

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. 82 NO. 3 MARCH 2017

Senator Castro, President Sobek pile up \$1,969 in food for pantries Farm Bureau's 16th Annual Shopping Spree donates thousands of dollars in food

Twenty-second District State Senator Cristina Castro and Waubonsee Community College President Dr. Christine Sobek raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel Osco in the 16th annual Food Check-Out Challenge Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries. During their 7.5-minute dash the pair collected \$1,969 in groceries, purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the FISH Pantry in Carpentersville and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora.

Castro gathered \$1,024 worth of groceries, with the help of Mary Graziano from the FISH Food Pantry. Sobek collected \$945 in non-perishable items, assisted by Diane Renner of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry.

During pre-event announcements, Steve Ericson, Director of Food Procurement for the Northern Illinois Food Bank lauded the efforts of the co-sponsors, "Jewel donates tens of thousands of dollar worth of food to the Food Bank each year" said Ericson, "and the Farm Bureau and its members, through their Harvest for ALL program, provide the much needed support for the Milk 2 My Plate program, providing healthy, nutritious milk to clients of local food pantries."

KCFB Manager Steve

Arnold thanked Jewel Store Director Gus Elioupolis for the store's 16 years of support for the event. He told that crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Sprees had raised nearly \$29,000 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.

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.

U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world, food is a real bargain in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, but 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.

Special thanks to JEWEL-Osco and the Northern

Illinois Food bank for their partnership in this activity,

sponsored by the KCFB PR Committee.



Photos, left to right:

Competitors raced around the Jewel Osco In Batavia raising funds for local food pantries at the KCFB's annual Shopping Spree. 22nd District Senator Cristina Castro tosses pancake mixes into a shopping cart to benefit the FISH Food Pantry of Carpentersville. Castro gathered \$1,024 in groceries during the 7 1/2 minute spree.

Waubonsee Community College President Dr. Christine Sobek signs a mock check for \$945, representing the value of groceries she collected for the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora during the Shopping Spree.

Our contestants pause for a traveling trophy presentation. Each trophy is engraved with the names of the 32 community minded public officials who have participated in the Farm Bureau's Shopping Spree since 2002. Including 2017's total, over \$31,000 has been donated to 17 local food pantries through the event.

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

Kane County is a unique county 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 12th 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.

From toddlers to teens, this event has something for everyone. Bring the entire family over to Kane County Farm Bureau on April 7-9 and see working tractors straight from a farm field, and meet the hard working farmers who drive them.

A \$2 adult or \$5 family donation for admission is requested at Touch-A-Tractor. Donations are used to fund Ag-in-the-Classroom and Scholar-

ship 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 9 the winning tickets will be drawn in the KCFB Foundation Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle.

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 7-9 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.

March Featured Product

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.

Overstock Sale! While supplies last.

Limited quantities of Illinois and Georgia Pecans, \$6.00 per 16 oz bags. Available whole and pieces
Chocolate Covered Pecans, 12 oz bags \$7.00

The times, they are a changin'

Interested in getting more information on upcoming events, membership benefits, Farm Bureau news, volunteer opportunities, etc. from Kane County Farm Bureau and other local sources? Give us your email address and we will add you to our list of other members interested in being kept up to date on all the latest happenings within the organization.

As an incentive, Farm Bureau Members who send in their email address will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Grocery Certificate card to Meijer. To enter, fill out the form below and mail it back to the KCFB office prior to March 24th.

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 by March 24th

Member Name: _____

Email Address: _____

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- March 2**
Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30
- March 3**
Teacher Institute, 8am
- March 6-8**
IFB Leaders to Washington
- March 15**
IFB Farm Bill Work Session, 10am
- March 15**
On the Road Seminar, Joe's Place, Marengo, 6:30pm
- March 21-22**
Ag Days at Mooseheart
- March 24**
Young Farmers Euchre Tourney, 6:30 p.m.
- March 25**
Young Farmers Paintball, New Milford, 9am
- March 31**
Touch-A-Tractor "Paint & Sip," 5:30pm



KCFB Board Review

The February meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:30 pm on February 2, 2017.

President White gave his report, starting with a review of the CFB Presidents meeting held January 31. White reported on the new Professional membership class of members and necessary bylaw changes, employee retirement programs, legislative Action Request benchmarks, and a new IFB Horizon Award. A survey from IFB on tax policy preferences was also discussed.

Arnold gave a Managers report, providing an update on progress in remodeling the lobby space at the KCFB to provide additional room for farm toys, edible products and other commercial items offered by Farm Bureau to members and the public. The new "storefront" will be finished by early April.

B. Collins gave the PR & Membership Report. He

informed the board of contributions to the KCFB Foundation during the previous month including: Harvest for All Contributions by: Dale & Linda Drendel to NIFB – Milk 2 My Plate, William & Patricia Watson to NIFB, Alan & Gayle Volpp to Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry, Dave & Judy Klussendorf to NIFB – Milk 2 My Plate, John Van Bogaert to NIFB, Bill & Karen Collins to St. Peter's Food Pantry, Wayne Schneider to NIFB, and Craig & Angela Bradley to NIFB; and FOOD>Forward contributions by: Bill & Karen Collins and Jay Schrock (in memory of Joel Schrock).

In the Government Affairs and Public Policy report, Schneider spoke with the Board about the latest Committee meeting, held January 23. Topics included the Shopping Spree on February 20, Lunches to Legislators, IFB's Government Affairs Leadership Conference, and the Kane

County Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. For the Shopping Spree, WCC President Christine Sobek will be raising funds for the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Senator Cristina Castro will be raising funds for the FISH pantry in Carpentersville.

