

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. 84 NO. 5 MAY 2019

10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE
Support local farms & our neighbors in need.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE
(630) 584-8660

HELP US REACH OUR 10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE GOAL

7,551 gallons –
April 16, 2019

www.kanegives.org/10000

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

Contributions as of April 16 totaled 7,551 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries. To join us on our way to our dairy focused 10,000 gallon hunger relief goal, visit www.kanegives.org/10000. For more information on the initiative, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Popcorn/Kettle Corn below wholesale!



Snow on the final day of Touch-A-Tractor made our popcorn/kettle corn fundraiser a bust, but our loss is your gain. While supplies last, we are selling gourmet CreekStone Kettle Works Sweet, Savory and Premium Popcorns at 1/2 price at the Farm Bureau office. Our prices are below wholesale! In 2.5 to 14 oz. sizes, priced at \$2 for small and \$3-4 for large bags. Get some before it's gone.

KCFB CALENDAR MAY 2019

- 9 Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 13 Travel Tour Preview, 6pm, KCFB
- 14, 15 Defensive Driving Classes, 9am-1pm
- 16 KC Board Ag Committee, 10am, CAB
- 17 Stormwater Exemption Deadline
- 27 Memorial Day – Office Closed

Luck-E calf churns out milk for food pantries

It may be the first time ever that a 3 week-old calf produced milk, but that's essentially what happened at Luck-E Holsteins 50th Anniversary Sale on March 30. The show and sale attracted in-person buyers from around the world, including Australia, England, Germany and Canada, as well as hundreds of others at the show site and hundreds on-line.

The Engel brothers, Matt and Joe, have been selling top quality cows and world class genetics from their farm west of Hampshire in Kane County through private sales for many years now. When they decided last year to have a first-ever auction of cows at the farm this spring, it seemed fitting to bill the Best of Luck-E Sale a "50th Anniversary," as their parents Beth and Dennis Engel entered the business with a wed-

ding gift to one another of a Holstein cow in 1968.

Like their parents, the importance of faith, family, farm and community is evident when you meet the brothers. That extends



Top: This 3 week old calf sold as lot 1 at auction at the Best of Luck-E 50th Anniversary Sale on March 30 to benefit the KCFB Foundation's 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE!

Center: Brothers Joe (l) and Matt Engel take a break at the auction after donating \$1,800 (representing 769 gallons of milk) from the sale of lot 1 to local food pantries through the Northern Illinois Food Bank and KCFB Foundation.

Bottom: Luck-E catalog page.

also to the industry both were brought up in, so they welcomed the opportunity to support the KCFB Foundation's 10,000 Gallon Milk CHALLENGE.

In fact, Joe Engel was part of the group that conceived the hunger relief effort in an open meeting on hunger at the Kane County Farm Bureau last fall. "As foster parents and a Safe Families home, we witness the need for good nutrition for those less fortunate, especially children," said Engel. "This program provides nutritious milk for those less fortunate by supplying milk to food pantries."

The brothers chose the first lot of the sale, a 3 week old calf,

to be auctioned for the CHALLENGE. Like all the cows and calves on the sale, she came from a long line of pedigreed dams and sires. The \$1,800 she brought at the sale was donated to Northern Illinois Food Bank as part of the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE, where it will be applied to the Milk2MyPlate program and will supply 769 gallons of milk to a local food pantry.

The Engels report being happy with the sale results and pleased to partner with the KCFB FOUNDATION to show dairy-men around the world a new means to promote milk and solve hunger. For more information on the CHALLENGE, visit www.kanegives.com/10000.



Touch-A-Tractor brings farm life to the suburbs

Before the snow came, hundreds of families and dozens of faithful volunteers enjoyed a weekend on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau dur-

ing the 14th Annual Touch-A-Tractor in April. Mother Nature challenged visitors this year with a windy Friday, sunshine but below normal temperatures on Saturday and a heavy, wet snow on Sunday. Nonetheless, the family friendly event offered the opportunity to get outside and enjoy activities, learn about agriculture and see how farmers provide food for a growing population, in ALL kinds of weather.

Machinery on display included Allis-Chalmers, Farmall, John Deere and Oliver antique tractors, modern farm tractors from Challenger, Massey Ferguson and John Deere, a 36-row corn planter, a combine and a rare 1912 Port Huron Steam Engine to name a

The dozen or more antique tractors on the lawn are always a hit. A perfect combination of children's imaginations and parent's photo-ops.

Look for more Touch-A-Tractor photos on page 7.

few. Visitors of all ages enjoyed seeing baby chicks, baby lambs, and a calf. Other attractions included carnival style games, a pedal tractor corral, a "culvert crawl," a percussion string, and toy tractor play areas.

Touch-A-Tractor visitors helped raise college scholarship funds for the KCFB Foundation through the Winner's Choice Raffle featuring the choice of a Grand 1966 Ford 100 Truck,

1956 Massey-Harris Model 333 Tractor, or \$3,500 cash prize. To conclude the event, the KCFB Foundation awarded 19 students with scholarships on Sunday, April 14 to assist them in pursuing careers in agriculture.

Our June Kane County Farmer will list all of the prize winners, Scholarship winner and the scores of volunteers that make this event possible. Thanks ALL!



Ag Days Top 5

The most often asked questions from 4th graders about the animals at Ag Days:

- 1 Does that calf have a name?
- 2 How old is he/she?
- 3 What does it eat?
- 4 If a sheep loses a horn, does it grow back?
- 5 How does the chick break out of the egg shell?

See Ag Days story and photos on page 8.

Stormwater exemptions available briefly

Farmers with near future plans for building, farm lot or grain storage expansion are urged to seek exemptions from upcoming Stormwater Ordinance changes. Forms to request exemptions will be available at the Kane County Farm Bureau only until May 17.

The Kane County Stormwater Management Ordinance update will be effective June 1, 2019. With the new requirements in the Ordinance, property owners and farmers will have the opportunity to request an Exemption from the changes to the Stormwater Ordinance (Developments must still meet the 2002 Effective Date Ordinance). Exemption forms will be available at the Farm Bureau office in St. Charles, at Kane County in the Water Resource Department

and within the municipalities that have adopted the Kane County Stormwater Management Ordinance. If your property falls within a Certified Community, the form will need to be filed with that Community. If your Community is not certified, or you are in unincorporated Kane County, the form should be filed with Kane County Water Resources Department. A list of Certified Communities is available on the County's website.

