

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 88 NO. 5 MAY 2023

Drive thru BBQ's for KCFB Foundation

KCFB Foundation is teaming up with Fay's Finest Foods of Waterman to offer its members and the public a convenient and delicious way to raise money for our college scholarships and agricultural literacy program efforts.

Foundation fundraisers scheduled for second Thursdays May-October

KCFB Foundation/ Fay's BBQ Drive-Thru Fundraisers 2023

**May 11, 25
June 8, 22
July 13, 27
Aug 10, 24
Sept 14, 28
Oct 12**

At Kane County
Farm Bureau, Randall Rd.
at Oak St., St. Charles

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 110th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2022, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Chris Collins,
Secretary

KCFB CALENDAR MAY 2023

- 1 SAI registration opens
- 11 Board of Directors, 7pm
- 11 KCFB Foundation – Fay's Drive-Thru Pork-Chop or Chicken BBQ dinner (4-7)
- 18 Kane County Board Ag Committee, 10 am, Kane Co. Gov't. Center
- 25 Fay's Drive-Thru Pork-Chop or Chicken BBQ dinner (4-7)
- 29 Memorial Day – office closed
- 31 SAI registration closes
(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

Our kickoff begins Thursday, May 11th on the parking lot at the Farm Bureau on Randall Road in St. Charles.

From 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., drive-thru diners can choose from 3 meals at \$18 each (if paid in advance), a 2 pork chop meal; or 2 chicken quarters; or a 1 pork chop, 1 chicken quarter combo. All meals will come with baked beans, coleslaw, apple sauce, a roll and butter.

The Farm Bureau parking lot will be set-up for fast and convenient drive-thru service, order for the entire family! Meals will also be available on a limited basis for drive-ups without a reservation at a slightly higher, \$19.00 price.

All sales will benefit the KCFB Foundation and meal reservation and pre-payment is encouraged. To reserve your meals and pre-pay, return the form on page 6 or call KCFB at 630-584-8660.

Summer Ag Institutes in June

What happens on Illinois farms? Why? And Who is behind it all? These questions and more will be answered in a "behind the barn doors", teachers-only tour of Kane County farms and food businesses in early June. Tours will include specialty crop, dairy and grain farms, a nursery and a distillery, and more. Teachers may even get the chance to drive a combine!

The 4-days of events kick-off on Monday, June 5 at 8 am at Kane County Farm Bureau in St Charles where farm, food and environment lesson plans and classroom resources will be shared by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom as well as hands on agricultural activities and presentations. On day 2 (Tuesday, June 6) and day 3 (Wednesday, June 8), teachers will board a bus early in the morning at the Farm Bureau for visits to area farms, nurseries, and local businesses where they will receive "behind the barn

doors" tours from the farmers and business owners. The final day will include "classroom

hear from commodity speakers in the field of agriculture.

The cost for teachers is only \$30 (refundable upon completion) for KCFB members, and \$30 which includes a one year KCFB membership for non-members. Space is limited for K-12 teachers. Those who participate will receive 30 Professional Development Units from the Kane County Regional Office of Education for each full day of attendance. Two college graduate credits are available for an additional (\$205) fee through St. Francis University (course ID# REAL694D).

Registration deadline is May 31 at 4 pm. For more information or to register and save your seat for this KCFB Summer Ag Institute, contact Kelcee Miller at 630-584-8660 or aite@kanecfb.com or visit www.kaneroe.org under Upcoming Events or Professional Learning register.



Registration deadline is May 31st
\$30 (refundable upon completion for KCFB teacher members). Participants will receive 30 PD Units for each full day of attendance.
Two college graduate credits are available for an additional fee.

time to reflect on experiences and tour sites and discuss how to turn those experience into classroom learning as well as



KCFB, KC Cougars & summer fun

Kane County Farm Bureau is pitching a fun idea this summer – Kane County Cougars tickets available to members at discounted prices! Enjoy an all-American ballgame with friends or family with one of these options:

Sunday Feast tickets – Eat for FREE with your \$15 ticket purchase and receive \$15 of concessions money. Tickets are available for June 11th, July 16th, and August 6th or 20th games. Twenty tickets are available for each date.

Taco Tuesday game tickets – We also have 100, \$10 tickets available for June 27th or August 1st that include half price margaritas and taco trucks. The August 1st date is "Bark in the Park," bring your canine.

All games are at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva.

May Featured Food New York Strip Steaks

This month we're offering TWO different boxes of NY Strip Steaks. The first box contains four, 12 oz. delicious Inboden's NY Strip Steaks and the second box contains six, 9 oz. thick NY Strip Steaks, perfect for a weekday dinner. They are a very popular, high quality meat ready for your grill. The price for the 12 oz. NY Strip Steak for members is 45.95 and \$46.95 for the 9 oz. box. PLUS members always receive a 5% discount on all food products. These special steaks are available while supplies lasts for the month of May at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak St. in St. Charles.

Farm toy of the month

May is a month for life-sized tractors to move ... around the farm and across the fields, fertilizing, tilling and planting. Our farm toy of the month is made to move ... a John Deere S780 combine with Freightliner semi and lowboy trailer, pint-sized for play time. The price is regu-

larly \$37.95, but during the month of May, visit our Farm Bureau Country Store and save 10% on this toy. See you soon!



Spring planting is underway across Northern Illinois and the Kane County Farm Bureau reminds motorists to exercise CAUTION, SLOW DOWN and SHARE THE ROAD with large, slow moving farm equipment traveling between farmsteads and farm fields. A limited number of FREE 3' x 10' banners are available at the Farm Bureau office in St Charles to do just that. They would be great safety reminders to place in farm field corners, at fire stations, banks, township offices and grain elevators in Central and Western Kane County.

Committee advances candidates for election ballot

The 2023 Nominating Committee of the Kane County Farm Bureau has completed its work to interview potential candidates for a May ballot and to discuss the needs of the organization from a governance perspective.