A written Ag-in-the-Classroom report from Suzi Myers was circulated, which included an update on Ag Days. This event is scheduled for March 21-22 at Mooseheart, and the KCFB still needs farm animals for Ag Days. The board also received updates from the Young Farmers Committee. This update informed the board that at their holiday party the Young Farmers raised \$308 for medical expenses for farmers Nate & Brittany Hill. At the YF-FFA Acquaintance night at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, held on January 26th, 17 students from 2 FFA chapters participated. Committee members attended IFB Young Leaders

Conference in East Peoria and currently 2 committee members plan to attend the Young Leaders Ag Industry tour to Ontario in July. The Young Farmers will host their District

1&5 Euchre Tournament on Friday, Match 24th at 7PM. The next scheduled Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30pm.

On Thursday, January 26th Young Farmers Committee Chairman Wayne Gehrke presented a donation to Amy Hettinger, Senior Volunteer Coordinator at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This contribution is thanks to the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee's sale of limited edition Harvest for ALL die-cast tractors. The funds raised from this sale were divided amongst the participating Young Farmer Committees in the state. The KCFB Young Farmers Committee decided to allocate the funds back into the Harvest for ALL program in the form of a donation to Northern Illinois Food Bank.



Load up on latest trucking regulations Seminars in Marengo & Yorkville

An On-The-Road seminar will be held at Joe's Place, 9716 E. Grant Hwy., Marengo on Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm. Illinois Farm Bureau along with DeKalb, Kane, McHenry, and Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureaus will be co-hosting this two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws, both new and well-worn, for farmers. It will also take a special look at the latest "Covered Farm Vehicle" exemptions, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

A lot of laws have changed in the past 2 years. In fact, just last

July, the governor signed legislation adding a new exemption from the CDL. Prior to that, there were changes to regulations regarding the medical card, hours of service limitations, equipment inspection requirements, ATV operation, mobile phone use, out-of-state CDL use, post-trip inspections and more.

Also covered will be the recent changes and some of the more established but misunderstood rules, such as the USDOT Number, UCR registrations and driver's license classifications.

Presenting the seminar will

be Kevin Rund, from Illinois Farm Bureau, who has specialized in farm transportation issues for more than 30 years. The seminar and pizza buffet are free to farm members courtesy of the sponsoring County Farm Bureaus, but advance registration is required. The cost for associate members and non-members is \$20. To reserve your spot, please call 815-338-1520.

An OTR seminar will also be held at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, March 21 at the Kendall CFB in Yorkville, Call 630-553-7403 to register.

Hungry Americans benefit from Farm Bureau donations

The farm and ranch families of Farm Bureau raised more than \$1.1 million and donated a record of more than 28.9 million pounds of food to assist hungry Americans in 2016 as part of Farm Bureau's "Harvest for ALL" program. Combined, the monetary and food donations also reached a record level of the equivalent of more than 31 million meals.

Now in its 15th year, Harvest for ALL is spearheaded by members of Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program, but Farm Bureau members of all ages from across

the nation contribute to the effort. By heeding the call to action, they help ensure Americans in need can enjoy the bounty of food farmers and ranchers produce.

In addition to raising food and funds for the initiative, farmers and ranchers tallied 9,067 volunteer hours assisting local hunger groups in 2016.

"Farm Bureau has a long tradition of helping provide nourishment for those who need it the most," said Kalena Bruce, a cattle farmer from Missouri who chairs AFBF's national YF&R committee. "More than 50 per-

cent of Americans struggling with hunger live in rural areas and farming communities. We're pleased to help families in our communities who are in need."

Harvest for ALL is one of the *(continued on page 8)*

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 other 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 resource, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2017 THRU DECEMBER 2017												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY												
F. CARLSON	X	X										
B. COLLINS	X	X										
C. COLLINS	X	X										
J. ENGEL	X	X										
G. GAITSCH	X	X										
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK	X	X										
M. KENYON	X	X										
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X										
D. LEHRER							X					
N. LONG	X	X										
D. PITSTICK							X					
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X										
J. WHITE	X	X										

Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
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PHONE: 630-584-8660
info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday
(USPS No. 289700)
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kane County Farmer
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174
Periodical Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174
Year Subscription: \$2.00

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 104th 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 Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors and management for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and to announce the eight directors elected to serve terms of one or three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, as determined by a Resolution of the Board of Directors adopted January 7, 2016, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

Farmer-members, please see page 7 for information on a proposed bylaw amendment that will be voted upon at the April 4 Annual Meeting.

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Defensive Driving Class

The Kane County Farm Bureau Women's Committee has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25 and 26. The class runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 age 55 and older who qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

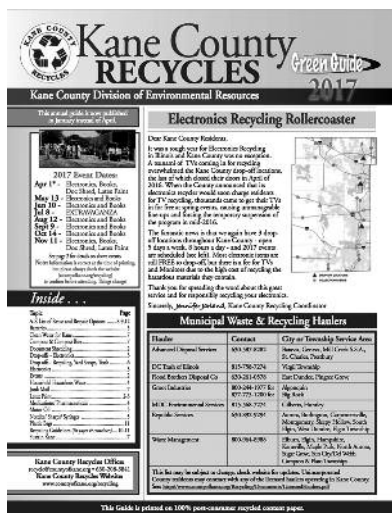
Attendees must be licensed drivers. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15 per person for AARP members and \$20 for non-members (payable the first day) to cover the cost of materials. For more information or to register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

2017 Kane Co. Recycle Green Guide at KCFB

Want to know what to recycle, when to recycle and how to recycle virtually anything in Kane County? Then you absolutely, positively must get yourself a copy of the 2017 Kane County Recycles Green Guide.