Exemptions must be filed with the Certified Community by May 17, 2019. We want to draw specific attention to small projects with between 5,000 sf-25,000 sf of new surface such as gravel, roof or pavement. Under the proposed revisions, these projects will now require a Best Management Practice such as a

rain garden or infiltration trench. If your project falls within these parameters, we recommend contacting your Community to discuss if the project would be eligible for an Exemption. In Unincorporated Kane County, the majority of projects that fall within this category are pole barns and gravel areas on farm properties.

The draft Ordinance can be viewed and downloaded on the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance website: <https://www.kanecountystormwaterupdate.org/updatedordinance.html>. For more information contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660 or the Kane County – Environmental & Water Resources Division at (630) 232-3499.

Farm Bureau group travel preview May 13

New Farm Bureau Travel Destination for 2020

All aboard! You're invited to join Lindstrom Travel and fellow Northern Illinois Farm Bureau members with this fantastic trip! "Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine" is planned for April 5-15, 2020! It's a beautiful 11 day river cruise. Enjoy a relaxing and inspiring cruise on the romantic Rhine, Europe's longest river. Travel onboard a luxurious river ship, during tulip time, visiting iconic ports of call, sampling incredible cuisine, and absorbing the local culture. PLUS ... FREE AIR-FARE out of Chicago when you book by May 30th, 2019! This is the perfect time to plan ahead.

A Tour Pre-View is scheduled for May 13th at 6 pm. Call Liz at KCFB to RSVP: 630-584-8660.

Farm Bureau & Lindstrom travel also have TWO other tours!

Learn more about our exclusive travel opportunities! Now is the perfect chance to travel and invite your friends to join you!

Pacific Coast Journey – featuring Oregon's Coast and San Francisco Coast (June 22-30, 2019)

California Gold & Wine Country (July 22-27, 2019)

Please call Liz at the KCFB, 630-584-8660 for more information.

2019 FFA Acquaintance Day at the Northern Illinois Food Bank

This year's Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day was a "volunteer night" at the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) in Geneva on April 2. Attendees included FFA members from Kaneland and Central High Schools, Kane County Young Farmers and KCFB staff.

The group heard from Hannah Detloff, NIFB Volunteer Engagement Assistant who shared facts with the group, including 1 in 7 people and 1 in 5 children face hunger in the food bank's service area of the 13 surrounding counties. Last year, the NIFB provided 78.5 million pounds of food, 65.5 million meals, packed by volunteers who donated 136,000 hours of their time. NIFB is able to stretch dollars to feed neighbors because a large percentage of the food they provide is donated, meaning \$1 cash = \$8 in groceries. They serve a network of 800 feeding sites and are one of the biggest in the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks.

The task for the evening was to re-package russet potatoes into 5 pound mesh bags. The

Young Farmers and FFA members formed two assembly lines where bags were weighed, tied, recorded, and transferred to holding bins for distribution.

By the end of the shift, 6,460 pounds of potatoes had been bagged, which equals 5,383 meals for hungry neighbors.

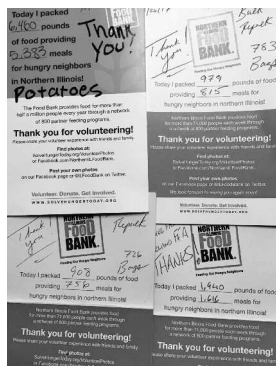
After a group picture, FFA members heard from Carolyn Gehrke, Chairman of the Kane County Young Farmers, who shared information about the Farm Bureau and opportunities for involvement in local, state and national Young Leader programs.



Kaneland and Central FFA members, Kane County Young Farmers, and various volunteers gather for a group shot after their 2 hour shift of re-packaging food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank's hunger relief efforts. The group's competitive spirit showed as each side of packers tried to re-package the bins of potatoes faster than the other.

Volunteer groups at the Food Bank are given thank you cards to record the pounds, bags, boxes and number of meals packaged during their shifts. Those above reveal that these Farm Bureau groups have helped provide 8,570 meals at the past four events by repacking 10,287 pounds of food!

Well done!



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 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019

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

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Sample Packs make great gifts!

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 pledges received from March 16–April 16.



Donor	Beneficiary
Roger & Theresa Biddle, Maple Park	KCFB Foundation
Marguerite Jensen, Wayne	KCFB Foundation
10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE	
Donor	Beneficiary
Kiwanis Club of St. Charles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
John Stewart Elementary	
3rd Grade Students, Elburn	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Elburn Lions Club	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Luck-E Holsteins, Hampshire	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Country Donuts Patrons, Elgin	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Buck Bros Inc. Patrons, Hampshire	Northern Illinois Food Bank

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KCFB Foundation announces 19 scholarship recipients

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will award \$22,500 in college scholarships this year to 19 future Ag industry professionals. After a review of applications, the FOUNDATION Board of Directors has awarded 1 President's Scholarship, 8 general agricultural scholarships and 1 general scholarship. The Foundation also administers the John Buck Memorial scholarships (2), Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, Ruth and Frank Carlson Scholarship and 5

scholarships for AGCO; 2 AGCO Parts Division Scholarships, 2 AGCO GWN Scholarships and an AGCO Platinum Scholarship.

"This year we had one of our best candidate pools ever for our scholarships" said FOUNDATION Vice President Wayne Schneider. "We at Farm Bureau are certainly proud of the number of students who plan on going into agriculture related careers. Our county will be well represented in the future!"

As a not-for-profit entity, the

Foundation solicits and distributes private funding for scholarship, education and leadership training, Ag-in-the-Classroom programs, Ag Literacy, charitable activities and research. The Foundation was established in 1989 by the Kane County Farm Bureau to carry out charitable work in the advancement of agricultural literacy and preparing students for careers in the agriculture industry. In its history, it has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships and internships.

Foundation scholarship applications are submitted by Feb. 15 each year and recipients are announced in April. Prerequisites and more details on scholarship requirements are available at www.kanecfb.com.

K C F B
F o u n d a t i o n
scholars were recognized at a ceremony at the conclusion of Touch-A-Tractor in

April at Kane County Farm Bureau. The Foundation Board extends congratulations to these young leaders of tomorrow and best wishes in their academic pursuits.

The following students received \$1,000 KCFB Foundation Scholarships. Their bios will be included in the June *Kane County Farmer*.