KCFB relies on a 5-person nominating committee composed of non-Directors. The organization seeks nominating committee members to provide

diversity in geography, age, experience and gender, as well as size and type of farming operations. The committee is encouraged to seek the same in candidates to place on the ballot for election to the organization's governing Board.

2023 elections will be the first since the Board of Director's amended the organization's bylaws to allow for at-large elections. Previously

Directors were elected according to geographic Districts comprised of 3 or 4 townships. The change was made to encourage more farmers and farmland owners to seek seats on the governing Board.

Up to 5 Directors will be elected for three-year terms from ballots mailed to regular voting (farmer and farmland owner) members in May. The Nominating Committee has

chosen 6 candidates to be placed on the ballot to fill those five seats. When mailed in late May to voting members (farm-

ers and farmland owners) ballots will contain biographical information on each candidate seeking election.

Legislative Meet & Greet

At the end of Touch-A-Tractor day 2 on Saturday, April 15th, The Legislative Committee and Board of Directors of the Kane County Farm Bureau gathered with

local officials for our annual Legislative "Meet and Greet". The event included a brief ceremony recognizing the County of Kane's support for agriculture as outlined in the recent "Proclaiming Kane

County's Support for Agriculture" resolution of the Kane County Board (printed in the April 2023 Kane County Farmer).

Our "Meet & Greet" is a non-partisan reception for our farmer members to get acquainted with their elected representatives and hear our 2023 state and national legislative priorities.



Left: Kane County Board Chairperson Corinne Pierog was recognized with an Illinois-shaped "Ally in Agriculture" plaque for display at the County Administration Building in Geneva. KCFB Board President Joe White gave the presentation after Saturday's Touch-A-Tractor event concluded. Right: Illinois 33rd District State Senator Don DeWitte received a "Friend of Agriculture" award for his support of and involvement with Kane County's agriculture community.

Local business owner invests in solar cooling with help from KCFB

Local entrepreneur Rob Murphy of Curds & Whey Cheese Company and The Fish Guy in Geneva recently purchased a GoSun solar cooler to chill his cheese and fish products as he attends summer farmers markets in Wheaton, St. Charles, Campton Hills and Sugar Grove. The innovative cooler runs on 12 volt, lithium battery, solar, or grid power. The coolers keep food and beverages cold or frozen and never need ice.

Murphy presented the technology to the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and they were intrigued by the idea that the technology could be applied in larger scale by vegetable and fruit growers and milk producers to keep product cold without

the use of ice or refrigerated trucks standing by.

The Board elected to purchase a solar charging panel to assist Murphy in sheltering and charging his cooler, and to monitor the efficacy of the GoSun products as Curds & Whey uses them throughout the summer.



Rob Murphy, owner of Curds & Whey Cheese Company, demonstrated his cooler and accompanying solar panel at the Kane County Farm Bureau Legislative Meet and Greet in April. The KCFB board members are intrigued by the possibilities to scale the solar technology for agriculture production.

Drivers and farmers alike reminded to be extra cautious during planting

Rural roadways can pose a major safety hazard to farmers and drivers during planting season. Slow moving farm equipment can frustrate drivers, leading to passing in restricted or poor visibility areas or rear-end collisions when a speeding car overtakes a slow farm implement. Too often a vehicle attempting to pass causes a collision before the tractor or farm implement can finish a left-hand turn.

Visibility is also a key to safety on the roads. All agricultural vehicles using the public roadways must display the fluorescent orange Slow Moving Vehicle triangle. Additionally,

tractors and other self-powered farm vehicles must have proper lighting. According to Illinois law:

- Lighting is required from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise.
- There should be two white lamps on the front of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle.
- There should be two red lamps on the rear of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
- There should be at least one flashing amber signal lamp on the rear of the vehicle, mounted as high as possible and visible from at least 500 feet,

which can be used during daylight as well.

Safety experts remind farm workers not to ignore their own needs while rushing to get the spring crop planted. They emphasize rest, nutrition and hydration and urge farmers to take the time to eat, stretch their legs and keep hydrated. These simple measures can make a big difference in safety.

Tractor overturns are the leading cause of fatalities in the agriculture industry, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These accidents result in about 130 deaths each year nationwide.



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

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

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

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

* Attendance by electronic means.

Kane County Farmer
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Young Farmers 18th annual Euchre Tourney

On Friday, March 24th Young Farmers gathered for pizza and conversation to discuss upcoming events and activities such as their FFA Acquaintance Day, Touch-A-Tractor needs, and their Young Farmer's youth coloring contest.

Following the brief meeting,

Young Farmers from Kane and surrounding counties gathered on Friday, March 24th at the KCFB office for the 18th annual Euchre Tourney. Ten different teams competed in a round robin competition at 6:30pm with a \$5 buy-in for pizza, snacks, and free lessons. The 2023 Euchre champs were Christian Thurwanger (DeKalb) & Tommy Koebel (Kane) and the winners of the Trophy of Dubious Distinction (T.O.D.D.) were Dale Pitstick (Kane) & Matt Randl (McHenry).

Young Farmer members from Kane and surrounding counties participated in the KCFB 18th annual Euchre tournament. Ten teams of two competed in three rounds to determine the 2023 Euchre Champions along with the 2023 pair who were awarded the Trophy of Dubious Distinction. Christian Thurwanger of DeKalb County

and partner Tommy Koebel of Kane County took home the cash prize and Dale Pitstick of Kane County and Matt Randl of McHenry County were crowned the winners of the Trophy of Dubious Distinction.

Thanks to all of our Young Farmer's for participating in a little fun competition.

If you or someone you know

is between the ages of 18-35 with an interest in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agricul-

ture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet, stop on by the office to become a member today!

Get your soil ready for spring

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

Why test your soil? Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

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

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

Why does Farm Bureau provide this service? Kane County Farm Bureau was founded in 1912 as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, to help farmers improve their production practices and increase the fertility and productivity of their soil. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

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

Soil test costs

Basic PH Test

\$25 per sample for members, \$35 non-members
This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test

\$35 per sample for members, \$45 non-members
This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.



What's new in the Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden?