The new Kane County Recycles Green Guide is now online for you to download and is available at libraries and municipal offices and at the Kane County Farm Bureau for you to pick up a (recyclable) paper copy! The guide is full of information, including lists and contacts for municipal waste haulers, dates for recycling events, "how to" information on electronics recycling and household hazardous

waste, battery recycling, ways to reduce junk mail and much, much more.



IATC coordinators gain insights, tools for now and future

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) coordinators found themselves "ahead of the curve" on new state social science learning standards coming this fall, Illinois Farm Bureau Education Director Kevin Daugherty said.

Daugherty gave ag literacy coordinators from across the state, including KCFB Ag Literacy coordinator Suzi Myers, a crash course on new learning standards for students in kindergarten through high school. The standards start in the 2017-18 school year.

"You need to know what teachers are facing and be able to talk conversantly," Daugherty said, adding that new Ag Mags and other materials available to classroom teachers from County Farm Bureaus will denote applicability to the new standards.

Divided into groups, the coordinators brainstormed how to use existing IAITC lessons, books, activities and materials to address the latest learning standards. They quickly offered lesson and activity ideas for elementary, middle school and

even high school students. "This isn't tough, folks. Just think how you reformulate what you already do," Daugherty said. "Some of you saw frustration in this. This is what your teachers are going through. They're being thrown this (new standard) on top of everything else."

To assist with their teaching mission, the coordinators received samples of materials, including new Ag Mags on wheat, pork and seasons, which features related specialty crops. The coordinators learned a new pollinator Ag Mag should be available in May.

Coordinators also received copies of a native flowers and pollinators poster developed and printed with financial support from GROWMARK Inc. and the IAA Foundation, IFB's charitable arm. The accompanying guide provides names and information for flowers and pollinators depicted on the poster. Both items will

supplement the new pollinator Ag Mag, Daugherty noted.

Along with printed materials, Daugherty encouraged several coordinators to share activities and lessons developed with county environmental stewardship grants. Grant recipients are to enhance teacher and classroom training related to the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy or ag-related pollinators. Ideas ranged from original role-playing games to hand pollinating experiments to summer teacher workshops. From September through December, IAITC awarded stewardship grants totaling \$21,212 to 32 counties, Daugherty said.

"Think of how you make it (agriculture) relate to everything you do," Daugherty said. "Think of all the stuff you do and how powerful it is."



Top: Agricultural Literacy Coordinators from County Farm Bureaus around the state were shown new classroom resources at meetings in Bloomington and DeKalb in February.

Below: AITC ag literacy coordinators Anna Damos, left, Warren-Henderson AITC coordinator; and Beth Groves, Montgomery County ag literacy coordinator, check out a new native flowers/pollinators poster and identification guide distributed during a district coordinator meeting in Bloomington. The posters, guides and a new pollinator Ag Mag were developed and printed with financial support from GROWMARK Inc. and the IAA Foundation. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)



Farm bill work session on March 15

Kane County farmers can help develop Illinois Farm Bureau's 2018 farm bill priorities during a work session scheduled for March 15.

Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau's director of national issues and policy development, will facilitate a series of sessions throughout Illinois beginning this month, with one scheduled for 10 am on Wednesday, March 15 at the Kane County Farm Bureau. The session will include

a review of IFB and AFBF's farm bill policy. Lunch will be provided for participants.

Participants will break into groups and discuss what's working/what needs improving in the 2018 farm bill. "You'll send me back to Bloomington with a list of 2018 farm bill priorities for the IFB Board of Directors and staff to chew on," Nielsen said.

For more information or to register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

New bill would help rein in health insurance costs

A recently introduced bill to help lower health insurance costs for small business owners has the backing of farmers and ranchers. Offered by Reps. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) and Krysten Sinema (D-Ariz.), the legislation (H.R. 246) would repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted as part of Affordable Care Act.

"The bill addresses one of the major concerns that farmers and ranchers have related to health

insurance - cost. The health insurance tax (HIT) has increased health insurance costs for farmers, ranchers and other small businesses by imposing a levy on the net premiums of health insurance companies, which is passed on to consumers. During 2014, \$8 billion of excise taxes were levied, and \$11 billion were collected in 2015 and 2016 each," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a

letter to House members urging them to support the bill.

While a one-year moratorium on the tax is in effect for 2017, the HIT, which increases year-over-year, will be back in 2018. "Providing one year of relief from the HIT was a welcome and critical first step, but Americans need the certainty of a full repeal," Duvall said.

AFBF is encouraging farmers and ranchers to ask their representatives to support H.R. 246.

FB news briefs

Washington Post: Trade is Important to America's Farmers and Ranchers

The Washington Post recently quoted American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall on the importance of trade to American agriculture.

"We want a trade treaty," said Zippy Duvall, president of the

American Farm Bureau Federation. "We're concerned [about Trump's trade rhetoric], but he's our president and we're going to try to support him. We did certainly let him know that we're nervous."

While many industries praised the United States' withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific

Partnership, the agricultural industry did not agree with the U.S. removing itself from the trade agreement. The agricultural industry exports roughly one-fifth of everything it produces, notes the Post.

For more on AFBF's trade policies, go to <http://www.fb.org/issue/trade>.