Nathan Nesler	Monica Zimmerman
Shelby Hannula	Abigail DeDina
Elena Chapa	Vanessa Gould
Alexander Turk	Kyla Baldrige
Anastasia Kurth	

Elgin Senior receives President's Scholarship

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation has awarded its \$1,500 President's Scholarship to **Krystine Swanson**. This honor is reserved for the high school senior with the most outstanding combination of scholastics, activities, goals, and ACT score. Krystine's parents are Jerry Swanson and Kathleen Swanson.

Krystine is from Elgin and attends Central High School with plans to attend Colorado State University, majoring in Animal Sciences and minoring in Agribusiness. She has been active in FFA and has participated in volleyball and ice hockey. In addition, she has been involved in community volunteer events for Feed My Starving Children and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Her goals of becoming a large animal veterinarian and to work as a manager or communications liaison for a large agricultural business, farm, or animal hospital will be greatly helped by this KCFB Foundation President's Scholarship.

Austin and Brockmann awarded Buck Memorial Scholarships

Catherine Austin and **Austin Brockmann** have been awarded John Buck Memorial Scholarships. These scholarships will provide \$1500 for tuition and fees for each student, in support of higher education in an agriculture related field.

2019 marks the 18th year since the scholarship was founded, with scholarships being awarded to students in the seven county service area around the Buck Bros./J.W. Turf John Deere dealership in Hampshire. It is made possible by gifts from the family and friends of the late John Buck, who established the company in 1977.

Catherine Austin, daughter of Jeffrey and Linda Austin of Harvard, IL, is currently a freshman at University of Wisconsin, Platteville, working on obtaining a double-major in Agribusiness and Accounting. Currently a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, Catherine was the winner of a KCFB Foundation General Agriculture Scholarship last year. Her achievements include being the Valedictorian of her graduating class, she was a Class of 2018 Illinois State Scholar, received the DeKalb FFA Agricultural Accomplishment Award, and also the Harvard FFA Harry Alten Agricultural Leadership Award among other recognitions.

Austin Brockmann, son of Gary and Vicky Brockmann of Garden Prairie, IL, is attending Rock Valley College to obtain his Associates

Degree. Upon completion, he will attend a university where he hopes to double major in Agribusiness and Agri-Accounting.

Austin has always been very active in academics, sports, and his 4-H and FFA Clubs. 4-H and FFA projects he was involved in were sheep, crops, horticulture, tractors, veterinary science, agronomy, and land use. He also participated in livestock and dairy judging competitions. Winning various awards

AGCO Parts Division Scholarships this year. The AGCO Parts division scholarship was started in 2017 and provides \$1,000 college scholarships annually to students who reside in Illinois and who are pursuing higher education in an agriculture related field. The scholarship is funded by the Employees of AGCO Parts in Batavia, IL.

2 AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships Awarded

Catherine Bend and **Kristen Hoffman** are this year's recipients of AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships.

Catherine (Catie) Bend, daughter of Richard and Erin Bend, graduated in 2018 from Indian Creek High School in DeKalb County and is currently attending the University of Wisconsin in Platteville, majoring in Agricultural Business.

Actively involved in FFA and 4-H in high school, she was both Reporter and President in each of her chapters and won awards and recognition as well as various scholarship. She has been involved in her community with volunteer and teaching opportunities.

Catie grew up on a farm and has been active in agriculture throughout her life. Helping on the farm, hand pollinating corn while working for Monsanto, and working at an insurance agency has broadened her horizons. She hopes to use her public speaking ability to share her knowledge of agriculture with others.

Kristen Hoffman, daughter of Daniel and Jennifer Hoffman, graduated in 2017 from Hiawatha High School in DeKalb County and is currently a junior at Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Business.

She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Agricultural Business Club. This past summer, she participated in a grain internship at Maplehurst Farms Inc. Her upcoming summer plans include working at Compeer Financial in Freeport, IL as a credit intern.

Growing up on a livestock and grain farm, she learned a lot about agriculture from her family. Her plans after graduation include returning to help operate and manage her family farm as well as working in the area connecting with local farmers.

The AGCO GWN Scholarship was started last year and provides a \$1,000 college scholarship annually to each of two female students who reside in Illinois and who are pursuing higher educations in agriculture related fields. The scholarships are funded by the employees of AGCO Parts in Batavia.

Kettelkamp awarded AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship

Erin Kettelkamp, daughter of Karl and Julie Kettelkamp, has been named recipient of the AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship for \$2,500. This

scholarship is awarded to a student who resides in Illinois and who is pursuing higher education in an agriculture related field. The scholarship is funded by the Employees of AGCO Parts in Batavia.

Kettelkamp, a 2013 graduate of Kaneland High School, and currently a Sophomore at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, is working towards her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. In college, she has been involved in many different organizations and groups. As a first year member of the Production Medicine Club, she was hired to be the Vet Med Research Farm Sheep Flock Manager, is now the President of the Illinois Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and has been heavily involved in the FARMS department through the college.

After obtaining her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, Erin's primary goals are to either begin practicing as a production animal veterinarian, or to begin a master's or PhD program involving livestock system health. She looks forward to seeking opportunities to grow in her professional career and guide production management systems to help promote how agriculture works to provide safe and ethical food sources.

Swanson Memorial Scholarship awarded to Jessica Bowgren

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation has named Jessica Bowgren of Maple Park as the recipient of the \$1,000 Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship. Jessica is the daughter of Steven and Gaye Bowgren of Maple Park.

The Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship was established by the family and friends of the former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer to provide awards for students residing in Kane County, pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

Jessica graduated from Kaneland High School in 2017 and has been attending Illinois State University after she gained credits at Iowa State University and Waubensee Community College. She is currently working on a double major in Agri-Business and Agronomy Management.

Involved in FFA and sports in high school, Jessica is now a Kaneland alumni and supporter. In college, she has been active and is the Secretary for Ag Science Club and is the Sisterhood Chair for Sigma Alpha Sorority. Her future plans in the industry aren't determined other than her vision to use her degrees to help those less fortunate in the agricultural community.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

2019 Scholarship recipients



Top row, left to right: Krystine Swanson, President's Scholarship; Catherine Austin and Austin Brockmann, John Buck Memorial Scholarships; Jarret VanAcker, Ruth and Frank Carlson Scholarship; Andrew Gould and Ethan Hoffman, AGCO Parts Division scholarships.

Bottom row, left to right: Catherine Bend and Kristen Hoffman, AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships; Erin Kettelkamp, AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship; Jessica Bowgren, Swanson Memorial Scholarship.

such as the American FFA Degree, Illinois State FFA Star Farmer, Illinois State 4-H Award in Leadership and being on the Rock Valley College Dean's List all are attributed to Austin's desire learn and lead.

