

# Kane County Farmer



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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. 11 NOVEMBER 2023

## 'We Are the 96%' reinforced at local grain elevators

By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek

Rosalie Trump joked that seeing her face on a Casey's pizza box as well as a cardboard cutout of herself was a "peak moment in life."

Trump was one of the many volunteers with the "We are the 96" campaign stationed at a handful of elevators and ethanol plants throughout the state Oct. 9 to pass out free Casey's pizzas to farmers delivering grain.

The Illinois Corn Checkoff coordinated the October "We are the 96%" partnership with Casey's to celebrate farmers, harvest and the Casey's pizza promotion during the month. As part of that promotion, 10 Illinois farm families, representing the 96% of Illinois farms that are family-owned, are featured on fliers attached to pizza boxes at more than 500 Casey's stores.

The "We are the 96%" campaign has always been a consumer trust-building campaign first, but a farmer-focused campaign second. IL Corn and its partners worked to bring the campaign to places all over

Illinois so farmers could experience the campaign along with targeted urban audiences, said Lindsay Mitchell, director of

partnership during a really busy and exhausting time of year," she added.

Trump, whose family farms crops and livestock in DeKalb, was at Premier Cooperative Inc. in



A farmer delivering grain at CGB in Enfield is treated to a free Casey's pizza as part of the "We are the 96" campaign.

Pizza was delivered from Casey's to CHS in Maple Park by Kane County Farm Bureau and Hinckley Big Rock FFA volunteers.

(Photo courtesy of Lindsay Mitchell)

Sidney and told RFD Radio she's proud her family is part of the "We are the 96" campaign.

communications and marketing for IL Corn.

"Showing up at grain elevators and ethanol plants in Illinois during harvest just felt like a natural fit to allow farmers to experience the Casey's

"I'm just sort of representing my little part of the state, but there's families from all over the state, north to south, east to west, so hopefully everyone can recognize one of the families on the pizza boxes," she said.

### November Featured Food

## We Have Pies—

A NEW Thanksgiving Tradition!

It's hard to let go of an old tradition, The word "tradition" comes from a Latin root that means both "to deliver or hand down" and "to surrender or give up." There's wisdom in this double message but who can resist a NEW tradition that involves PIE ... and plenty of it! While KCFB will not be offering HOKA Turkeys this year, we will have a variety of delicious frozen pies for you and your family, from Inboden's! Please call or send in your pie order form by November 15th. Pie Pick up will be Tuesday, November 21, noon-5:30. Please call 630-584-8660 with your order or any questions.

Order form on page 6.

### KCFB CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2023

- 9 Board of Directors 7:00 pm
  - 10 IPPRG clean-up, 10-2
  - 11 Veteran's Day
  - 20 Christmas Trees arrive!
  - 22 Citrus orders due
  - 23 Thanksgiving, office closed
  - 24 Office closed
- Note** – no HoKa turkey orders this year – HoKa is no longer raising turkeys



In late September, Sarah and Andy Lenkaitis of Lenkaitis Holsteins in Campton Hills hosted about 90 high school students from the Somonauk-Leland Sandwich Ag Program. The group had the opportunity to tour the calf barn, view the milking parlor and walk through the cow barn itself to see how the Lenkaitis incorporate technology into their farming operations. Special thanks to our KCFB Young Farmers, Jason Biddle of Elburn and Jonathan Klein of Burlington for assisting the group during their tour!

## Farm toy of the month

Fall harvest is not complete for farmers without their sturdy tractors and grain carts, moving grain from field to semi and then to grain bins, trains and barges. This month's toy is a bright red standout against November fields and skies – a Case IH Magnum 380 tractor and grain bin. The Tomy 1/32 scale toy is sturdy

plastic designed for hours of hauling for young farmers ages 3 & up.

This tractor/grain cart set is \$25.68, but during the month of November, KCFB members receive 10% off. Stop by, say hi, and pick up this toy!



## A Thanksgiving tradition comes to an end

Kane County Farm Bureau is sorry to say we will not be offering HoKa fresh turkeys this year. HoKa is no longer wholesaling turkeys. Please call KCFB at (630) 584-8660 if you have questions.



"I think everyone was super excited to see a Super Bowl commercial that highlighted Illinois farmers, and we're just hoping to keep that momentum going with things like this throughout the state all year long," she told RFD Radio.

She added Casey's is a great partner not only for the connection to biofuels and what that means for farmers, but also knowing a lot of farmers step into a Casey's for a slice of pizza. While the Illinois Farm Families coalition focuses on helping people throughout the state understand 96% of the state's farms are family-owned, the pizza delivery promotion Oct. 9 was specifically for farmers.