The perennials have responded well to a mild winter and warm April. Lots of plants are green and ready for the season including *Iris virginica* and *Monarda fistulosa*. Plants that are budding as of this writing include *Geranium maculata* and *Zizia aurea* (at right). Stop by, say hi, and visit the IPPRG!

BLOOMING THIS SUMMER!

HELP US PLANT... AN ILLINOIS PRAIRIE POLLINATOR RAIN GARDEN.

SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SPRING/SUMMER POLLINATOR PLANTING AT KCFB.



2023-24 KCFB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Kane County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce 22 scholarship recipients for the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations to the winners listed below. Stay tuned to an upcoming issue of the *Kane County Farmer* for photos and bios of scholarship recipients.

Name	Parents	City	High School	College	Field of Study	Scholarship, Award
Delana Erbsen	Kevin & Wendy	Lanark	Eastland	Iowa State University	Ani Sci; Dairy Genetics	AGCO Platinum Scholarship, \$2,500
Justin Huff	Brian & Misty	Dix	Mount Vernon Township	University of Illinois	Veterinary Medicine	Rodholm Veterinary Scholarship, \$2,000
Nora Thompson	Michael & Jennifer	Maple Park	Burlington Central	Augustana College	Marketing	President's Scholarship, \$1,750
Grant Baldrige	Eric & Christen	Elburn	Kaneland	Montana State University	Electrical Engineering	John Buck Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500
Colin Nesler	Jeff & Laurie	Genoa	Genoa-Kingston	University of Missouri	Agribusiness Management	John Buck Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500
Jessica Dumoulin	Pat & Lisa	Hampshire	Hampshire	Northern Illinois University	Mechanical Engineering	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Alexandra Heckle	Dan & Dorothy	Batavia	Rosary	University of Missouri	Agriculture Ed & Ani Sci	Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship \$1,250
Naomi Johnson	Steve & Valerie	South Elgin	Elgin	Iowa State University	Genetics	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Cheyenne Judd	Bradley & Michelle	Cortland	Sycamore	Black Hawk East	Agribusiness Mgmt; Ani Sci	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Elizabeth Kleckner	Dave & Teri	Sycamore	Sycamore	University of Minnesota	Ag Law; Political Science	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Ansonia McIntire	Jeffery & Patricia	Elgin	Harvest Christian Academy	W. Nebraska Comm. College	Biology; Chemical Engineering	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Eric Metz	Timothy & Susan	Plato Center	Burlington Central	Southern Illinois University	Agribusiness & Economics	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
William Metz	Timothy & Susan	Plato Center	Burlington Central	Southern Illinois University	Avionics	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Willem Vandermeij	Gerardus & Jill	Geneva	Geneva	Cedarville University	Computer Engineering	KCFB Agriculture Scholarship, \$1,250
Tess Cummings	William & Jill	Danforth	Iroquois West	University of Illinois	Veterinary Medicine	AGCO AGWN Women's Scholarship, \$1,000
Hayley Foss	Mike & Becky	Genoa	Genoa Kingston	Kishwaukee Comm. College	Agriculture	AGCO Parts Scholarship, \$1,000
Aurelia Gray	Todd	Hampshire	Burlington Central	North Central College	Music Education	KCFB General Scholarship, \$1,000
Lucas Johnson	Bradley & Lori	Sugar Grove	Kaneland	Northern Illinois University	Nursing	KCFB General Scholarship, \$1,000
Libby Larkin	Dale & Jenny	Pontiac	Pontiac	Hawkeye Community College	Agribusiness; Agronomy	AGCO AGWN Women's Scholarship, \$1,000
Bridget Wilkening	Randy & Karen	Hinckley	Hinckley-Big Rock	Joliet Junior College	Agribusiness	AGCO Parts Scholarship, \$1,000
Brennan Keifer	Douglas & Renee	Maple Park	Kaneland	Kishwaukee Comm. College	Agriculture	Driving Ag Forward Scholarship, \$500
Michelle DeRaedt		Aurora		Gardenary Certification	Gardening	Adult Continuing Ed Scholarship, \$500

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

Do you know what you want to be when you grow up? That seems to be a question we are often asked when we are young and oftentimes as adults we ask ourselves the same question. Some know without a doubt what they want to be/work towards and others are still figuring it out as they go.

Whatever end of the spectrum you are on, I am here to provide you with some of my monthly advice. First and foremost it is absolutely OKAY to not know what you want to do or be. Some people seem to have it all figured out and know their path, others don't quite know what they want to do, or some may seem lost without even knowing where to start. Remember, comparison is the thief of joy. It is important to remember other people's lives are not your own. You are the author of your own story, and the exciting part is you are holding the pen!

I'll be the first to admit, my journey towards my career was not an easy one nor was it one that I even initially had on my radar. Joanie Stier's "At the Farm Gate" content this month is all about careers in agricul-

With a few curve balls thrown my way, hard work, and perseverance, here I am today at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

All of this to say, what you thought you might do or be when you grow up may not always be where your journey takes you. Since joining KCFB in 2020, I have been asked to attend College and Career Fairs as well as sit on a panels for young high students regarding careers in agriculture and I absolutely love it!

When I visit with young high school students at career fairs, my first question to them is what they are interested in? What types of things interest them, what do they like to do in their free time? Once I get the conversation going, I encourage them to find opportunities within the answers they provide such as job shadowing,

attending conferences, applying for internships, and volunteering. Being in high school is the perfect time to experiment and network with professionals already in the field!

The great thing about a career in agriculture is the variety of jobs that are available no matter where you go. Agriculture is everywhere, every day and luckily for us, that means jobs –



Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator Kelcee Miller, posing for a photo-op at the College and Career Fair this past January provided by West Aurora High School.

ture and it got me thinking how when one door closes another one opens. Some of you may know, agriculture was not my focus in college nor was it even a secondary degree. Nope. I went to school and received my Bachelor's in Parks and Recreation Management and then received my Master's in Recreation Administration.