First-Ever Ruth & Frank Carlson Scholarship awarded to Hampshire Student

The Ruth and Frank Carlson Scholarship is provided by former Kane County Farm Bureau Director Frank Carlson of St. Charles. This award is restricted to students attending Waubensee Community College, Elgin Community College, or any college/university in the Carlson's home state of Minnesota. It provides funds for higher education in an agriculture related field, with a journalism or communications preference.

Jarret VanAcker is a graduate of Burlington Central High School and is the first recipient of this scholarship. He is attending Elgin Community College and is taking classes and plans to continue his education toward a degree in Agri-Business. Jarret the son of Tim and Trish VanAcker of Hampshire.

Growing up on a farm, Jarret fondly remembers feeding the family's dairy cows and riding tractors with his father. He has participated in community service and hunger relief efforts, football, 4-H and FFA and still retains a small herd of dairy cows in which he cares for. His future plans include a degree in agriculture and to use his entrepreneurial spirit for a career in the industry.

2 AGCO Parts Division Scholarships awarded to Kane & DeKalb County Applicants

Andrew Gould and **Ethan Hoffman** have been awarded

Andrew (Drew) Gould is a 2018 graduate of Kaneland High School and son of Chris and Dana Gould of Maple Park. He is currently attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is working towards obtaining a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Technical Systems Management.

In high school, Drew was very active in many organizations. He was Farm Manager and President in Kaneland's FFA chapter, was a Student Ambassador for the DeKalb Area Pork Producers, and was Vice-President of his 4-H club. He is currently in the Naval ROTC and has plans for graduation as a commissioned officer.

Drew is eager to execute his professional, academic, and career goals which include working and managing his family's farm.

Ethan Hoffman is a senior at Hiawatha High School and son of Dan and Jennifer Hoffman of Kingston in DeKalb County. He will attend Kishwaukee College in the fall to gain additional knowledge in the business and technology side of agriculture.

Active in FFA, sports such as basketball, baseball, and football, Ethan's spare time is spent helping out in the community through church, VFW and Sons of American Legion dinner and volunteering for hunger relief.

Growing up on a livestock and grain farm, he is familiar with caring for nursery pigs and growing crops such as corn and soybeans. To gain further firsthand knowledge, he managed his own 15-acre plot of land. He was in charge of renting, planting, growing, and harvesting his crops. He has also explored new technology for use on his family's farm and hopes to contribute as well to the surrounding community.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



An Ode to Suzi in the Spring

By Genevieve Braun (my Mom)

An egg of blue,
Shell of chalk white, too—
A bouquet of dandelions—
Spring and Sue.

There'll always be eggs of blue—
Shells of chalk white, too:
A bouquet of dandelions—
Spring—
But grown-up Sue.

You know my basement (that if you know me at all) is a constant work in progress? Well, as I was looking through one of the many “sort” boxes, I found this poem written about me by my Mom many years ago. So many years ago that I still spelled my name with a Y instead of an I and I was capable of permitting someone to call me the dreaded “Sue.” Believe it or not, it was published in the Elgin Courier News in a column by Marcella Hooe Alexander.

KANE COUNTY FARMER

So what has changed in those decades? I still collect robin eggshells that I find lying around, I still collect dandelions to add some color on my kitchen table, and I still love spring.

I remember many excursions to a nearby park with a meandering creek for a picnic lunch or simply playing in the water. Those were the days when Lord’s Park had the zoo, complete with the bear to keep our attention focused for a long time. That stream is still there and my grandkids have all spent hours by and in it playing.

My parents also took us out in the “woods” to explore and to freely run around. Once, I remember, we happened upon a bull in a pasture ... did we ever

run! Climbed a tree and watched him act out his anger until he finally left. Needless to say, we never made that mistake again.

Today, we have so many different birds than we did back then. A trip to Walton Island in Elgin was a time of Mallard Duck watching ... that was it for birds, nothing but Mallards. Thanks to a cleaner Fox River, we now have Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Cormorants, and more.

My love of nature and all the many components of it, still is a huge factor in my life. I still like to wander through the woods, go birding (which I’m terrible at), explore, and learn. Now I have my kayak, which helps in my exploring the river, finding

peace as I float back after paddling against the current. Amazing how much faster it is to go WITH the current, than against it. But, to only have one car, is a necessity for transportation purposes.

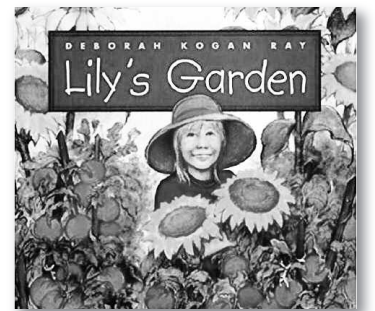
So, the last line of Mom’s poem is true ... all things are still there in nature, plus, thankfully, more, but I am now the grown-up Sue (Suzi). If you see me out enjoying our natural world, come talk to me and we can share our “wonders” of the day. (Yes, I am still finding the wonder in my life, as per my New Year’s word of the year pledge.) Enjoy this marvelous spring with all its wonders, both old and new.

Book of the month

In January, Lily got a box of oranges from her grandparent who had just left Maine to live in California. She thinks about the quiet time of Maine’s growing season and the ability to pick oranges in January. Throughout the year, she and her grandparents correspond about what is happening in Maine. The book takes the reader throughout a year’s cycle of planting and harvesting. Tidbits of knowledge are given to Lily

by her grandparents about gardening. Each page also has a bit of information to supplement the text, including some recipes.

If you find this book to be of interest, it is available for loan from our library here at the Kane County Farm Bureau. The library, which was the concept of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn and later supported by the Bob Konen family is full of books for young and old, concerning agriculture.



Lily's Garden by Deborah Kogan Kay

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau,

At Northern Illinois Food Bank, our vision is for no one to be hungry in northern Illinois – and with YOUR help, we are making that vision into a reality.

By volunteering on Thursday, March 1st, Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers was able to create an incredible social impact by helping process 3,865 pounds of potatoes, providing 3,220 meals for our hungry neighbors in northern Illinois! With your amazing help, we are one step closer to reaching our goal of providing 75 million meals by the year 2020.

We truly hope you had an awesome experience with us and will be visiting us again! Please share your experience with your family members and friends, so they can join in on the fun as well. Feel free to post any photos you have on our social media accounts. You may tag us and use #helpie so we can see all of your fun photos.

