's Young Farmers group gathered for pizza and conversation on February 13 at the Dienst Farm Shop in Maple Park to hear about Farm Bureau updates and upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

The group learned about Kane County Farm Bureau updates as well as Ag Safety Day at Hinckley-Big Rock and new Touch-A-Tractor events and activities that will be happening on April 14, 15, and 16.

Additionally, the group will host their annual Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day with local FFA Chapters in Kane County on Tuesday, April 4 at 5pm at the Northern Illinois Food Bank where the group will have a brief meeting learning about Young Farmers/Young Leaders as well as scholarship opportunities and then group as a team will sort, pack and assemble meals for our hungry neighbors.

A unanimous vote agreed to continue that in observance of National Agriculture Day on March 22nd, 2023 and National Agriculture Week March 21-27, 2023 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers

Committee will be sponsoring its 3rd coloring contest. Please see the details on page 8.

Looking ahead into 2023, the group plans to meet monthly, organize a social night out, as well as ideas for educational and volunteer events to be more evolved in the community.

Our next gathering will be Monday, March 13th 6:00pm at Michael Bohlin's farm shop in Elgin. Dinner will be provided. Farm Bureau members from 18-35 are welcome and encouraged to attend and get acquainted. If you are interested in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agriculture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet stop on by the office to become a member today!

New Leadership

The Young Leaders elected Brett Dienst as chairperson and Michael Long as secretary as their new leadership team for the coming year.

Brett Dienst, from Maple Park, is the son of Mike and Lisa Dienst. He is a graduate of Illinois State University in 2018 with a major in Ag Business. Dienst currently works at

Compeer Financial as a Crop Insurance officer and was elected in 2022 to the DeKalb County Pork Producers board. As Kane County Young Leader Chair, Dienst hopes to accomplish growth in our county and to bring new ideas and be a voice for our Young Leaders, as well as sharing the good word when he is visiting with growers and other ag leaders in the area. Kane County has been well known for having a strong Young Leader group and he wants to continue that legacy.

Michael Long, from Big Rock, is the son of John and Nan Long. He is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2016 with majors in Soil and Crop Science and Ag Business. Long farms with his father in Big Rock and Kaneville. He also works off the farm at Ever.Ag as a Grain Marketing Advisor. He works with producers across Northern Illinois to manage risks through strategic grain marketing. As Kane County Young Leader Secretary, Long hopes to grow the Young Leader program by involving more local Ag industry professionals and host more

social events.

Speaking of social events, the Kane County Young Leaders created a new Activities Chair this year. **Wayne Gehrke**, from Maple Park is the son of Bob and Beth Gehrke. Wayne graduated from the University of Illinois in 2012 with a major in Crop Sciences. Gehrke farms

alongside his family and grows pumpkin, hay, corn, soybeans and wheat. In his new role, Gehrke, looks forward to working with the committee to plan some new events and keep putting the fun into Farm Bureau, such as attending a Blackhawks hockey game later this month!



Brett Dienst



Wayne Gehrke



Michael Long

Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month go to **Tim O'Rourke** of Elgin, the March winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time he stops in our office, Tim will receive a FREE box of corned beef rounds from the fine offerings we feature each month from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb.

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

Farm Bureau volunteer event at Northern Illinois Food Bank

Join the Kane County Young Farmers at Northern Illinois Food Bank Tuesday, April 4th from 5-7:30 pm to repack food for redistribution to local food pantries. FFA members from area high schools are invited too. We're especially interested in connecting with 18-35-year-olds looking to get involved in community service or agriculture related events.

You'll help in the fight against hunger, make some new friends and learn about the good things the Young Farmers Committee and local FFA students are doing in Kane County.

No experience is necessary, just a genuine interest in farm and food related concerns. As this is a community service, and

the fight against hunger can and should be waged by all, all Farm Bureau members, friends and potential members are

welcome!

Call the Kane County Farm Bureau to RSVP at 630-584-8660 by Monday, March 20th.