"This is to say, 'Hey, we know that the farmers are important, too. We still remember you. You're the reason we're doing this,'" Dwyer said. "So it's just helping make that connection, hoping that they feel appreciated during this stressful time."

Local delivery locations included CHS in Maple Park,

where Kane County Farm Bureau and H-BR FA volunteers Ethan and Aiden White shuttled fresh, hot pizzas between the Maple Park Casey's store and the CHS elevator on Meredith Road from 10:30 a.m. to about 1:30 p.m. Other elevators included CGB in Enfield and Gateway FS in Carlyle, IL. Corn funded a majority of the pizza delivery effort, with Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association and Illinois Beef Association also contributing.

"Our Illinois Farm Families volunteers had so much fun (Oct. 9), connecting with farmers and feeding them Casey's pizza," Mitchell said. "We talked about the families that make up most of the farmers in our great state and we celebrated that Casey's wants to share our message with their very diverse, Illinois audience. The Year of the Farmer is still in full swing in Illinois. This is just the beginning!"

For your chance to win a \$25 Casey's gift card good for Casey's pizza, see page 6.

## Farm Bureau 2024 calendar gifts to members



In appreciation of our Kane County Farm Bureau members, we have 2024 wall calendars featuring antique tractors, barns or agriculture. Pick up your FREE calendar at our St. Charles office while supplies last – 2024 will be here before we know it.

### Illinois 2023 harvest progress

Combines like this started rolling in earnest in Kane County fields in late September-early October. According to the National Ag Statistics Service, crop conditions and crop progress compared very favorably to 2022 and years prior. The figures below are based on October 22 crop report for Illinois.

Illinois Crop Progress	2022	2023
corn harvested	61%	70%
soybeans harvested	50%	80%
Illinois Crop Conditions	2022	2023
Corn – good to excellent	70%	56%
Soybeans – good to excellent	70%	60%



# KCFB October 2023 board report

*In order to keep members informed of the business, policy and governance actions of the Kane County Farm Bureau, reports (not minutes) from the monthly meetings of the KCFB Board will be provided as space allows in the Kane County Farmer. The KCFB is governed by a Board of 15 farmer-member and ag professional-member Directors, with 5 elected annually for 3-year terms. For more information about Farm Bureau activities, policy, governance or volunteer opportunities, call 630-584-8660.*

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## October Board report

Cool, wet weather on Thursday October 12th allowed the farmer-directors of the Kane County Farm Bureau to climb down from the combine cabs to attend the organizations monthly meeting. Barbecue dinners were provided by Fay's Finest Foods in advance of the meeting being called to order at 7:00 PM. Bi-monthly drive-thru barbecues have served as fundraisers for the college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation from May through October of this year.

Joining directors for their October meeting were Jeffrey Orman, agency manager for the COUNTRY Financial St. Charles-Elgin agency, and Mark Tuttle, IFB District 1 Director. Orman provided production reports for the COUNTRY

Financial representatives in the St. Charles-Elgin agency. Tuttle reported on a District 1 meeting held in late September, provided updates on for-profit affiliates including COUNTRY Financial and Prairie Farms Dairy, provided a legislative update, and announced that Kane County Farm Bureau has the most certified Farm Bureau Directors in IFB District 1.

KCFB Foundation Gala Fundraising Chair Bonnie White and Logistics Chair Beth Gehrke were present to provide a report on the Foundation's recent Gala Fundraiser. The pair distributed and reviewed a report of the de-briefing meeting of the Gala committee, Farm Bureau staff and the consultant. The full report will be shared with the Board of Directors of the Foundation at their next meeting.

President Joe White proposed a slate of himself, Vice-President Dale Pitstick, and directors Beth Gehrke of Elgin and Jerry Gaitsch of Huntley to represent the members of the Kane County Farm Bureau as delegates to the 2023 IFB annual meeting in Chicago in December. Delegates will vote on proposed public policy resolutions, and elect officers and directors to the Illinois Farm Bureau board for 2024-25. Alternate delegates will include directors Mike Kenyon of South Elgin, Wayne Schneider of Dundee and Brett Dienst of

Maple Park. Wayne Gehrke of Elgin will participate in the Illinois Farm Bureau young leaders discussion meet at the annual meeting.