Thank you so much for making a huge difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors. We look forward to seeing you again!



Ms. Christine Zollers' 3rd Grade Class at Kaneland John Stewart Elementary was excited to help raise funds for Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE! (l-r) Veronica Van Dusen, Addie Jensen, Makayla Jonutz, and Ty Laczynski proudly hold the milk jugs they used to collect change to provide 27 gallons of milk for the Countryside Food Pantry in Elburn. Thank you and congrats!

Fun on a Friday night—Young Farmers Euchre tournament

This year’s Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Euchre Tournament was a hit with 20 participants from both Kane County and McHenry County.

The evening began with a brief meeting, 11 Young Farmers attending. Reports from several recent conferences and classes including ALOT, the Young Leader Industry Tour to New Mexico and Texas, and AFBF FUSION in Milwaukee were given by attendees. New Business included ideas for a Summer Tour for the current group as well as other FB

members, ages 18-35, who are actively engaged in the agriculture industry; and upcoming events like the Luck-E Holsteins 50th Anniversary Sale and Touch-A-Tractor, both of which Young Farmers are encouraged to actively participate.

Pizza, snacks, and Euchre lessons followed the meeting and the competition began just before 8pm. The room was abuzz as each team tried to out play the other. When the dust settled, Mike Bohlin and Andy Lenkaitis had won with 31 points.

The Kane County Master Gardeners are available Monday - Friday from 10 am to 2 pm. They can be reached by phone at 630-584-6166, or in the Master Gardener office at the University of Illinois Extension office at 535 S. Randall Road in St. Charles. Questions also may be sent via email to uiemg-kane@illinois.edu.



Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
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Agency Manager
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|  Todd Wilcox
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630-762-1326 |  Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245 |  Gary Bolger
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Contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative today!



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

HERBS



BASIL OREGANO PARSLEY

Fresh and preserved herbs add pizzazz

Fresh herbs add pizzazz to any meal. You can enjoy your garden-fresh herbs all year with one of several easy techniques. Whatever method you choose, be sure to harvest herbs after the flower buds appear but before they open. That way, you'll be sure to get the highest concentration of essential oils. Early morning is the best time to pick

your herbs, after the morning dew has evaporated but before the sun gets too hot.

Freezing

Freezing preserves essential oils, and it's the oils that give herbs their flavor. Freezing herbs is easy. There's no need to blanch them; just rinse, remove the leaves from the stems and let them dry on a flat tray.

You can then put a bunch of these leaves together in a bag and freeze them. You'll end up with a clump of herbs that you can cut up and add to sauces, soups, etc.

Or you can freeze the leaves individually first on a flat tray (like a cookie sheet) and then place them in a plastic bag; when you open the bag later, you can pick out as many individual leaves as you like.

Another great method is to blend the herbs with oil to make

a paste, which you can then freeze in a plastic container, bag or in ice cube trays. You can freeze just one kind of herb, such as basil, or make your own blend, such as oregano, thyme, parsley and sage.

Drying

Some herbs, such as oregano, sage and thyme, can be air-dried. Just hang small bunches in a well-ventilated room, away from light. When leaves are dry, remove them from their stems and store in an airtight jar.

Unless you live in a very arid climate, herbs such as basil and parsley, which have thick, succulent leaves, are better dried in a dehydrator.

Once dry, store them in an airtight container.



Rosemary – On a cold, wintry day, the earthy fragrance from a few crushed rosemary leaves can transport you to warmer climes. The needled leaves are among the must-add herbs to chicken, pork, lamb, soups, potatoes and olive oil. It's also delicious in tomato and cream sauces. Snip 1-4" sprigs and toss into soups, or strip the leaves and mince. Rosemary tolerates hot, sunny, dry locations in the summer months, but prefers cooler temperatures (40 to 65 degrees F) in the winter, as long as the light is strong.

Thyme – The versatile flavor of thyme – and its many varieties – make it a key ingredient in nearly every cuisine of the world. Its tiny leaves and trailing stems give it natural houseplant appeal, too. Pot thyme in a fast-draining soil mix and place it in a warm, sunny window. Water when the surface of the soil is dry, but don't let it wilt.

Use scissors to snip off individual leaves or give the whole plant a "crew cut" to keep floppy leaves tidy. Leave at least 2" of growth so that plants can resprout. Start with a purchased plant and pot it in rich, organic soil. Chives grow best in bright light, such as a south-facing window.

oregano – A must for Italian, Mexican, Central American and Middle Eastern cuisines, oregano is member of the mint family. Strip the leaves from snipped stems and add to tomato sauces, meat, casseroles, soups and stews. The dried leaves are more pungent than fresh. Water when the surface of the soil is dry, but don't let it dry out. Give the plants moderate to strong light.

Parsley – Choose curly or flat-leaf, but do give one a place in your kitchen garden. More than just a garnish, parsley adds bright color and flavor to soups, salads and fresh sauces. It's essential in tabbouleh, and delicious in pesto, stuffing, chicken, fish and vegetable dishes. Harvest individual leaves by pinching stems off near the base. Grow in a deep pot with rich, organic potting soil and provide strong light.

The best herbs to grow indoors

Basil – A critical herb for cuisines around the world and a favorite pairing for tomatoes, basil is easy to grow indoors. Pinch off individual leaves and add to salads, sandwiches and sauce. Plant seeds or purchase small plants and pot them in rich, organic potting soil. Basil loves heat and bright light, so give it a southern or western window or use a grow light. Avoid cool, drafty spots, especially in the winter. Basil is not a long-term houseplant. You can expect to keep and use it for several weeks, until the stems start to grow woody. To ensure a steady supply, plant a new batch of seeds every few weeks.

Chives – The spiky leaves of this onion-flavored herb add a mild kick to eggs, soups, and salads, and make pretty garnishes.



Herb Salt

Makes about 2 cups

Keep a small container of this secret ingredient next to your stove and use it in savory recipes to replace plain salt. This is a clever way to use of the dregs in those aging jars of dried herbs in the cupboard and add a tasty seasoning to your food at the same time.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups coarse sea salt
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. dried rosemary
- 1 tsp dried sage
- 1 tsp dried summer savory



- 1 tsp dried tarragon
 - 1 tsp dried thyme
 - 1/2 tsp dried lavender.
- Pulse the salt and herbs in a food processor until the herbs are crushed. Transfer to an airtight container. May be stored indefinitely at room temperature.