ON THE ROAD SEMINAR

Join us for a two-hour seminar for farmers covering new trucking regulations and common misunderstandings of the rules at:

Joe's Place, 9716 E. Grant Hwy., Marengo, IL
Wed., March 15, 6:30 pm
 FREE Pizza/Salad buffet for Kane County Farm Bureau voting members.
 Others—\$20.00
 Advance reservations required:

Kane County Farm Bureau, 630 584-8660,
 or McHenry County Farm Bureau, 815 338-1520

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



"Be the sun in someone's dark sky."

—Matshona Dhliwayo

What a thought to ponder ... Kane County is blessed with farmers that live by that thought. Since I've worked for the KCFB, I've been able to witness many acts that brought a bit of sun to a dark time in someone's life.

Helping a farmer out with their harvest ... there have been times when a farmer has planted all his crops and then a tragedy struck making harvest impossible for him/her to complete. That is the time for neighboring farmers to swoop in with an army of combines to complete the farmer's harvest for him/her. This is not a little thing. Each of these helping farmers has their own crops to harvest while the weather holds, so their time is limited, yet they give this precious time to someone in need.

Being a helping hand to those in need ... our Young Farmer's group exemplifies this notion. They have a tradition of "passing the hat" at their Christmas dinner. The collected money is

given to a farm family going through a medical or family based crisis. Thus, they become the sun in another's dark sky.

Feeding the hungry ... we have so many farmers that donate either the crops or money made from acreage in our Harvest for ALL program. We have supplied over one million meals through the Illinois Food Bank with this program. If that is not enough, some farmers actually grow and donate fresh produce for the food bank, allowing the people to have fresh sweet corn, lettuce, etc. Milk is donated through the various dairy associations, since milk was found to be a missing item at the food banks.

Educating the public about farming ... I have the most contact with farmers in this area. I have farmers that I can call to help me talk to high school groups about GMO's, nutrient loss, and other areas where they are the experts. Some of the farmers present to my 4th grade

KANE COUNTY FARMER

students at Ag Days every year (we are now in the 33rd year of Ag Days. Some of the presenters are now of the second generation, their parents have passed on the baton to them and they proudly accepted it.) My Summer Ag Classes for teachers couldn't happen without the help of the farmers who open their farms to the teachers ... questions are answered, knowledge is shared, and a personal relationship develops between farmer and teacher. Then there's Touch-A-Tractor with the new farm machinery on display for all to see. It is driven to Ag Days and then to our front lawn each year. It's like Christmas for me when I see those machines brought to educate the public ... all because of one generous farmer that cleans his equipment and drives it to Ag Days and Touch-A-Tractor. Our antique tractors that spur "I remember when" discussions and become "pretend driving" vehicles for the children are donated by farmers who have to load them up and transport them here, again, not an easy process.

Help for classrooms ... Did you ever wonder where the pumpkins come from in your child's classroom? Or the wheat, corn, soybeans or silage that is used to help students learn about agriculture? That's

right, from a farmer who donates portions of their crops to facilitate learning. What would I do without these wonderful farmers? Hopefully, I never have to find out.

So, being the sun in some-

one's dark sky is something I am able to witness frequently in my work, thanks to all the farmers that strive to see where they can be of service to others. Thank you, farmers, for all you do.

Book of the month

A combination of riddles, facts, and recipes ... who could ask for more? *"Filled with vibrant illustrations, this is a great book for introducing edible plants. The rhyming text is easy for children to follow, with enough hints to guess the surprise vegetable on the next page. Using the recipes in the book or asking students to contribute their own - this book encourages a conversation about the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables."* Rose Judd-Murray, Educational Specialist, National Gardening Association.

Another facet that has not been mentioned is the food for thought section at the back of the book. Here the author gives information about each plant that is in the book, what plants need to grow, the difference between fruits and vegetables, plant parts and pollinators. She also includes some discussion questions.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Cris Arbo, a very

detailed artist who has illustrated many other books, each with a nature basis. Her use of insects and birds throughout the illustrations makes learning discussions possible.

If you are interested in books concerning gardening and plants; we have many available for check out from our agricultural library here at the KCFB. Our library began due to a request years ago by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. We have an ever growing selection of titles.



What's In the Garden?
by Marianne Berkes

Women's Corner

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



*"As you slide down the banister of life,
May the splinters never
point the wrong way!"*

Did you know that no one in Ireland eats corned beef! A traditional Irish dinner would be lamb, for approximately 80% of population. Atlantic salmon would be eaten by the other approximately 20% of the population. If not lamb or salmon, the Irish would eat a hearty Irish stew, made with lamb, not beef. They would braise their stew for a few hours. Also peas and carrots are in season, so they are often on the table. I have a recipe here for grilled carrots and peas, which was adapted from a recipe from "Farm Flavor" - a website sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau's Partners magazine.

AgDays are this month. All fourth grade students in Kane County have been invited to participate. Kane County's Ag Literacy Coordinator, Suzi Myers, has been very busy organizing this important event. Look in this edition for information on how you can participate.

Daylight Savings Time begins at two a.m. on Sunday,

March 12th. Use this date to check your smoke-detector batteries. Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970's when smoke alarms were first marketed, in homes where the smoke alarms are working properly.

Grilled Carrots and Peas

16 oz. baby carrots
1 c. peas, frozen, thawed (or use fresh peas)
2 T. olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. fresh dill, chopped
1 T. fresh parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 425°. Toss carrots with oil, salt, and pepper. Spread carrots in an even layer on 9"x13" baking sheet. Roast for 20 to 30 minutes or until browned on outside and tender inside. You may want to turn them over once or more to get even color. While waiting for the carrots to finish, stir peas in the bowl with the leftover oil and S&P. Then stir peas into the roasted carrots and roast for an additional 4 minutes. (If using fresh peas, you may have to roast them a little longer.) Remove from oven and toss with dill and parsley and maybe a drizzle of olive oil. Serve hot.