In old business, Directors authorized the President to sign a contract with American Tower Corporation with renegotiated terms for the lease of a communications tower site located on Kane County Farm Bureau property. Directors also discussed building improvements including remodeling of the restrooms at the county Farm Bureau office.

In new business, directors received informational packets for the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation to be held in January in Salt Lake City UT. Directors also discussed a Casey's/Illinois Farm Families "We are the 96%" promotion. KCFB volunteers provided Casey's pizzas to farmers delivering grain to the CHS Elburn facility on Meredith Rd. on October 9th. Throughout the month of October, Casey's pizza boxes featured pictures of and information on Illinois farm families, promoting the fact that 96% of Illinois farms are family owned and operated.

In his monthly report, President Joe White reported on recent meetings of the Food for Thought regional advertising group, the Kane County Farmland Protection Commission, and the recent District 1 meeting. All three

meetings were held on the same day, September 25. Manager Steve Arnold provided an update on the performance of the organization's investments for the third quarter of 2023.

Reports on local issues were provided, including updates from recent meetings of the Kane County Board, Forest Preserve District and county committees including the Agriculture Committee. White and Beth Gehrke presented a report from the recent meeting of the Kane County Farmland Protection Commission meeting.

Directors were provided final reports from the KCFB Foundation's annual Vintage

Truck Raffle. A recent gathering of the Board of the American Farmland Trust held at the Ruh farm near Sugar Grove and the Young Farmers group for a social at a farm in Elgin rounded out the reports.

The Board acted affirmatively on a request from the Big Rock Historical Society, granting \$500 for the restoration of a historic one room schoolhouse on the grounds of the Big Rock Plowing Match, and reviewed correspondence including thank you's from local 4-H'ers for Blue Ribbon Show purchases and for providing show plaques and banners, before adjourning their October meeting.

*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*.

# Navigating solar leases for farmers

*By Cari B. Rincker, Esq.*

Solar energy projects present an attractive opportunity for landowners to diversify their income streams. When a solar energy developer approaches a farmer or rancher with a seemingly lucrative lease agreement, the landowner must carefully consider whether the lease adequately protects his or her best interests before rushing into the deal. In this article, I discuss the essential aspects of solar lease agreements, as well as any potential landfalls that farmers should avoid when navigating and negotiating a solar lease agreement.

## 1. Understanding the Structure of the Agreement

Agreements between solar developers and landowners come in many shapes and forms. In broad strokes, there are two main approaches. On the one hand, a developer may present a farmer with an option agreement, which will give the developer a period of time to assess the viability of a solar project on the land, and the unilateral right to exercise an option to enter into a solar lease agreement if and when the developer determines that the project will be profitable. The lease agreement should be fully negotiated at the time that the option agreement is executed.

Alternatively, the developer may skip the option agreement and instead present the farmer with a lease agreement to be executed at the onset. Such a lease agreement usually commences with a development phase wherein the developer assesses the viability of the project. The developer is then granted the right to unilaterally terminate

the lease at the conclusion of the development phase.

Regardless of whether there is a separate option agreement or a development phase incorporated into the lease, solar leases generally are structured pursuant to the same format: There is a construction period which may last roughly one year, followed by an operation period which may last decades, a renewal period which may extend the lease even longer, and ultimately, a cleanup period.

## 2. The Length of the Lease

To understand the extent to which a lease will tie up their land, a farmer should be sure to calculate the total timeframe of the encumbrance, from the beginning of the option or development phase, to the end of the cleanup period. It is not uncommon for the life of a solar lease agreement to span more than half a century. For this reason, multi-generational family farms should carefully consider potential uses or plans for their land over the course of the near- and not-so-near-future. Such considerations may include the needs of future generations. The

farmer or rancher should further keep in mind that such lease agreements typically run with the land, which means that they will bind any subsequent sale or estate succession of the land.

Given the length of the agreement, agriculture producers should also carefully assess the impact of a solar lease on their property, including a thorough evaluation of the potential environmental impact, the effect on overall farming or ranching productivity and economies of scale, and their eligibility for government programs.

## 3. Due Diligence on the Developer

If a farmer or rancher plans to enter a long-term relationship with a solar developer, they should perform due diligence on the developer to ensure that the developer is legitimate and has a good record with other landowners in the area. Due diligence may include: (i) checking the developer's online presence, including reviews and BBB complaints, (ii) confirming the developer is a registered entity with the secretary of state

*(continued on page 3)*

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	X	X	X	X	*	X		
B. COLLINS	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
B. DIENST <sup>^</sup>						X	X		X	X		
M. DUMOULIN <sup>^</sup>						X	X	*	*	X		
K. ENGEL			*	*	X	X	X			X		
G. GAITSCH	X	*	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
B. GEHRKE	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
W. KECK	X	X		*	X	X	X					
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
A. LENKAITIS		X		*	*	X	*	*			X	
D. PITSTICK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

*\* Attendance by electronic means. <sup>^</sup> Elected June 2023.*

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## Solar lease

(continued from page 2)

for the state that they claim to be organized under, and (iii) paneling neighbors and the community to see if anyone else has negative experiences with the developer.