Recipe thanks to: *From the Cook's Garden* by Ellen Ecker Ogden

Did you know?

Lavender helps you relax, helps you sleep

oregano fights viruses and bacteria like antibiotics do

Mint gets rid of gas and stomach aches and helps you relax and rest

The tops of **parsley** are eaten fresh to get rid of bad breath.

Mint can be used for making tea. You can also use the leaves in fruit salads

Ancient Romans were under the impression that eating **thyme** or bathing in it would protect one from being poisoned.

In the Victorian era, **thyme** became associated with finding fairies. Children would hide near patches of thyme in the woods, hoping to catch a glimpse of the magical creatures.

Congratulations

Mike Desjardine of Aurora! His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. In honor of the spring season, a varied grouping of Dandelion themed products will be awarded to him. Thank you, Mike, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Herbs

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

- BASIL
- BOUQUETS
- CHIVES
- CILANTRO
- DILL
- DRYING
- FREEZING
- GARDEN
- GREEK
- HERBALISM
- HERBS
- INDOOR
- KITCHEN
- LAVENDER
- LEAVES
- MEDICINE
- MINT
- OREGANO
- PARSLEY
- PLANTS
- ROSEMARY
- SAGE
- TARRAGON
- THYME

May is ...

- Lupus Awareness Month
- National Barbecue Month
- National Bike Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- National Salad Month

Weekly Celebrations:

- Nurse's Week – first full week of month
- Wildflower Week – week two
- National Bike Week – third week
- National Police Week – third week of month
- Emergency Medical Services Week – fourth week of month
- 1 May Day
- 2 Brothers and Sisters Day
- 4 Kentucky Derby Day – first Saturday in May
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 6 National Nurses Day
- 7 National Teacher's Day – Tuesday of first full week of May
- 8 School Nurses Day – the Wednesday during Nurse's Week
- 12 Mother's Day – second Sunday in May
- 17 National Bike to Work Day – third Friday of month
- 18 Armed Forces Day – third Saturday of month
- 27 Memorial Day – last Monday of month.

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by May 15, 2019 to be entered in our drawing for a herb themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

Spring Bluff Farm celebrating 175 years

After 175 years, Spring Bluff Farm is still running and still in the hands of the Norris family. Spring Bluff Farm, purchased by Matthew Norris in 1844, is located in Blackberry Township on Norris Road in Kane County. Its name is a reference to the gravel kames left by glaciers thousands of years ago, at the base of which was found a natural spring water seep. Registered in the Kane County Historic Registry, the 1870's Italianate style farm house is inhabited by the sixth and seventh generation descendants of Matthew Norris.

As all farms in the 1800's, our ancestors had to be self-sufficient. There were many

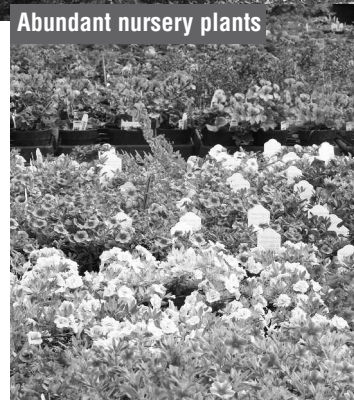
mouths to feed and that meant sustenance farming for the family, hired hands, and livestock. Every farm needs some income,

something the descendants continue to this day. Don and his wife Marna had 10 children together. In the early 1970's, they decided to put all those free hands to good use and started an egg business. With over 5,000 chickens to take care of, there was no shortage of work to do. For many years eggs were delivered to homes in Aurora, Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles. Eggs fell out of fashion sometime in the 1970's, causing price to bottom out. It was time for a new endeavor!

The next manifestation of Spring Bluff Farm was as a nursery. In 1979 brothers Tim and Ken Norris created Spring Bluff Nursery. Now managed by Tim, wife Sue and their son Henry Norris (seventh generation), they are celebrating both 175 years as a family-run farm and 40 years in business as a nursery. Where once was grown oats and hay, now can be found trees, shrubs, a garden center, and veggie gardens. From full service, the family has continued to diversify and innovate through the generations. Spring Bluff Farm will have a 175/40 year open-house celebration on June 8th. More details will be available soon on the website: springbluffnursery.com.



1870's farm house



Abundant nursery plants

and so the early Norris' produced cash crops of oats, corn, hemp, hay, and livestock.

When Don Norris (fifth generation) returned from WW2, he took over the operation from his father Warren. Much of the work was still done using horses, but tractors soon took prominence. Don started planting pine trees on some of the eroded fields, leading to a small operation of cut your own Christmas trees –

What's New in the Country Agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

DONNA TONOVITZ has been named the Agent of the Month for March 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Donna has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Donna's expertise help you! You may reach Donna at 630-549-7694, donna.tonovitz@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/donna.tonovitz/>. Congratulations, Donna!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for March 2019. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6900

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

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Lulu Medina! Lulu has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since January of 2017. Her office is located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora and she may be reached at 630-449-0910. Thank you, Lulu, for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Lulu Medina

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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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

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1999 Ford XLT 150 pickup loaded. 130 k, auto V-8. New 7.5 ft plow. Cap-Aluminum wheels. (Estate Sale). \$5,500. Call:630-334-2509

John Deere 400 Lawn Tractor. Power steering, 20 HP kohler automatic snow blower. Plow, cab with lights/wipers, disc, 60" mower-3 pt. Pull cart. \$5,500. Call:630-334-2509

2000 Jeep Cherokee 4X4 Limited, leather. All power, no rust. \$6,500. Call: 630-334-2509.

1946 John Deere H. Electric start and lights, PTO, power lift, fenders. Rebuilt motor, many NOS parts, new tires. Mostly painted, needs completion. Call Richard: 847-361-4578

Not to be missed! Calling all teachers for KCFB's Summer Ag Institutes

Once again, Kane County Farm Bureau has two exciting and educational classes planned for area teachers this summer. This is an excellent opportunity to earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University, as well as gather lots of lessons to take back to the classroom. Learn through hands-on experiences and meet farmers for first-hand knowledge of today's agricultural best practices.

Summer Ag Institute I is scheduled for 6 days: June 10-14 as well as June 17, earning 3 graduate credits or 45 continuing education hours.

Our very popular summer class is a 6 day long look at the many different facets of agriculture in Kane County. This is your chance to tour local farms, have time to speak with individual farmers, tour agri-businesses, see how agriculture affects your daily life, and network

with other teachers. Discuss and become knowledgeable about GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, and other hot topics.