SEE YOU AT TOUCH-A-TRACTOR

April 7-9, 2017

If you can contribute to our Touch-A-Tractor "Wish List," we'd love to hear from you.

See page 8 for a list of items we are seeking

Helping you protect what matters most



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	 Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750
 Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326	 Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852	 Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500
 Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155	 Bob Baty Geneva 630-492-5317	 Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737
 Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324	 Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001	 Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
 Kelly Landorf St. Charles 630-762-1328	 Jonathan Gonzalez Elgin 847-742-0001	 Josh Austin Hampshire 847-683-2100
 Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694	 Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	 Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696	 Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434	 Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	 Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110	 Sonny Ellen Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 David Murray Montgomery 630-897-2364	<p>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.</p>	



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Did you know?

- The Average age of Illinois farmer is 56
- Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people
- In Illinois, 30.8 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes.
- As of 2015, the number of farms in Illinois was 73,600
- Illinois ranks 7th nationally for agricultural sales in the United States
- The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 12.6"
- Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.
- "Drummer" soil series has been designated the official

- state soil.
- Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.
- Illinois is a leading producer of soybeans, corn and swine
- Illinois also produces several specialty crops, such as buckwheat, horseradish, ostriches, fish and Christmas trees
- Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other state.
- The average size of an Illinois farm, including hobby farms, is 358 acres.
- Marketing of Illinois' agricultural commodities generates more than \$19 billion annually
- More than 2,000 miles of interstate highway and 34,500

- miles of other state highway make trucking of goods fast and efficient
- Chicago is home to the largest rail gateway in the nation, connecting the eastern and western United States.
- Illinois' 1,118 miles of navigable waterways, including the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, make barge traffic an excellent option for shipment of grain to the Gulf of Mexico
- Illinois ranks third nationally in the export of agricultural commodities
- There are only 75,087 farm operators, down from 164,000 in 1959

For decades, agriculture has been associated with production of essential food crops. At present, agriculture above and beyond farming includes forestry, dairy, fruit cultivation, poultry, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, etc. Today, processing, marketing and distribution of crops and livestock products are all acknowledged as part of current agriculture. Thus, agriculture could be referred to as the production, processing, promotion and distribution agricultural products. Agriculture plays a critical role in the entire life of a given economy. Agriculture is the backbone of the economic system of a given country. In addition to providing food and raw material, agriculture also provides employment opportunities to very large percentage of population.

Agriculture, or farming, is the science of cultivating soil, producing crops and raising livestock. It is the nation's largest industry, employing approximately 23 million people in over 250 career areas. Less than 1%

of the nation's population claims farming as their occupation. Some examples of careers that are considered agricultural are:

Agribusiness Management focuses on the managerial functions performed by organizations throughout the food system.

Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications focuses on careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising/marketing.

Building Construction Management focuses on land development and structural buildings.

Agriscience provides a foun-

ation for careers in agricultural and natural resources industries.

Resource Development and Management focuses on policy analysis, planning, evaluation, budgeting, and program management.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources focuses on planning and managing programs, areas, and facilities that are designed to meet people's leisure needs and enhance quality of life.

Packaging focuses on food packaging, health care and pharmaceutical packaging, and industrial packaging.

Agriculture in your child's day

We rely on farmers daily for our food, but did you know there are lots of other everyday items that come from the farm?

Can you count the ways agriculture touches your life? When you wake up in the morning, you're lying on cotton sheets. You swing your feet onto a wood floor, a rug made from the wool of a sheep, or flooring made from linseed or soybean oil. The soap you use in the shower contains tallow (a byproduct of the beef industry), or cottonseed oil or lanolin (a kind of oil from the wool of sheep). The towel you dry off with and the

jeans and T-shirt you put on are made from cotton. You've already used dozens of agricultural products, and you haven't even started eating. You get on your bike and ride on tires reinforced with cotton fibers, or you take a school bus that is fueled with Soybean biodiesel. When you get to the classroom, you open a book held together with glue made from the hide and hair of a cow or a pig and printed with printer's ink made from soybeans. At recess you go outside and play baseball with a wooden bat and a glove made from the hide of a cow. Your base-

ball is made from wool yarn ball is made from wool yarn wound around a cork or rubber core and covered with the hide of a cow.

Well there you have it agriculture feeds us, clothes us, shelters us, helps us get around, helps us play and keeps us clean and well-groomed. It cares for us when we are sick or injured, too. Insulin for diabetics is made from a chemical produced by the pancreas in swine and beef animals, and pig skin is used in skin grafts for burn victims. Milk proteins help make Band-Aids stick.

Agriculture

Z B U O R R I P W J I Q A O W L W N E A
 C X V U R A F U R G F B B U E M N X F I
 C X U C L B V P F E N Q B A R A D R R P
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|--------------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| AGRIBUSINESS | FIBER | HORTICULTURE | MEDICINE | SCAVENGER |
| AGRICULTURE | FOOD | ILLINOIS | PACKAGING | SOYBEAN |
| CAREERS | FORESTRY | INSULIN | POPULATION | SWINE |
| CORN | FUEL | LIFE | RECREATION | WHEAT |
| FARMING | | MARKETING | | WILDLIFE |

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by March 15, 2017 to be entered in our drawing for a agriculture-themed prize.