### 4. Authority to Enter into the Lease

Before executing an option or lease agreement, a farmer must confirm that he or she has the legal authority to enter into such an agreement. In the first instance, the landowner will likely have to warrant in the agreement that he or she is the fee simple owner of the farm or ranch. If there are multiple parties with an interest in the land, all co-owners must approve and be a party to the lease. If the land is owned by a business entity or trust, then the governing documents of such entity or trust must be reviewed to confirm that they permit the execution of such a lease. Finally, if the property is subject to mortgages, pre-existing leases, easements, or other encumbrances on the property, those may need to be addressed before proceeding with a solar lease.

### 5. Compensation under the Lease

A farmer should carefully review the compensation he or she will receive under the option and/or lease agreement(s). At both the option/development phase and the construction phase, the landowner may receive either lump-sum payments or periodic per-acre pay-

ments. It is advisable to avoid lump-sum arrangements if the timeframe of either phase is highly variable.

The compensation received during the operation phase should be significantly higher than the earlier phases. It is most often structured as an annual or semi-annual payment tied to the number of acres subject to the lease. If receiving per acre payments, the farmer or rancher must clarify whether all acres will receive the same compensation level, or whether certain unused acres will be compensated at a lower rate (or not at all). Given the length of the operation phase, any lease should also include an escalation factor (typically between 1.5 and 3%) by which payments should rise on an annual basis to compensate for inflationary risk.

The farmer is also encouraged to negotiate other forms of compensation or reimbursement in the lease. For example, a landowner may ask for the reimbursement of professional expenses, such as attorneys' fees, incurred in reviewing the lease. The farmer should confirm that the developer will be responsible for any tax increase caused by transforming farmland into a solar energy facility. Finally, the farmer should ensure that the lease clearly delineates a compensation structure for damages incurred to crops and the underlying drainage system on or adjacent to the property.

### 6. The Rights and Obligations of Each Party

The option and lease agreements should clearly lay out the rights granted to the solar developer on the landowner's land. The farmer or rancher must pay careful attention to how the lease will affect their rights on the land subject to the lease and ensure that any rights or easements granted are carefully tailored for reasonableness. They should also understand whether the lease will interfere with rights on adjacent land owned by them. For example, a solar lease will grant the developer an easement for solar access, which may permit the developer to remove trees or other improvements on adjacent land if they obstruct access to sunlight. Because leases cannot possibly address all uses of the land, I always advise that a farmer or rancher ask for the inclusion of a catch-all reservation of rights clause, wherein the lease specifies that any rights not explicitly granted to the developer are reserved by the landowner.

### 7. Termination and Cleanup Obligations

It is common for leases to have asymmetrical termination provisions, meaning that a developer can often terminate the lease at any time and for any reason, while a landowner can only do so in the event of a breach of a monetary obligation. A farmer may nevertheless seek to ensure that they may still request damages or specific performance of certain provisions of the lease where they are not permitted to terminate the lease.

## Harvest passes midway point in Illinois

By Daniel Grant, FarmWeek

About half the corn and soybean crops were in the bin by mid-October as farmers took advantage of good field conditions prior to multiple rounds of rainfall.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service Illinois field office reported 44% of soybeans and 42% of corn was harvested in the state as of Oct. 10, slightly ahead of the average pace for both crops.

And harvest continued to progress closer to the midway point and beyond until multiple rounds of storm systems moved through much of Illinois.

"Harvest is progressing quickly," Kenny Clodfelter, Edwards County Farm Bureau president from West Salem, told FarmWeek in the middle of harvest Oct. 11. "I'm about 70% done (with everything) and will finish beans tomorrow (Oct. 12, weather permitting)," he noted. "Area-wide, I'd say we're close to 50 or 60% done. Everything is going good."

Berkeley Boehne, president of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau from Shabonna, said harvest progressed quickly in his area as well, prior to the rainy stretch. "Things are looking good," Boehne told FarmWeek while harvesting corn Oct. 10. "Today is the first day of corn harvest. We pretty much wrapped up soybeans yesterday (Oct. 9)."