Helping you protect what matters most



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Bob Effner
St. Charles
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Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
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Jeff Jones
St. Charles
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Norma Grathoff
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1220-509HC_07683-1/17/2023



many that people don't even think about or know are a career in the field! Another great aspect in the field is how there are always opportunities to network, grow, and learn professionally through conferences, seminars, and social events. Plus there are opportunities to travel and learn about agriculture in other parts of the world! The agriculture field is like one big team, all working together for a greater

purpose bigger than themselves. Together, agriculture professionals are leading the way and helping to make the world a better, happier, and healthier place. Have an interest in joining the agriculture team? Feel free to reach out or swing on by and I would be happy to help guide you to a career of interest to you!

Happy May!

Book of the month

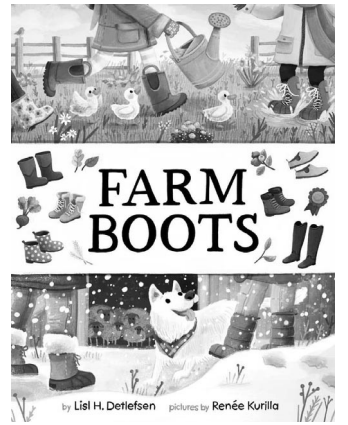
In March, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom launched a social media campaign to celebrate the release of the new children's book, *Farm Boots* by Lisl Detlefsen. The media campaign included video submissions from 4-H and FFA members, as well as farm kids from around the state, to "show us your boots." IAITC is thrilled to showcase the diversity of Illinois farms and farm families and the many boots they wear to get their work done around the farm. To see some of the videos for yourself, head on over to IAITC's social media accounts (Facebook or YouTube) to check them out!

As you would have guessed it, the May book of the month is *Farm Boots* by Lisl Detlefsen and illustrated by Renee Kurilla. The book, which launched on National Ag Day, March 21st, fits perfectly with this month's themes about careers in agriculture and the lesson in a bucket theme all about water.

Detlefsen takes readers on a journey following different farm families as they work and play in boots all year long. Each page, filled with rhythmic pat-

terns, illustrates how farmers need boots for just about every season and each pair for different reasons. Whether it's mucking stalls, riding at the summer fair, or herding sheep in the barn in the winter, there's a type of boot for every type of weather and occasion!

To see the boot-iful fun for yourself, come on out to the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE KCFB Ag Literacy Library check out *Farm Boots*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.



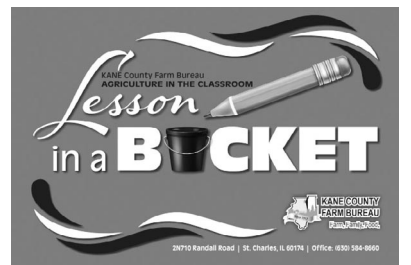
Farm Boots by Lisl Detlefsen

Lesson in a Bucket

Have you been searching for new ways to inspire your students? Then you NEED Lesson-In-A-Bucket! KCFB has monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes, like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, dairy, and corn.

May's Lesson-in-a-Bucket theme is all about Water. Stimulate students with a bucket of lessons about water and its importance to agriculture including a classroom set of Water Ag-Mags and Water Ag-Ventures. Students will be introduced to the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas while also utilizing their observation skills with this hands on activity called, "Water Cycle in a Bag."

Also included is a Multidisciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lesson in which students will observe the water cycle and how different types of seeds germinate and grow with "Terrariums."



Make a splash this May and bring agriculture and water lessons into your classroom with Lesson-in-a-Bucket. Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve your bucket today.

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

Damian McBeth of St. Charles stopped by Touch-A-Tractor on sunny Saturday afternoon with a surprise inspired by our Touch-A-Tractor event! He brought a pair of red, antique tractor toys including a 1969 Ertl 06



Series International. The gift was inspired by the bright red Farmall on our lawn, and Damian was excited to pose with KCFB office manager, Liz Polovin, with toy tractor in hand in front of the Farmall. Damian has a business called The Toy Depot and collects and sells antique toys. He was at the Chicago Toy Show at the Kane County Fairgrounds on April 23rd. Thank you, Damian, for visiting Touch-A-Tractor and gifting us with tiny tractors!



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Careers in AGRICULTURE
 FFA students from Hinckley-Big Rock, Kaneland and Burlington Central FFA chapters helped at KCFB's Touch-A-Tractor event in April. They can look forward to bright careers in agriculture in fields as varied as: Agricultural economist, ag engineers, agronomists, animal nutritionists, entomologists, environmental scientists, farmers, hydrologists, marketing, plant pathologists, range managers, soil scientists and veterinarians.

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed roughly \$1.264 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, a 5.4-percent share. The output of America's farms contributed \$164.7 billion of this sum – about 0.7 percent of U.S. GDP. The overall contribution of agriculture to GDP is larger than 0.7 percent because sectors related to agriculture rely on agricultural inputs in order to contribute added value to the economy.

Agriculture and its related industries provide 10.5 percent of U.S. employment

In 2021, 21.1 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors – 10.5 percent of total U.S. employment. Direct on-farm employment accounted for about 2.6 million of these jobs, or 1.3 percent of U.S. employment. Employment in agriculture- and food-related industries supported another 18.5 million jobs. *Statistics from the USDA Economic Research Service*

JOKES

- What did the strawberry say when he was given a gift? *Thank you berry much!*
- What do you call a sad strawberry? *A blueberry!*
- What made the strawberry such a smoothie? *Yogurt!*
- Why were the little strawberries upset? *Because their parents were in a jam!*