Slow cooker vegetable beef soup

from Cindyshopper.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1-1 1/2 lb stew meat cut into bite size pieces
- 24 oz thawed frozen mixed Vegetables
- 4 cup diced red potatoes
- 1 large onion, diced
- 15 oz diced tomatoes – do not drain
- 15 oz great northern beans drained
- 32 oz beef broth
- 1 1/2 tsp seasoned salt

- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbs vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS

Season cubed beef with seasoned salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat and brown the beef.

Transfer beef to slow cooker. Add remaining ingredients, stir and cover.

Cook on low for 8-10 hours or high for 4-5 hours.

Test doneness by checking potato to see if it is soft and beef to make sure it is not tough.

Remove bay leaves and serve.



Jokes:

What new crop did the farmer plant? (Beets me!)

What kind of pigs know karate? (Pork chops!)

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

Did you hear the joke about the broken egg? (Yes, it cracked me up!)

Congratulations

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

March holidays:

- Women's History Month
- National Nutrition Month
- American Red Cross Month
- Fire Prevention Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- National Craft Month
- National Frozen Food Month
- NATIONAL PIG DAY – March 1
- Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Birthday) – March 2
- Employee Appreciation Day – March 4
- Pi Day – March 14
- Incredible Kid Day – March 15
- Saint Patrick's Day – March 17
- National Ag Day – March 21

It all started with a pony ride

By Kristi Van Oost



Growing up, children are always asked what they want to be when they grow up. I remember in my elementary school days everyone wanted to be things like police officers, fire fighters, princesses, and doctors. I don't quite remember what my "go to" answer for that question was, but I do remember the moment I fell in love with agriculture. Well ... maybe not all agriculture, as that concept might have been a little too much for my four year old self to comprehend, but that's beside the point.

I was four years old and at a local summer carnival with my grandparents. It was a sunny afternoon in mid-June and I was extra excited, as my two sisters were away at summer camp and the attention of both grandparents was on me. I played games, ate my fill of carnival food, and went on ride after ride with my grandpa while my grandma watched from the sidelines. We had only a few more attractions to see before heading out when I saw it. It was at the very back of the carnival, under a red and white striped tent. With wide eyes my grandpa walked me right over to the tent, handed over the appropriate amount of tickets, and walked me over to the attendant who stood beside a flashy black and white painted pony.

I climbed high up in that saddle, and I was hooked. From

that day on, all I could talk about was ponies and horses and how one day I would own the prettiest one of all.

Naturally, my childhood obsession led to me wanting own anything and everything remotely related to horses: books, posters, clothes, stuffed animals, Breyer ponies ... whatever I could get my hands on. Eventually, I was even able to wear my parents down enough and take riding lessons. I was so excited for my first lesson I almost slammed my finger in the car door on my way into the barn, but that's a story for another time.

When I was going into middle school I moved to the west side of Elgin, which meant I would be going to Burlington Central High School. It was there I discovered, thanks to FFA, that there is so much more to agriculture than just horses. After taking an "introduction to agricultural science" class in high school I was introduced to this huge industry of farms, food, and so much more. From that moment on, I took every possible opportunity to learn more about this wonderful industry called agriculture, taking every single agriculture class offered at Burlington Central High School before graduating.

The choice to further my education in the field of agriculture

KANE COUNTY FARMER

was a no-brainer, and while I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, I knew exactly what industry I wanted to be in. The Agricultural science program at Truman State University only made me fall deeper in love with the industry as a whole, and helped me find how I best fit into the diverse world of agriculture.

Now I am a proud college graduate with a degree in agricultural science, and society might consider me "all grown up." That may be true, and

"growing up" allowed me to pursue the interests I was so passionate about as a child. I am still a horse lover and I recently adopted a pretty black gelding of my very own to fulfill that childhood dream. It is funny to think about how a childhood obsession with fast running animals turned into a passion for all things farms and food, but I wouldn't want it any other way.

One of my favorite days of the year is coming up ... National Ag Day. This is a day

to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. It is on March 21st, 2017 and this year's theme is "Agriculture: Food for Life". This year, I will get to celebrate at Ag Days at Mooseheart, where 4th graders get to experience a little bit of the agriculture industry first hand. Personally, I cannot think of a better place to be. Who knows, maybe I will end up being the reason another young kid discovers the wonderful world of agriculture.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee along with the Central and Kaneland FFA Chapters volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on January 28. The group of 29 repackaged 975 lbs. of Cocoa Puffs, providing 812 meals to be delivered through the Food Bank's 13 county service area, which feeds 71,000 people weekly. KCFB thanks the Kaneland FFA Chapter and the Burlington Central FFA Chapter for assistance in this most important work, feeding our hungry neighbors, something Kane County farmers are engaged in every day!

Photos, clockwise from top right:

Burlington-Central students (l-r) Lexi Head, Krysis Swanson, Elena Chapa and Jake Thompson helped to take the cereal from pallet sized, 400 pound bulk bags and weigh and repackage into more appropriate family size bags before sending plastic totes down the conveyor to a bag sealing area.

FAA members from Kaneland HS (l-r) Maria Rios and Joseph Turk place nutrition labels on the cereal packages before placing them in boxes and on pallets for shipment to one of the scores of local food pantries that utilize the services of the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

A Kaneland student and FFA advisor Brooke Heinsohn work two of the four stations used to place a double seal on each bag of cereal before sending it on to a labeling station.



What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

TODD WILCOX has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for January 2017 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Todd has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance and financial security needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life/Disability/Health/Annuities/Long Term Care, Retirement Planning, Business and Investments. Let Todd's expertise help you! His contact information is: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, 60174; phone 630-762-1326; email todd.wilcox@countryfinancial.com. Congratulations, Todd!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Brian Gunther, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for January 2017. Brian began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2002 and services clients out of his

office located at 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6017

Brian's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Brian!