Yield reports in many areas of the state continue to follow a theme of down from last year, but better than expected.

"We were in a dry area this summer and our ground is pretty light, so we thought corn yields would be way down," Clodfelter said. "But the corn is better than expected, maybe around average. For soybeans, some are good and some are bad."

### About one-third of wheat planted

The quick pace to harvest in recent weeks also allowed farmers to plant winter wheat in a timely fashion.

Nearly one-third of the wheat crop (30%) was planted as of Oct. 10, which is 6 points ahead of the average pace in the state. And planters kept rolling last

week where conditions were favorable.

"We got all our wheat planted," said Boehne, who increased wheat acres by about 20% on his farm the past three years. "We can handle a little dust-settler (rain shower) to get the wheat going."

Wheat planting advanced in southeast Illinois last week as well.

"There has been some wheat sowed the last few weeks," Clodfelter said. "But there doesn't seem to be as many acres going into wheat, at least in this area."

The first portion of the wheat crop (5%) emerged as of Oct. 10, in line with the average pace.

### Farmers welcome rain

While the recent rounds of rain showers slowed harvest and other fall field activities in many parts of the state, it was a welcomed sight for many farmers.

Half of the topsoil moisture rankings in the state were short to very short as of Oct. 10. The other half was rated 48% adequate and just 2% surplus.

"We've been handling the rain so far. The corn is still standing well," Boehne said. "It's still pretty dry (as of Oct. 11). We've got a couple of farm ponds that are as low as I've ever seen them."

Storm systems were forecast to drop significant amounts of rainfall, particularly in parts of the Upper Midwest, into the past weekend. If realized, the storms could provide some much-needed relief to depleted water levels in the Mississippi River basin.

The Mississippi River has responded to the months-long drought with significantly reduced water flow and near record low levels, the Illinois State Water Survey reported. And precipitation deficits over 12-to-18-month periods typically cannot be made up in a month or two.

"While a wet winter would be beneficial to improving soil, stream and groundwater conditions, it is likely we'll be coming into spring 2024 with some moisture deficits in parts of the Midwest," said Trent Ford, state climatologist.

## From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference

Save the date for the second annual From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference, Jan. 17-19, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

This combined Illinois Food, Farmers Market and Specialty Crop Conference is a collaboration among the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association and Illinois Farmers Market Association to bring together more people than ever from across Illinois' local food, specialty crop and farmers market supply chains. Available in both in-person and virtual formats, this unique gathering combines the best parts of the events previously known as the Illinois

Specialty Crop Conference and the Live Local: Local Food and Farmers Market conference.

This one-of-a-kind event brings together farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state with other partners throughout the Illinois local food supply chain. By more efficiently connecting the supply chain, more income is generated; fewer businesses handle the product in processing and transit; and the products are harvested and packaged at a fresher stage. These improvements benefit the local economies and food opportunities of communities across the state.

You asked, and we listened. Producers want to know more

about getting the most from their farms. Local food interests and farmers markets want to work with excellent producers to promote our state's local food systems. These efforts to build relationships don't stop at the fencerow or market gate. So, we've found a way to connect the right people to enhance the robust Illinois local and specialty agriculture system.

### Don't Miss Your Chance

Make your connections at this year's From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Hybrid Conference. For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

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**JANUARY 17-19, 2024**

CROWNE PLAZA  
Springfield, IL

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Chef Rick Bayless

## The Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden

### THIS MONTH

The plants are hunkered down and preparing for winter. Blooms are done except for a few hardy New England Asters (*symphyotrichum novae-angliae*).

Texture is the main feature of the garden now, from feathery tufts of Little Bluestem Grass (*schizachyrium scoparium*), bristly spikes of Liatris, or peppery little seed heads of White Prairie Clover (*dalea candida*).

The seeds are prized by migrating birds but many will drop to the soil, waiting over winter for spring's warming soils and germination and for a bountiful 2024 in the IPPRG.

Join us for IPPRG "clean-up" Friday, November 10, 10 am-2 pm.

A milkweed pod ready to distribute seeds to the winds.



Happy Thanksgiving from Kane County Farm Bureau

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



### Hello Kane County!

As the holiday season draws closer, I think it's a common theme to sit and reflect of how grateful we are for each and every day and all the blessings that we have and that continue to come our way. It's a simple concept that doesn't cost any money, yet adds so much value to our lives and even more when it is done on a daily basis!