Careers in Agriculture

S	E	F	M	F	A	K	R	R	N	W	F	T	T	U	C	M	U	F	F	Accountant
T	C	E	O	B	Y	E	J	E	V	T	S	K	L	S	O	B	U	B	O	Agriculture
S	N	Z	S	O	R	V	J	C	H	I	Y	Z	J	J	D	E	P	U	R	Agriscience
I	E	E	B	M	D	A	A	Z	M	C	S	H	U	I	L	Z	H	S	E	Agronomist
L	I	T	R	H	B	R	U	O	P	F	A	R	A	X	C	F	Y	I	S	Biofuels
A	C	H	Z	U	E	Z	N	U	Z	N	G	E	E	J	Q	T	F	N	T	Breeders
N	S	L	N	E	T	O	S	G	F	Q	B	P	T	E	Q	W	R	E	E	Business
R	I	X	R	C	R	L	B	I	O	F	U	E	L	S	N	W	W	S	R	Careers
U	R	S	X	G	E	B	U	O	K	I	R	C	R	X	Q	I	R	S	S	Education
O	G	A	A	D	A	H	V	C	M	A	N	A	G	E	R	E	G	M	T	Engineers
J	A	P	Q	E	B	L	D	B	I	B	S	X	M	O	B	M	R	N	W	Farmer
T	Q	M	Y	U	B	P	V	Z	A	R	R	A	L	I	L	F	M	E	E	Fiber
I	T	N	A	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	G	E	F	S	H	P	O	J	W	Financial
N	A	I	R	A	N	I	R	E	T	E	V	A	E	V	N	R	J	M	P	Food
F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	G	P	F	S	E	D	E	G	V	R	M	Foresters
T	S	I	R	U	T	L	U	C	I	T	R	O	H	D	E	T	O	E	C	Fuel
K	Q	B	H	G	Y	T	W	V	M	H	A	D	A	G	Z	R	H	M	K	Horticulturist
N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	I	H	U	E	X	R	V	Z	S	R	U	Journalists
S	C	I	N	A	H	C	E	M	B	L	L	Z	Y	X	D	Q	N	A	L	Leader
D	Q	G	U	G	C	S	K	T	E	C	H	N	I	C	I	A	N	F	W	Manager
																				Mechanics
																				Teacher
																				Technician
																				Veterinarian

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by May 15, 2023 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.
 Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

Strawberry icebox cake

Help celebrate National Strawberry Month with this sweet treat that will be sure to satisfy any sweet tooth!

Ingredients

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pound strawberries sliced
- 7.2 ounces graham crackers (1.5 sleeves)

Supplies Needed

- 9x9 baking pan
- Electric mixer
- Rubber spatula

Instructions

In a stand mixer or with a hand-held mixer, beat the cream, powdered sugar and vanilla until stiff peaks form

Place a very thin layer of cream on the bottom of the 9x9 square pan. Next, add a single layer of graham crackers. Top with 1/3 of the whipped cream and

smooth with a spatula. Add 1/3 of strawberries in an even layer. Repeat layers 2 more times, ending with strawberries. Arrange the berries in a pretty pattern, if desired.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight before serving

Serve and enjoy!
 Find this recipe & more here: <https://amandascookin.com/strawberry-icebox-cake>.



Strawberry playdough

Supplies

- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup salt
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 3 oz package of strawberry Jell-o
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Directions

In a bowl, mix the flour, salt, Jell-o, and cream of tartar

Bring 1/2 cup water to a boil

Add the boiling water and vegetable oil to the dry ingredients and knead with your hands until well mixed



Let the playdough sit for 10-15 minutes to cool and store in a covered plastic container until ready to play!

For more ideas and additional guidance, check out: https://www.123homeschool4me.com/pink-lemonade-playdough-recipe-for_88/



May is National Strawberry Month. Sweet!

Congratulations

Stan Stannard of Elgin is last month's word search winner. His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives a fun prize. Thank you, Stan, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

May is ...

National	Chocolate Parfait Day	1	Vanilla Pudding Day	22
	Teacher Day	2	Asparagus Day	24
	Truffle Day	2	Blueberry Cheesecake Day	26
	Orange Juice Day	4	Italian Beef Day	27
	Herb Day	6	Brisket Day	28
	Lemonade Day	7	Hamburger Day	28
	Pet Week	7-13	Memorial Day	29
	Coconut Cream Pie Day	8	National Macaroon Day	31
	Shrimp Day	10	Skin Cancer Detection & Prevention Month	
	Apple Pie Day	13	Barbecue Month	
	Buttermilk Biscuit Day	14	Egg Month	
	Chocolate Chip Day	15	Hamburger Month	
	Barbecue Day	16	Salad Month	
	Cherry Cobbler Day	17	Salsa Month	
	Walnut Day	17	Strawberry Month	
	Devil's Food Cake Day	19	American Cheese Month	
	World Bee Day	20	Lettuce Month	
	Eat More Fruits & Vegetables Day	21	Asparagus Month	



About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family, growing corn, soybeans and hay and raising beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Agriculture jobs outpace graduates

Good news for the soon-to-be senior in our house: The nation's largest employer is looking for applicants.

The agriculture industry comprises about 11% of the jobs in the United States, employing more citizens than any other industry at 22 million people

across more than 250 career areas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Contrary to popular belief, farmers are just a sliver of agriculture's employment pie, and there's plenty of pie available for anyone with the hunger to support the nation's need for food, fiber and fuel. No farm background required.

The demand for agricultural engineers, agronomists, plant breeders, foresters, veterinarians, agriscience teachers, climate specialists and more will outpace the available college graduates in these disciplines. More than 59,000 job openings will be available – per year – in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and related

industries through at least 2025, according to the 2020-2025 Employment Opportunities Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Purdue University.

Students who enjoy bio-chemistry perhaps haven't thought to consider a career in agronomy or biofuels. The mechanically minded may like a profession as an agriculture engineer or precision agriculture specialist. Writers may find fitting opportunities as agricultural journalists.

For good reason, the wall in our high school agriculture classroom says, "Your Career Starts Here." In the last 10 years alone, I have watched students at our small school find their passions through agricultural education and the leadership and career-developing experiences of the FFA.

They now serve the agricul-

ture industry as agronomists, farm financial officers, agricultural educators, agricultural engineers, livestock managers and diesel technicians. My husband has hired graduates to work with precision technologies and vehicle autonomy in agriculture. Some prepare for an ag-related career, training to become agricultural accountants, veterinarians and horticulturists.