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

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.

FOR SALE

Ariens Snow Blower, electric start, 5HP, 24" cut, 4 sp forward/2 sp back. Self-propelled. \$300 OBO. Call: 630 997 4306

1953 Model 60 JD tractor, Model 52 plow, trailer. \$3,600 for all 3 items. Please call 630 557 2711

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

WANTED

Will pick up for free unwanted or old snowmobiles, call Jon - Bobcat work & weed mowing; deliveries of dirt, stone, sand & mulch. Call Jon at 630-254-9446

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

CONNECT WITH US



Recycle Scrap for CASH

Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars

Trucking & Dumpster Service Available

"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

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

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

Save for FREE admission
Touch-A-Tractor
April 7, 8 & 9, 2017 - St Charles

Win this GRAND PRIZE 1953 Farmall Super C or a John Deere X350 riding mower or \$2,500 cash

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

Tickets: **\$10 each**
3 / \$25

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

Proceeds benefit KCFB Foundation college scholarships, agriculture education & local FFA chapters.

Drawing 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9, 2017, Touch-A-Tractor at Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. at Oak St., St. Charles, Illinois.
Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all applicable local, state and federal taxes associated with prize chosen.

Name (print) _____
Daytime Phone _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip **335 335**

Get your ticket today.
630.584.8660 or kanecfb.com

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

In accordance with the bylaws of the Kane County Farm Bureau, notice is hereby given to voting members that the following proposed amendments to the bylaws of said association will be voted upon by the Board of Directors of the Association at their Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois. Proposed new language is underlined and language to be stricken is in ~~strikeout~~ format.

Michael J. Kenyon, Secretary
Kane County Farm Bureau

ARTICLE II
Members

Section 1. Member Qualifications

(a) Voting Members. Persons eligible for voting membership in this Farm Bureau shall (1) have a substantial financial interest in the production of agricultural products and be engaged in the production of agricultural products as an owner or operator or be a full-time on farm employee of such owner or operator, or (2) be a natural person employed in an agriculture-related occupation. Persons meeting the qualifications for voting membership above in (1) shall only be eligible for voting membership, except that a full-time on-farm employee of an owner or operator is eligible, at his or her election, for either a voting membership or a non-voting associate membership. Persons meeting the qualifications for voting membership above in (2), but not meeting the qualifications for voting membership in (1), will be eligible, at their election, for either a voting membership or a non-voting associate membership. Persons meeting the qualifications for voting membership in (1) will be referred to as Regular Voting Members. Persons meeting the qualifications for voting membership in (2), and who elect voting membership, will be referred to as Professional Voting Members. Unless otherwise specified, the terms "voting member" and "voting membership" will be used to refer to both Regular Voting Members and Professional Voting Members.

Persons meeting the above criteria and accepting the obligations of voting membership, and upon acceptance by this Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association, shall be voting members with all the rights and privileges of voting membership except: partnerships, corporations, trusts, and other business entities 1) shall not be eligible for Professional Voting Membership, and 2) will not be eligible to hold office or to vote at meetings of members or on any issues submitted to members for their approval. The right to vote or hold office of any member of the voting member class shall be suspended during any period in which he or she is deriving income, other than on an occasional basis, as an employee, agent or independent contractor from this Farm Bureau or the Illinois Agricultural Association. ~~Provided further that the right to vote or hold office of any member of the voting member class shall be suspended during any period in which he or she is a regular full-time employee, agent or independent contractor of any of the Illinois Agricultural Association's affiliated, associated, or subsidiary companies. The right to vote of any member of the voting member class will be suspended during any period in which he/she is a regular full-time employee, agent, or independent contractor of any company controlled by the Illinois Agricultural Association.~~

Persons who have been Regular Voting Members for at least the ten (10) years immediately prior to ceasing to be actively engaged in the production of agricultural products and who are not otherwise gainfully employed to the extent that maximum Social Security benefits are reduced, may continue their voting membership provided they have demonstrated by the length and quality of their service in Farm Bureau and continue to demonstrate their belief in and support of the objectives and purposes of this Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association.

(b) Non-Voting Associate Members. Persons, organizations and business entities who do not qualify as Regular Voting Members and who believe in Farm Bureau as an organization through which farm people and others can think, act and work together and cooperate to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong and prosperous economy in a free America, and who have an interest in bettering the conditions of those engaged in agriculture, improving the grade of agricultural products and developing a higher degree of efficiency in producing agricultural products shall be eligible for non-voting associate membership in this Farm Bureau.

ARTICLE III
The Board of Directors

Section 2. Qualifications. The members of the Board of Directors must be Regular Voting Members in good standing, and must at the time of their election be residents of or have a substantial agricultural interest in the District from which they are elected, and must be eligible to hold office under the provisions of Article II, Section 1 of these By-Laws.

Young Farmer euchre

Young Farmers Euchre Tournament

Members for 18-35 with an interest in agriculture, expanding their social network and meeting with local farmers are welcome to attend the March 24 Young Farmers Euchre Tournament. The event will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau beginning with a brief committee meeting at 6:30 followed by euchre, pizza and snacks with Young Farmers from Kane, Kendall and surrounding county Farm Bureaus. Bring a friend or we'll pair you up with another player.

Farm Bill "work session" on March 15

Kane County farmers can help develop Illinois Farm

Bureau's 2018 farm bill priorities during a work session scheduled for March 15. Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau's director of national issues and policy development, will conduct a series of sessions throughout Illinois beginning this month, with one scheduled for 10 am on Wednesday, March 15 at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Attendees will be provided lunch and asked to discuss what's working/what needs improving in the 2018 farm bill. Considerable time will be spent discussing the commodity title and crop insurance programs. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact KCFB at 630-584-8660.