It is no surprise that we can sometimes take the act of expressing gratitude for granted. Let's face it, we've all been there because we can find ourselves wrapped up in our own crazy lives or we just go from one thing to the next by checking off the boxes and going through the motions without being truly present in the moment. Or worse, we fall victim to comparing what others are doing, accomplishing, or posting on social media that we often forget how special our life is and the blessings we have that deserve more recognition than we give credit for.

The grass isn't always greener on the other side, it is greener where you water and nurture it. Each and every day regard-

less of who you are IS a blessing. We must live each and every day to the fullest and to do so by your own terms. The things I may be grateful for in my life may not



*I consider myself one lucky lady to have had not just one guest for the Gala, but two, one for each arm! Thankful I was able to share the evening and festivities with two of my biggest supporters, my dad (Bret Miller of Sycamore) and my sister (Britni Petrizzi of Geneva).*

mean much to you – the reader and vice versa, and that's okay! As a society, we must learn that

it is okay to have different values, thoughts, and opinions. If we were all the same, life would be dull and boring!

As a society we must learn to flip our mindsets from what can you take to what can you give? Life isn't happening to you, it's happening for you. I believe that a life full of gratitude and happiness go hand-in-hand. You cannot have one without the other. Not every day will be perfect – but we have the ability to make it a great day to be alive by starting with a grateful heart. Stacking other beneficial habits such as being aware of what we feed our minds and bodies, what kind of lifestyle we live, who we surround ourselves with, and the truths we speak into reality can provide us with gifts that keep on giving and allow us to continue to share our gifts and live a life full of happiness and gratitude.

For me in this moment of writing this column, I wanted to take the time to express how thankful I am for all of you and your support of KCFB and our efforts.

I recently had the opportunity to sit alongside and work with our gala committee leaders, event manager (and her team), and volunteers to help organize and facilitate our first ever KCFB Foundation Gala. I had never attended a gala or anything of that magnitude before so it was all new to me from the start. Being on the

“other” side of the event and seeing it go from an idea to a real-life event was an incredible experience to be a part of. I am still in awe of how the event all came together. The generosity of our committee, sponsors, members, and guests is truly remarkable. I feel so honored and grateful to be able to have a front row seat to witnessing these generous deeds in action for something bigger than themselves. It truly is a rewarding experience and I cannot thank

you all enough for your support of the future of farms and food. This positive impact on our futures would not have been possible without you!

During this holiday season, I hope you find the time to identify the things you are grateful for as well as taking the time to share with those who influence your life. A life of gratitude is the gift that keeps on giving!

*Happy November!*

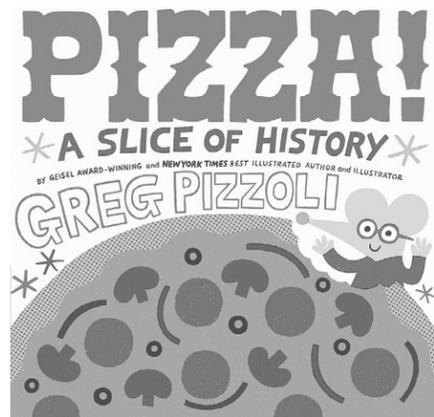
## Book of the month

The book of the Month for November is *Pizza! A Slice of History*, written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli. Have you ever wondered where pizza originally came from? Or where the different styles started out? Look no further than this delicious story of the world's best food, pizza!

Did you know that in the United States, Americans eat nearly 350 slices of pizza every second? That's a lot of pizza! Pizzoli's charming and flavorful story is full of fun facts about the fan favorite food, including the story of where Margherita pizza received its name, first pizza delivery, and when American's love for pizza began!

To get a taste of the mouth-watering history come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a FREE

library! – And check out *Pizza! A Slice of History*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob



*Pizza! A slice of History* by Greg Pizzoli

Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

Want a deeper dive? Snag a Pizza AgMag to pair along with your reading too!

## Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman  
Agency Manager  
St. Charles  
630-584-0001



Bob Effner  
St. Charles  
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf  
St. Charles  
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones  
St. Charles  
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff  
St. Charles  
630-492-5324



Laura Osters  
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630-762-1326



Chris Regula  
St. Charles  
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz  
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Edward Stuehm  
Geneva  
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Michael O'Brien  
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Luke Fawkes  
Flgin  
847-742-0002



Victor Alvarado  
Flgin  
847-742-0003



Miryam Cabrera  
Flgin  
630-762-1329



Bob Riedel  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer  
Flburn  
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero  
Flburn  
630-365-3737



Charles Quick  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



David Berreles  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

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1220-509HC\_07683-5/2/2023



## Lesson-In-A-Bucket

Are you an elementary teacher in Kane County looking for fun and innovative ways to bridge the gap between agriculture and your classroom? Look no further than Lesson-In-A-Bucket in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes just like the ones you would find on the farm! It's filled with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags about given topics such as dairy, pollinators, apples!