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance, of which the Illinois Farm Bureau is a founding mem-

ber, recently launched AGNITOR, a digital platform to connect agri-food professionals to classrooms for virtual chats about careers. The program intends to generate student awareness about career opportunities spanning agriculture, food and natural resources. The National FFA offers opportunities to digitally explore agricultural careers, too. These tools can help students like our daughter find their ideal fit in this diverse and necessary industry.

Lenkaitis Dairy hosts student visitors in April

A group of around 50 students from Fenton High School in Bensenville visited Lenkaitis Holsteins Dairy Farm in St. Charles in early April.

Kane County Farm Bureau and a couple of Kane County Young Farmers helped Lenkaitis Dairy farmers Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis herd students through a tour of the dairy farm.

The students and Fenton teachers Jeff Baeder and Steph Downen disembarked the buses and gathered in a viewing room for a brief recap of the history of Lenkaitis Holsteins and an explanation of the dairy farm operations. Then they were off to tour the cow barn, to learn about care, feeding, and

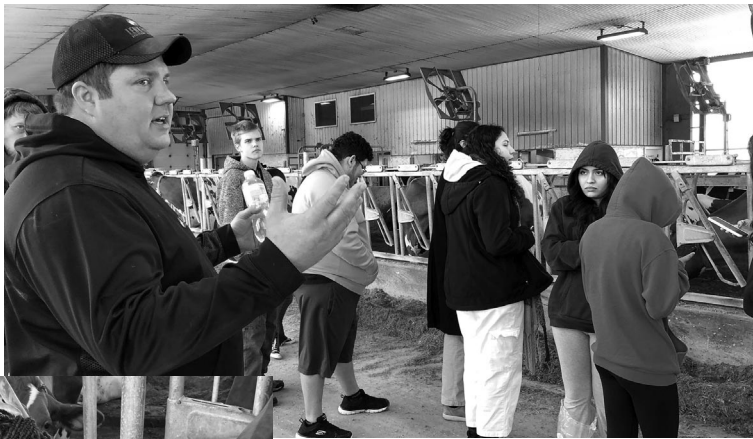
processes of the building, and got to witness a cow in labor. After the cows, the students walked to the calf barn to learn about their care and interact with the new calves.

The Lenkaitises commented that they had 24 calves due in the next 60 days so it will be a busy spring for the dairy farm.

Clockwise: Andy Lenkaitis explains the automated processes of the cow barn to the students, touching on the specially formulated feed, ventilation, automatic milking machines, cushioned floors and manure pit from which manure is processed for use as crop fertilizer.

Heifer Spring gave birth to a calf during the tour event. Here she grooms her brand new calf. A female cow is called a "heifer" until she has her first calf, then she is a "cow."

Some of the students were captivated with the cows and thrilled when the cows accepted hand-fed treats.



Left: Kane County Young Farmers Jason Biddle (left) of Elburn and Jonathan Klein of Burlington chaperoned the tour. Biddle is very familiar with the Lenkaitis farm, having worked there part-time for several years.

Joann Lichthardt visits KCFB, Teeple Barn

We were pleased to see the smiling face of Joann Lichthardt in the KCFB office in late March. Joann stopped by with an additional piece to place with her Teeple Barn scale model – a water cup to go alongside the cattle stanchions inside the barn.

Joann and her late husband, Dick, constructed the scale model of the landmark 16-sided Teeple Barn in 2004-2005 and donated it to KCFB in 2021. The barn was recently moved from the lobby toy store to an alcove where it is situated with some Teeple Barn merchandise and memorabilia. The meticulously crafted model is always a big hit with visitors to the KCFB office.

The original Teeple Barn was constructed on the property of Lester Teeple in 1885 as a dairy barn at a time when the Elgin area was a dairy center and butter prices for the nation were set in Illinois. The barn was a rarity – a 16-sided barn. It stood at I-90 and Randall Road in Elgin for over a century until a 2007 storm toppled it.



THE REWARDS OF FARMING
Chris and Dana Gould, Maple Park, IL
The Goulds raise corn, soybeans and wheat.

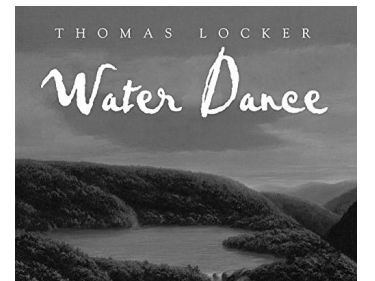
"Farmers are lifelong learners who try to make good decisions for our businesses, the environment, and our families – and we do a good job of it. After a year-plus of preparation, planting and care, harvest finally happens and it's so rewarding."

Little Lending Library May spotlight

Every month our Little Lending Library will have a special feature, book, or resource or all of the above! This will be our way of helping connect with the community whether they are KCFB members or not. No matter who you are or where you are from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. It is our hope that through our (not so) Little Lending Library that we can help bridge the gap between consumer and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our

young readers will be *Water Dance* by Thomas Locker. In addition we will have copies of our Water-AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure as well! Supplies are limited, so get them while you can!



IAITC Golf Outing

The IAA Foundation invites you to take PAR-t in the 27th Annual Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Golf Outing on Thursday, June 8 at The Oaks at River's Edge Golf Course in Pontiac. This scramble-style tournament allows golfers of all abilities to compete for great prizes while supporting ag literacy!

Registration is limited to the first 32 foursomes, so don't delay! The registration fee is \$150 per golfer – \$600 per foursome and includes 18-holes of golf, lunch and other refreshments, and all on-course contests. Register here: <https://www.iaafoundation.org/products/p/2023-golf-outing>.

Register Today!

Driving range opens at 9:00 a.m. with the NEW Kick-Off event beginning at 9:30 a.m.



27th Annual IAITC Golf Outing



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

May 11 or 25 Drive Thru BBQ Fundraiser

Please reserve for May 11 **OR** May 25:

Pork chop dinners Chicken quarter dinners

Pork chop/chicken combo dinners

Please enclose payment of \$18 per dinner. Make checks payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Visa / MC _____ Exp. date ____ / ____

CRV _____ Phone (____) _____

Return to: KCFB Foundation • 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660.