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 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. These donations will allow the Foundation to provide funding to improve classroom education about food and farming. Names shown are pledges received from January 20 through February 20.



Mike Wurtz



Through Harvest for ALL, KCFB members have contributed the equivalent of nearly 1.75 million meals to local food pantries.

Donor

Craig & Angela Bradley
KCFB Young Farmers

Beneficiary

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northern Illinois Food Bank

KCFB Young Farmers to attend industry tour to Ontario, Canada

Kane County Young Farmers David Marshall of Sugar Grove, Sarah Lenkaitis of St. Charles, Wayne Gehrke and Catherine

Gorenz, both of Maple Park, hope to be part of a group of 40 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders to tour agriculture operations in Ontario, Canada as part of the IFB Young Leaders annual Ag Tour. Both committee members have applied to be part of the program are looking forward to taking a deeper look into Canadian agriculture, including specialty crops, livestock, manufacturing, research facilities and Niagara Falls.

Dates for the tour are July 9-14. If accepted, the Kane County farmers will share their experiences 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.

20/20 & FieldView Skills Class

Join us for our annual 20/20 & FieldView Refresh! During the class, we will review all the basic functions of the 20/20 & FieldView and this year we will also be going over all the new features available in FieldView. It's going to be a great class, you won't want to miss it!

Wednesday, March 22

Call
815-734-6236
today to reserve
your spot!

Class Location:

Pitstick Farms
48W359 Route 64
Maple Park, IL
*Lunch Provided

Don't forget to bring
your 20/20, iPad &
Power Cord!

*power cords will be available for purchase

Class starts at 8:30 a.m.



4098 W. Midtown Rd.
Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-6236
witmerprecision.com



Hungry benefit

(continued from page 2)
most important community service efforts undertaken by Farm Bureau members. Although the U.S. economy is stronger overall compared to several years ago, many Americans still need help securing adequate food for their fam-

ilies the most volunteer hours, 3,292. The California Farm Bureau took top honors for donating the most food in 2016, 15.1 million pounds. Both state organizations received a \$750 grant to donate to a local food bank of their choice or for another Harvest for All project.

The awards were presented during AFBF's FUSION

families have gathered more than 223 million pounds of food, logged more than 121,000 volunteer hours and raised \$7 million in donations.

Locally, Kane County farmers and the Kane County Farm Bureau have contributed the equivalent of more than 1.75 million meals to local food pantries since 2009. The Young Farmers Committee of the KCFB has been recognized as the top contributor to Harvest for All from among Illinois County Farm Bureaus of similar size, every year since 2003. 100% of the monetary donations to the Northern Illinois Food Bank through the KCFB Harvest for ALL program are used to purchase milk, one of the most needed and least frequently donated items, through the Milk 2 My Plate program.

Nursing scholarship application available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be five scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its 25th year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered

Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Peggy Romba, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Peggy Romba at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at promba@iflb.org.

Paint & sip Party at KCFB

Are you a fan of social gatherings that let you express your creative side? Bring your favorite wine to share as we prepare for Touch-A-Tractor in April. Join other KCFB members on **Friday, March 31st** for a "paint & sip" party. We will be painting farm scenes (fields, barns, countryside) on painter's drop cloths to use as photo backdrops at the Touch-A-Tractor farm-city event.

No artistic experience is necessary. Members and non-members alike are welcome to join in the fun. Farm Bureau will provide soft drinks and pizza will come from the Costco next door to fuel the creative juices (or absorb the wine, as the case may be).



Painting starts at 5:30. Please RSVP prior to the event by calling (630) 584-8660 or by emailing Info@kanecfb.com

Help raise scholarship funds, get FREE Touch-A-Tractor admissions with Tractor 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 \$10 each or 3 for \$25 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 2016, over \$20,000 in scholarships & internships were awarded 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 to be drawn at our Touch-A-Tractor event on Sunday, April 9, 2017 can choose between a 1953 Farmall Super C, a CX350 John Deere Lawn Mower, or they can take \$2,500 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 to city event.

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.

Touch-A-Tractor 'wish list'

KCFB is seeking donations of youth sized farm clothing/costumes (plus boots and hats), old kitchen utensils and cooking supplies, 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 for a riding mower "train," and even large round or square hay or straw bales.

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 12th Annual Touch-A-Tractor a success.

"Wish list" items wanted for Touch-A-Tractor

1. Plastic culverts for kids to crawl or walk through will make fun additions to our children's activities center.
2. We are in search of 30 gallon plastic drums that can be used to create a lawn mower powered train for children to ride in at the event.
3. Hay/Straw bales, we are seeking several large bales to add to our touch-a-tractor children's activities area to be used for climbing and recreational purposes. 150 small squares are needed too!
4. Donations of old pots & pans, wooden spoons and the like will be used to make a "percussion string" on a tree in the Farm Bureau lawn. This sound machine is made by hanging pots, pans, and other noise makers from the lower branches of a tree.
5. Farm related youth clothing, boots and hats and other farmed themed items to help with a new addition to the event which allows children to dress up like farmers for a photo-op.

(A sip & paint party will be held at the KCFB on March 31 at 5:30 to paint farm scene backdrops)



KCFB Foundation Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle

Please send me _____ tickets (\$10 each or 3 for \$25)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 **or** charge my _____ Visa _____ MC # _____

Exp _____/_____/_____

Signature _____ Date _____/_____/_____

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

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