Summer Ag Institute II is scheduled for June 25-28 with the theme "Hungry Planet", earning 2 graduate credits or 30 continuing education hours.

A 4 day event focusing on Our Hungry Planet is being offered this summer to graduates of any year's SIA I class. The class is being held Tuesday, June 25 through Friday, June 28. This is your chance to visit farms and businesses with the emphasis on how we are going to be able to feed 9 billion people by 2050. Possible sites include technological sites and agricultural businesses.

Please contact Suzi Myers at aitc@kanecfb.com or 630-584-8660 for more information about the Summer Ag Institutes or to register.



Kane County Farm Bureau's Summer Ag Institutes are an excellent opportunity for teachers to learn about many aspects of agriculture and obtain ideas and lessons to take back to their students, after all, it all starts in the classroom, just like this picture depicts. Teachers then take tours of working farms and learn about agriculture directly from farmers. There are two institutes offered – the first is open to anyone, and the second is open to graduates of the first class.

REED'S GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Public Auction

Estate of Robert & Alyce Konen

Saturday May 18th 2019

Start time: 10:00am-ish Sharp

Located at: 40W839 Norris Rd.
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Rain or Shine

Items featured in this auction may include: 1965 Chevrolet Malibu SS Convertible, 1978 Honda 750 motorcycle, go cart, trailers (3), Craftsman 18" rototiller, log splitter, Trac Vac yard vacuum, Furniture, house hold items, tools, equipment, collectibles, toys, antiques, plus much much more

No Bidder's Premium

For additional information and pictures please visit:

www.auctionzip.com

Auctioneer I.D. # 23035

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A tale of two Touch-A-Tractors

1. The “entrance gate” at Touch-A-Tractor was flanked by not one, but two mid-1960’s Ford pickup trucks. In the foreground, a 1966 Ford 100, a Grand Prize choice in the 2019 KCFB Foundation “Winner’s Choice” Raffle and in the background, a 1965 model, won in last year raffle. Thanks to last year’s winner, Sam Heitz of St. Charles, for bringing it out for the event.



2. Employees from AGCO Parts, Batavia manned kids games on the lawn including this bag toss for kids to win prizes like lollipops, farm animal masks and potted herbs for the parents.



3. Children (and some parents and grandparents) took advantage of the opportunity to climb into the cab of giant tractors like this Challenger 1042 at Touch-A-Tractor (left) and onto the seat of smaller models like this Massey-Ferguson (foreground).

4. Like the proverbial cheese, the “Welcome” sign at Touch-A-Tractor stood virtually alone on a cold, snowy Sunday, the final day of the 3 day weekend.

5. One combine, no waiting. Saturday at Touch-A-Tractor saw a constant line of children ready to climb the ladder and sit in the cab of this John Deere combine, and similar lines for the Sprayer and Tractors. The late spring snow on Sunday brought an end to that.



6. Among the few brave souls to make it out for the final day of Touch-A-Tractor were these twin boys, who were surprised by the animatronics on this Farmall H, which made it sound like it was starting and running, and even blaring country music from a hidden speaker. The tractor was built by Goebbert’s Pumpkin Patch near Hampshire, and transported to the event to surprise and entertain children.

7. Benjamin Slosan of Batavia drops a ticket into a bag in hopes of winning a Case IH Magnum tractor in the \$1 bucket raffle at Touch-A-Tractor.



8. KCFB FOUNDATION scholars assembled at a ceremony concluding the 2019 Touch-A-Tractor event at Kane County Farm Bureau on April 14. Although many recipients are away at school and weren’t able to attend, 6 scholars were present for the ceremony as well as many parents. Pictured from left to right: Vanessa Gould, Shelby Hannula, Kyla Baldrige, Nathan Nesler, Catherine Bend and Jarrett VanAcker.

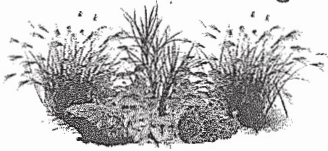


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Growing To Serve You Better

Locally grown food producers – complete a needs assessment survey & receive \$50

The County of Kane is conducting a needs assessment and survey of the County’s locally grown food farmers. The Kane County Development and Community Services Department, through its Growing for Kane Initiative, would like to ensure that future planning projects and program services are designed to reflect the needs of food producing farmers. The assessment includes a \$50 payment to any Kane County food farmer who completes a survey (one survey per farm operation).

“Our community of farmers, has been immensely engaged and supportive of previous planning and program efforts to build a healthy and accessible local food system,” said Matthew Tansley, Kane County Planner. “Many participated in various Growing for Kane initiatives, including the Food Hub Feasibility Study and the more recent Fresh & Local Rx program. The Growing for Kane Report and Ordinance, approved in 2013 by the County Board, provide the justification and direction for Kane County to support efforts such as these, aimed at increasing production of locally grown foods and improving channels of access to healthy, local foods within our

communities.”

The Food Hub Feasibility Study, completed in 2016, demonstrated a significant market opportunity for aggregating local produce from Kane County farmers and selling it to regional buyers. Following an operator search, the food hub was launched in 2018 as the distributor for a pilot project called The Fresh & Local Prescription Program, which delivered fresh produce to patients at Rush Copley Hospital. Food hub operator, Dream Hub, is pursuing new opportunities to supply institutional buyers with locally grown foods during the 2019 season.

“Moving forward we hope to refine and improve the support opportunities offered to farmers through the Growing for Kane initiative. To do so we are interested in learning more about the challenges and obstacles faced by Kane County farmers in achieving their farm goals,” said Tansley. “We are conducting this farmer needs assessment to determine what types of programs, training, and services the County can provide to support their operations. We are working with our consulting partner, New Venture Advisors (NVA), to conduct interviews and surveys of

farmers in order to develop recommendations in this area.”

Food farmers can participate in this brief 15-20 minute survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K5C3ZFF> or by calling Tansley at 630-232-3493. Respondents will receive a \$50 check for completing the survey. The check will be made payable from the County’s non-profit partner, Seven Generations Ahead. Information from this survey will shape the types of services provided to farmers in the County, and all are encouraged to share the survey link with any Kane County farmer networks. Respondents have the option to answer the survey anonymously, but a name and mailing address is required to receive the \$50 check. Please only fill out one survey per farm operation. The survey will close on Monday May 6th.

In consideration of business operators, all individual survey responses will be kept confidential upon request. In the survey please mark that your responses include “proprietary, privileged, or confidential information” which will ensure that no information identifiable to your farm/business be made public.