FFA Acquaintance Day at Northern IL Food Bank

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023 members from the Kane County Young Farmers committee and FFA members from Central High School gathered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their annual FFA Acquaintance Day. The groups worked together to inspect, weigh, and bag giant sweet potatoes for our hungry neighbors. In total, the group packed 991 bags of sweet potatoes totaling up to 4,955 pounds of food, providing over 4,129 meals for our hungry neighbors in Northern Illinois!



FFA students and KCFB Young Farmers gathered for a photo at the Acquaintance Day event. KCFB Ag-in-the-Classroom coordinator Kelcee Miller is at far right. Before the group got started helping our hungry neighbors in need, KCFB manager, Steve Arnold presented Burlington Central FFA Advisors, Ryan Robinson and Ryan Dalen with their \$500 FFA Chapter Grant.

Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month go to The Kane County Corn Growers of Elburn, the May winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time a Kane County Corn Growers representative stops in our office, they will receive a FREE combo box of bratwurst and hot dogs from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one

of the fine food products we offer each month.

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

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to Orazio Difruscolo who has been named the March Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Orazio is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate

and long-term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696, or orazio.difruscolo@CountryFinancial.com, or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/orazio.difruscolo/>. Congratulations, Orazio!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Victor Alvarado! Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December 2017.



Victor Alvarado

His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl. Ste. 20, Elgin and may be reached at: 847-742-0004. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

SERVICES

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

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

2008 Chevy Silverado, C3500 Dump Truck. 37 miles, nice condition. 23k, located in Geneva. Call: 630-232-0123

L171 Kubota mower tractor. 1970 Vintage. Call: 847-334-0198

FarmWeekNow.com DAILY UPDATE

Illinois ag headlines in your inbox each morning. Go to farmweeknow.com for more information.

Sign up for FarmWeekNow's Daily Update and get top

Hinckley-Big Rock Ag Safety Day

On a breezy Thursday in early April, Young Leader Chairman, Brett Dienst of Maple Park and KCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator, Kelcee Miller of DeKalb participated in Hinckley Big-Rock's Ag Safety Day at Hinckley Big-Rock High School. The Young Leaders helped to educate the youth about Grain-Bin Safety and overall farm safety.



Lenkaitis Dairy Tour

Lenkaitis Holsteins recently hosted a farm tour for group of about 50 high school students from Fenton High School from their Environmental Science class. With the assistance of KCFB Young Farmers, the group toured the Lenkaitis dairy farm to learn the ins and outs of dairy farming and how technology is utilized on their farm.

Welcome to the next level

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

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

Regular Members

Eric Behe	Hampshire
Christopher S. Coltrin	Hampshire
Lucas King	Elburn
Brittany O'Carroll	Geneva
Erik Therkildsen	St. Charles
Tommy Christensen	Elburn

education and hunger relief:

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

conferences

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

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

Thanks to our donors

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



Donor

Micheal E. Wurtz in Memory of Katherine Kohley
Eric & Christine Baldrige
Kathy Konishi

Beneficiary

KCFB Foundation
KCFB Foundation
Ag Literacy Library

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

Thank you to all the generous donors and volunteers who support Kane County Farm Bureau!

Vintage Truck Raffle – get your tickets now for this fun ride

Tickets are now available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle.

The Grand Prize this year is a 1965 International Harvester D900 pickup truck. Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50 and ticket sales help provide Ag Literacy programs and college scholarships for Kane County students.

Return the form below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with

VISA or MasterCard.

The winning ticket will be drawn on September 17, 2023.



The KCFB Foundation is sponsoring a Vintage Truck Raffle to raise funds for College Scholarships and Ag Literacy programs. The Grand Prize in the 2023 Raffle is this bright blue 1965 IH D900 step-side pickup.

Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (____) _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 OR charge my

Visa MC Discover: _____ Exp ____ / ____

Signature _____ Date _____

Touch-A-Tractor brings Farm life to suburbs

Hundreds of families and dozens of faithful volunteers enjoyed a weekend on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau during Touch-A-Tractor in April. Mother Nature helped us with summery, sunny weather on days 1 and 2. Sunday was chilly with intermittent rain, drizzle and stray snowflakes.

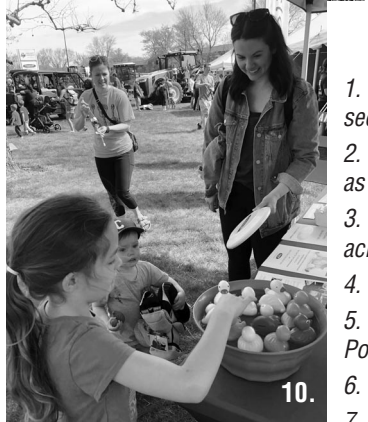
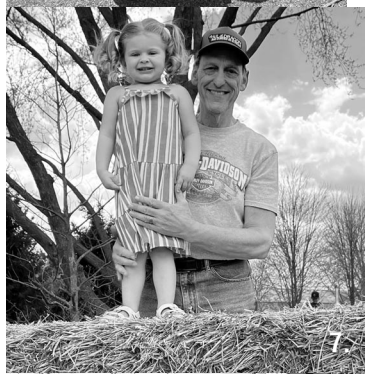
The family friendly event offered the opportunity to get outside and enjoy activities, learn about agriculture and visit with local farmers that provide food for a growing population, in all kinds of weather.

Machinery on display included Allis-Chalmers, Farmall, John Deere, Case and Oliver antique tractors; modern farm tractors from Kubota, Massey Ferguson and John Deere; along with spraying, tillage and hay baling equipment. We also had a fun weekend visitor on display, the 2018 Winner's Choice raffle truck, a 1965 Ford F100 pickup truck won by Samuel Heitz of St. Charles.