This month's theme is all about corn! K-5 teachers will find a classroom set of Corn Ag-Mags that pairs perfectly with the Corn Ag-Venture that helps students apply their mathematics and literacy skills along with some corny fun! In addition, teachers will find corn themed activities such as Packing

Peanuts, which ties science and agriculture together as it is designed to help students use the scientific method to explore materials we use for every day objects. This lesson also helps students critically think about renewable vs. non-renewable resources!

Each of the 5 lesson plans lay (continued on page 6)



## Frozen Pie order form

Please reserve the following frozen pie(s) for pick-up at KCFB on Tuesday, November 21 from noon-5:30 pm.

QTY.			
___	38 OZ.	APPLE PIE	\$17.00
___	38 OZ.	CHERRY PIE	\$17.00
___	38 OZ.	PEACH PIE	\$17.00
___	32 OZ.	DUTCH APPLE	\$17.00
___	32 OZ.	PUMPKIN PIE	\$17.00
___	24 OZ.	FRENCH SILK PIE	\$17.00
___	38 OZ.	BLUEBERRY PIE	\$19.00
___	32 OZ.	PECAN	\$20.00
___	3-LBS EA.	<input type="checkbox"/> CHICKEN OR <input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY POT PIE	\$21.00

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment. Make checks payable to Kane County Farm Bureau OR

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Visa / MC \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

CRV \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: KCFB • 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

or call 630-584-8660. Pies must be picked up on Tuesday, Nov. 21.



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## PIZZA

Pizza has a long history, starting with flatbreads consumed by the ancient Egyptians, Romans and Greeks. The origin of modern pizza is reputed to be Naples, Italy. Neapolitans needed inexpensive foods made with local, plentiful ingredients. Flatbreads garnished with tomatoes, cheese, oil, anchovies and garlic filled the bill. Pizza was little known beyond Naples' borders until the 1940s.

Immigrants to the United States from Naples brought their pizza tradition to American cities including New York and Chicago. The Neapolitans came here for factory jobs, and not necessarily to make a culinary statement, but the flavors and aromas of pizza began to intrigue non-Neapolitans and non-Italians.

One of the first documented United States pizzerias was G. Lombardi's on Spring Street in Manhattan, licensed to sell pizza

in 1905. Chicago style pizza began in the fall of 1943 with the opening of Pizzeria Uno. Many GIs were familiar with pizza from service in Italy, and wanted to duplicate the treat upon their return to their hometowns, leading to an explosion in pizza restaurants.

Although Chicago-style pizza gets a lot of press, "tavern style" thin crust pizza is hugely popular among Americans. The combo of crisp crust, meat, savory sauce and vegetables of choice is a favorite food. Thin crust pizza is available at hundreds of restaurants and gas stations across Chicagoland, including local Casey's locations, which participated in October's "We are the 96" pizza promotion with Illinois Farm Bureau and local farm bureaus (see page 1). It's no wonder Americans consume 3 billion pizzas each year!

### Pull-apart pizza bread

**Ingredients:**

- 24 oz pop-cans flaky biscuits
- 16 oz block whole milk mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup thin pepperoni slices
- 4 tbsp unsalted butter (melted)
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 16 oz jar pizza sauce

**Instructions:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, spray a bundt pan with cooking spray and set aside. In a small bowl combine melted butter, olive oil, minced garlic, Italian seasoning, and salt then set aside.

Next, open cans of flaky biscuit dough and cut each of the biscuits into quarters and cut your block of mozzarella cheese into 1/4-1/2 inch cubes.

In the bottom of your prepared bundt pan, evenly layer

half of your biscuit pieces. (Make sure that you have a nice even single layer and do not pack the biscuit dough tightly because you want some of the cheese and butter to fill the cracks).

Spoon half of the seasoned



mixture evenly over the top of the biscuit dough layer.

Evenly distribute half of the mozzarella cheese cubes and half of the pepperoni slices.

Repeat steps 3-5 with the remaining half of ingredients. Then cover your bundt pan with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes. Once complete, remove foil and bake additional 30 minutes.