AG DAYS 2019

Farms and Food info for 4th graders

Ag Days is only possible through a generous outpouring of time, talents and energy by dozens and dozens of volunteers. We've expressed our appreciation to as many of them as possible by name below and apologize to anyone we've overlooked.

Bruce Nagel
Grant Baldrige
Ty Vaughan
Christian Thurwanger
Brooke Heinsohn
Tracey Sanderson
Larry Kohsche
Aurora Grivetti
Dante Ngiramoai
Spencer Brown
Ryan Behrens
Allison Ryan
Maddie Noble
Melinda Fox
Devlin Hicks
Mason McKee
Noah Badal
Rebekah Behrens
Cheryl Strathmann
James Kennedy
Flo Dangelo
John Verner
Sandy Mullin
Dave Casteel
Kyla Baldrige
Zack Beatty
Dylan Rosenwinkel
William Huber
Hannah Garbacz
Jack Yore
Shelby Hannula
Sarah Baerenklau
Madi Tegtman
Maria Rios
Katie Voikening
Susannah Baldock
Mary Diehl
Paul Diehl
Angie Snow

Dezeri DeRaedt Jr.
Harry Patterson
Luen Khaw
Maggie Klein
Dan Klein
Joseph Coleman
Dan Buck
Dalton Johnson
Julia Barickman
Amanda Forrest
Meredith Bend
David Oest
Daniel Kempf
Sally George
Cheryl Hackbarth
Judy Caffey
Marija Maretic
Holly Klatt
Doris Braddock
Elizabeth Hagan-Moeller
Patrick McPartlan
Jen Schroder
Lorayne Hrejsa
Mary Hanson
Laura Hanson
Beth Gehrke
Kyle Johnson
Colleen Hogan
Chase Bornemann
Darin Butler
Natasha Lewis
Sarah Lenkaitis
Linda Drendel
Wayne Schneider
Katherine Aguirre
Lauren Head
Jenna Peters
Matthew Ganziano
Kyle Moring

Jake Lenschow
Britney Boah
Tommy Zehl
Jason Rodman
Madi Figurski
Abby Sanders
Mikayla Peters
Sophia Battaglia
Emily Delgado
Reika Hallett
Buddy Haas
Ryan Robinson
Mike Dienst
Chris Wolak
Julie Raffatt
Bret Juliano
Denise Morin
Jackie Robleto
Frank Hutchinson
Maria Hutchinson
Alice MacCallan
Mike Pappas
Jim Reynolds
Mary Elleuaid
Jan Rose
Zakh Gousios
Pam Gustafson
Elizabeth G
Linda Lood
Christopher Wood
Madison Solomon
Bryan VanBogaert
Bonnie Torres
Helen Snyder
Ashley Curran
Luke Allen
Davis Dunham
Helen Bauer
Julie Ashton

KANE COUNTY FARMER

Fourth grade classes from throughout Kane County converged on Mooseheart Fieldhouse in March at Kane County Farm Bureau's 36th Annual Ag Days. Guided by Farm Bureau volunteers and their teachers, they learned about agriculture at 24 learning stations. Topics included fiber, soybeans, farm safety, history of farming, farm machinery, where our food comes from – bees, dairy, vegetables, 4-H, beef, soil and water, vermicomposting, healthy eating, apples, GPS-guided farming techniques, and poultry. Short presentations by local farmers, representatives from Ag businesses and organizations, and local FFA and 4-H members gave the kids a memorable experience.

Among the farm themed lessons was "Dairy." This year, Sarah Lenkaitis of Lenkaitis

Holsteins and Linda Drendel of LinDale Holsteins spoke about the nutritional value of dairy, what products are made from milk, and all about the dairy farms they run. The students asked questions about the cows, what they eat, and how they are cared for. Besides the Dairy station, Lenkaitis Holstein's provides a Holstein calf for the students to observe, which is always a hit! "Ag Days is a great opportunity to give students a peek into the diversity of Kane County Agriculture. Because most of them have never been to a dairy farm, I do my best to bring the farm to them through photos I share and storytelling," said Sarah.

Harry Patterson, a bee-keeper and long-time teacher with a Master's in Outdoor Education, has been a presenter at Ag Days

for over a decade. Students learned the importance of bees as pollinators and honey as a food source. Harry shared, "I enjoy coming and seeing all of the students because at the end of each day, it feels good to provide a direct learning experience to these 4th graders. Some teachers also approach me for the opportunity to visit their classrooms, which allows me to spend more time educating them."

Hinckley Big-Rock FFA Advisor, Tracey Sanderson, said the event has been a great opportunity for her high school students to volunteer and build skills. "This is their moment to shine!" she said. "They are able to show their skills in leading a group, give polished presentations, and be pivotal in answering questions the students might have."



Photos, left to right:

Dan Klein and daughter Maggie tag team to identify the vegetables they grow on their farm near Burlington and how each provides valuable nutrition to keep students healthy. They are the second and third generation from Klein's Farm Stand to present to 4th graders at Kane County Farm Bureau's Ag Days

How much do you know about Embryology? Ask Elgin area farmer Beth Gehrke and she can tell you all about baby chicks and their lifecycle. Shown here, she explains the 21 day development process and how baby chicks break through the shell. 4th Grade students were fascinated!

Aurora Grivetti, FFA member and Hinckley-Big Rock student spoke to each 4th grade class about the John Deere combine how it is used during harvest season "combined" the operations of gathering and separating (threshing). Students asked questions about the corn head, the height of the stalks that are left, and even how much a combine costs! They were definitely surprised.

Winner's Choice Raffle drawing—the countdown begins

The drawing for the 2019 Winner's Choice Raffle is getting closer and closer by the day! By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2019 Winner's Choice Raffle, you are supporting Ag in the Classroom learning and scholarships for students with agriculture-focused studies, helping to secure abundant food sources for everyone in the future.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn on July 21, 2019, at 3pm during the Kane County Fair. Winners can choose a red and white vintage 1966 Ford F100 OR a 1956 Massey-Harris Model 333 Tractor, OR \$3,500 cash. Second prize is \$500 in groceries and third prize \$500 in fuel.

Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles), from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2, with VISA or MasterCard at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

The KCFB Foundation has provided local students over \$500,000 in tuition assistance. 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.



Winners Choice Raffle • KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$20 each or 3 for \$50)

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 Discover # _____ Exp. / / _____

Signature _____ Date / / _____

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