Children enjoyed riding pedal tractors, playing in the sandboxes filled with shelled corn, a "culvert crawl" and climbing towering stacks of straw bales. They also visited booths staffed by University of Illinois Extension for make-and-take crafts; Bayer Crop Science for a fun, interactive display on corn handling and corn entrapment safety; AGCO for take home vegetable seed planting and pillow pets, and Story Time for readings of farm books. Kids were also able to visit Rudy, the Holstein calf, a trio of sheep, and the perennial favorite baby chicks.

Many Touch-A-Tractor visitors helped raise college scholarship funds for the KCFB Foundation through the purchase of tickets in the 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle, featuring a Grand Prize 1965 International Harvester D900 pick-up truck to be given away September 17th.

Our sincere thanks to the scores of volunteers and farmers that donated their time and farm equipment to that make this event possible. **Thanks ALL!**



Touch-A-Tractor

1. Representatives from AGCO in Batavia offered activities for kids attending Touch-A-Tractor, including this seed planting activity. Kids were proudly showing their cups planted with vegetable seeds.
2. Baby chicks had plenty of T-A-T visitors. The tiny birds elicited oohs and aahs from kids and adults alike as they stroked the downy chicks.
3. Little ones loved playing in the corn "sand box", letting the grain stream through their fingers and spill across the parking lot.
4. The pedal tractor corral was a busy place, with kids racing and chasing around the parking lot.
5. FFA students worked on Saturday to extend the "Mississippi River" stone path from the Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden to the KCFB parking lot.
6. Rudy the calf nuzzles Hudson Petrizzi of Geneva, prompting a big grin.
7. Kids had a blast clambering up and down the straw bale towers and posing for photos.
8. Bayer Crop Science had a booth with toy versions of farm equipment and augers, and information about grain handling safety. These kids are cranking corn from the semi and into the grain bin.
9. The assortment of tractors and excited kids provided great photo ops for parents and grandparents.
10. COUNTRY Financial had a booth with activities and prizes for T-A-T's young visitors.
11. Truck enthusiasts had fun checking out this 1965 Ford F100 pickup, the 2018 Vintage Truck Raffle prize lent for the weekend by raffle winner Sam Heitz of St. Charles. The 2023 Vintage Truck was also on display and raffle tickets were available.

Many volunteers contribute to the success of Touch-A-Tractor. They contribute greatly to the success of this event that brings families together to enjoy spring, smiles, and agriculture. Kane County Farm Bureau and our Foundation offer thanks to the following individuals for making equipment available, for demonstrations and activities, for helping with set-up and staffing during the event and otherwise assisting in the success of this farm-city relations and Foundation fund-raising program. We apologize to anyone we inadvertently omitted.

Without your generous help, Touch-A-Tractor would not be possible.

Thank you!

AGCO Parts Employees, Batavia

- Bill Smith
- Laurie Cantu
- Belinda Meyers
- Andrea Achermann
- Cindy Woodward
- Hailey Woodward
- Terecita Barrera
- Eliana Barrera
- Franky Achermann
- Connie Ferrer
- Mark Crowder
- Jackson King

Bayer Crop Sciences

- Melanie Oleson
- Angie Dickmann
- Alexis Myers
- Laura Hanson
- Mary Hanson
- Brooklyn Hanson
- Bryan Rojas
- Kyle Johnson
- Nate Jacobs
- Matt Speerly

University of Illinois Extension

- Andrea Farrier

- Danielle Stojan
- Merideth Bergesen
- Kim Corbo
- Nora Thompson
- Maria Ochs
- Cecelia Ochs
- Samuel Haviland
- Christopher Haviland
- Kim Braddock

Northern Illinois Food Bank

- Jake Lamplough
- Corey Incandela

Young Farmers

- Seth Roberts
- Jake Breda (friend of YF)
- Davis Espe
- Alex Olson
- Tommy Christensen
- Jonathan Klein
- Wayne Gehrke
- Carolyn Brummel
- Jason Biddle
- Joseph White
- Michael Long

Tractors/Trucks

- Dan Kocher
- James Lickteig
- Scott Horton
- Bob Gehrke
- Beth Gehrke
- Jeff Morris
- Dennis Erickson
- Gerard Fabrizio
- Joe White
- Jim O'Connell
- Sam Heitz
- Randy Pauli
- Eldon Gould
- Craig Bradley
- Bruce Nagel
- Tim Kehoe
- Mike Kenyon
- Karl Kettelkamp
- Larry Koesche
- Jami White
- Dale Pitstick
- Dan Heinrich
- Jonathan Klein
- Cole Stapleton
- Allison Jones

Volunteers

- Jim Reynolds
- Lisa Geisler
- Gladys Arnold
- Dave Wehrli

Drone footage/pics

- Patrick McPartlan

KCFB Board

- Chris Collins
- Gerry Gaitsch
- Beth Gehrke
- Karl Kettelkamp
- Andy Lenkaitis
- Craig Bradley
- Dale Pitstick
- Wayne Schneider

Hinckley-Big Rock FFA

- Bridget Wilkening
- Natalie Wilkening
- Lily Day
- Carmela Key
- Aidan White

Kaneland FFA

- Georgia Harvell
- Ryan Markham
- Andie Ruckh
- Riley Houghtby
- Ava Carlson
- Abby Atkins

Burlington Central FFA

- Andrew Engstrom
- Ariana Riep
- Reese Klug
- Daniel Pawlisch
- Macey Schultz
- Corryn Genenz
- Adaline DiGirolamo

- Natalie Simek
- Alexis Fitchie
- Jaidyn Sheehan

North Boone HS FFA

- Ethan Stolquist

COUNTRY Financial

- Norma Grathoff
- Laura Osters
- Kelly Landorf
- Jeff Jones
- Jeff Orman
- Miryam Cabrera

Elburn Lions Club

- Phil Gladd
- Steve Hall
- JD Lamb
- Graham Gladd
- Johnny Bolger
- Sean Bolger
- Johnny Collum

- AGCO Parts
- Bayer Crop Sciences
- Lenakaitis Holsteins
- A C McCartney Equipment
- Central Tree Service
- U of I Extension
- R Equipment
- Primrose Farm
- Kane County 4-H