At NIFB volunteer events, Young Farmers, FFA members and FB supporters repack food for distribution to the Food Bank's network of food pantries. In 2021, they repackaged nearly 1,500 pounds of food providing over 1,200 meals for hungry neighbors in Northern Illinois. To join the Young Farmers and FFA Chapters this year on Tuesday, April 4th from 5-7:30 pm and provide local hunger relief, RSVP to the Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

Welcome to the next level

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

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

education and hunger relief:

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to *FarmWeekNow.com*
 - KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
 - Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
 - Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide confer-

ences

- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel
- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods

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

Regular Members

Dorothy Murry Hoffman Est.
Ogle Family Farm, LLC Sugar Grove
Brandy Kittinger Hampshire
Gregory Meyers Aurora

Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received January 16-February 15, 2023.



Donor

Roger and Theresa Biddle
Thomas and Janet Runty

Beneficiary

KCFB Foundation
KCFB Foundation

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

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Victor Alvarado**, who has been named the January Agent of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Victor is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Victor's expertise help you! Reach Victor at 847-742-0003, or victor.alvarado@CountryFinancial.com, or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Victor.Alvarado/>. Congratulations, Victor!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Steve Salazar, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Property &

Casualty Representative of the Month for January 2023. Steve began his career with COUNTRY Financial in April of 2021 and services clients out of his office located at: 2946 Ogden Avenue, Aurora, 60504, (630) 449-0926.

Brandon Kopf, Insurance Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Life and Investment Representative of the Month for January 2023. Brandon began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2005 and services clients out of his office located at: 450 W. Galena Blvd., Aurora, 60506, (630) 801-0946. Congratulations, Brandon!

The professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make both these agents great people to do business with.

Congratulations, Steve and Brandon!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to David Berreles! David has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August 2018. His office



David Berreles

is located at 822 Centennial Dr, Hampshire and may be reached at: 847-683-3130.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

SERVICES

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

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

Grass hay, first and second cut small, and 3x3x8 bales for sale. Alfalfa grass bales in same sizes also available. Call: 847-436-2538



Shopping Spree photos, left to right: And they're off! Dr. Knetl hit the aisles running, grabbing groceries with guidance from Orlando Vazquez of Two Rivers Head Start Food Pantry. Rep. Hanson surveys the trove of groceries at checkout. Loaded carts accumulated at the checkout lane for both contestants, leading to a grand total of \$3,978.34 in groceries to two area food pantries. See story on page 1.

Young Farmers committee announces third coloring contest

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 22nd, 2023 and National Agriculture Week March 21-27, 2023 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring its 3rd coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received in the office will be April 10th, 2023 and all entries need to be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 10th.

The contest is open to all children ages 3 through 11. Categories are as follows: Ages 3-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each category. The entries will be judged on originality, true-to-lifeness and neatness. The picture should be the sole work of the child with no parental help or assistance. No pictures will be returned to the children unless requested. Parents/teachers please have the

children fill out the address form completely with their home addresses. Winning entries will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's April 14-16 Touch-A-Tractor event. No child's address or phone number will be exhibited at the display...only their names and ages. Play a part in helping the Young Farmers committee in saluting the agricultural community. Get a child, grandchild or a student to participate in the contest.

Breeze thru the T-A-T line with your Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stub

One of the biggest events of the year is coming up April 14-16 right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor! By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle, you are not only supporting Ag in the Classroom learning and scholarships for students with agriculture-focused studies, you can get yourself AND your family into our Touch-A-Tractor event for FREE. It's a win-win. The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn September 17. The winning ticket will take home a 1965 International Harvester D900 step-side pickup. Second prize is a 1960's vintage chain-drive Murray pedal tractor with spark plugs. 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, MasterCard or Discover at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below. Since 1989 over \$500,000 in tuition assistance has been 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. 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.



Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

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 Discover:

_____ Exp ____ / ____

Signature _____

Date _____

See you April 14-16 for  Touch-A-Tractor

RULES FOR THE ROAD 2023


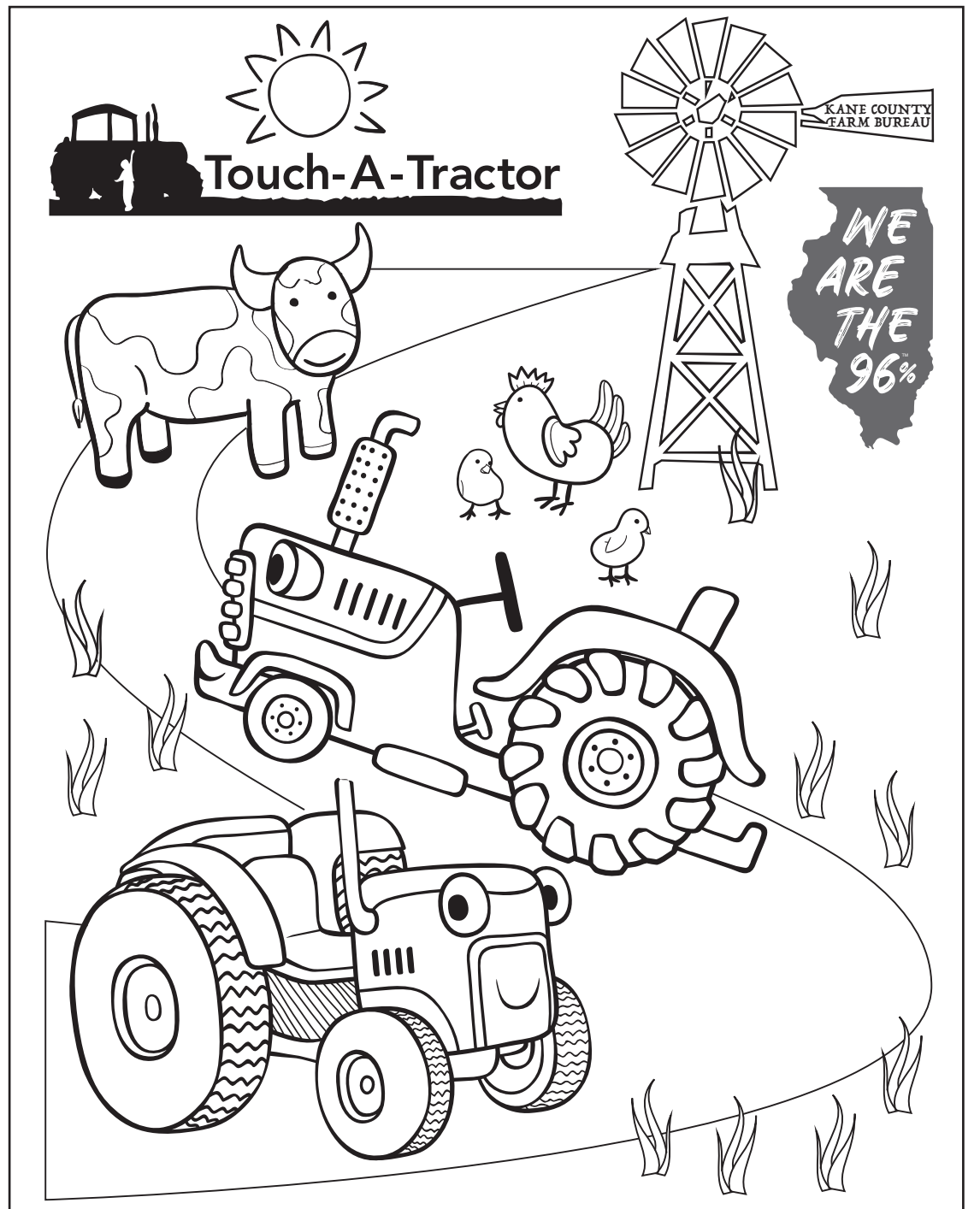
Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

MARCH 14TH AT 6 PM

HOSTED BY: KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 MORE Brewing Company | 13980 Automall Drive
 Huntley, IL | Doors Open at 5:30 pm | Meal at 5:45 pm
 Register by March 7, 2023

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members.
 Please contact Kane Co. FB to register — 630-584-8660.

See story on page 1

Entry Form:

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Age: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

School: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Deadline to submit: April 10, 2023
 Mail all entries to:
 Young Farmers Coloring Contest 2023
 Kane County Farm Bureau
 2N710 Randall Road
 St. Charles, IL 60174