Allow your pull-apart pizza bread to cool in the pan for 5 minutes then carefully flip it out onto a serving plate. (You may want to gently flip it back over on your serving dish so that the cheesy pepperoni topping is showing)

You can warm your pizza sauce and place it into a small serving bowl. Place it in the center or on the side of your pull-apart pizza bread for people to dip their pieces into. Serve and enjoy!

### Make a thankful turkey box

Did you know November is National Gratitude Month? Whether you celebrate

Thanksgiving or not, this GRATEful craft could be a special way to incorporate gratitude around your next dinner table meal with family and friends as well as an opportunity to be thankful for the hardworking men and women in the agriculture industry for providing the food on our tables, bellies, and homes!

**Supplies**

- Empty square tissue box

- Brown paint
- Brown, yellow, red, and orange cardstock



- Googly eyes
- Glue dots and/or glue or tape
- Scissors

**Directions:**

Layout a placemat or butcher paper to protect your surface and then pour some brown acrylic paint onto a painting palette or paper plate.

Using a sponge paintbrush, paint the empty square tissue box. Allow to dry completely and apply a second coat if necessary.

Draw a turkey body and feathers and/or download from website. Cut out the pieces on desired cardstock colors.

Once paint on tissue box is completely dry, glue the body of the turkey to the front of the box and apply wattle, beak, and two small googly eyes to the face of the turkey.

Glue the feathers to the back of the tissue box in the layout and design of your liking.

Print and/or write out on strips of papers, "I am thankful for..."

Set out on the Thanksgiving table or bring or leave out all month long for family and friends to write what they are thankful for, place in the box and share with one another on turkey day!

Find this craft and additional layouts and inspiration ideas here: <https://iheartcraftythings.com/thankful-turkey-box-tutorial.html>

### Casey's General Store and Pizza

W	R	I	C	P	N	T	H	S	S	V	Z	V	B	N	S	G	B	S	Z	Casey's
S	N	R	G	N	R	A	A	T	K	E	S	T	I	A	A	L	Y	M	U	Celebration
Q	E	G	F	A	R	G	Z	A	W	S	A	E	X	B	A	E	A	Q	J	Commodity
W	G	F	C	V	N	W	Z	T	T	U	D	S	A	P	S	D	S	E	W	Cooler
V	S	T	E	I	X	X	I	E	Q	A	P	Z	O	A	V	Q	U	P	M	Crew
R	O	S	M	P	U	V	P	W	U	Q	Z	G	C	N	K	V	S	H	D	Delivery
R	T	R	F	I	E	L	D	I	O	I	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	P	E	Family
P	A	A	K	T	H	G	B	D	P	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	U	Farmers
F	Y	J	S	S	F	E	E	E	U	V	U	I	T	Z	U	C	T	R	Farming	
I	A	P	S	R	X	W	R	N	D	L	O	H	B	E	D	O	X	K	E	Field
R	S	Q	M	E	U	J	P	C	E	C	H	Y	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	Generations
W	C	F	J	M	M	B	I	N	F	R	O	W	P	K	R	F	R	T	G	Grain Cart
E	C	F	I	R	I	Z	I	V	O	N	A	M	K	E	K	D	I	K	R	Harvest
Z	F	C	V	A	D	L	K	S	M	M	C	T	M	X	Q	B	L	V	A	Illinois
I	X	J	S	F	J	M	Z	W	I	S	O	Y	I	O	E	X	N	W	I	Meals
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	O	C	L	O	D	T	H	Y	N	Pizza
S	I	O	N	I	L	L	I	A	A	R	L	C	D	I	N	I	K	Y	C	Pizza Bag
P	O	X	T	A	B	H	W	S	A	B	E	N	B	L	M	S	T	K	A	Project
M	V	G	E	N	U	F	I	J	M	Q	R	J	X	U	S	A	X	Y	R	Season
K	K	K	E	G	H	K	K	S	S	E	A	Z	D	X	R	W	F	W	T	Statewide
																				Tractor
																				Tradition

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by November 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.

### Congratulations

to **Joel Wyeth** of Aurora, the October 2023 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 to be picked up at the Farm Bureau within the next 30 days (prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Joel, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

### November is ...

*National*

- Calzone Day 1
- Cinnamon Day 1
- Vinegar Day 1
- Deviled Egg Day 2
- Sandwich Day 3
- Bison Day 4
- Nachos Day 6
- STEM/STEAM Day 8
- Vanilla Cupcake Day 10
- Veterans Day 11
- Sundae Day 11
- World Kindness Day 13
- Pickle Day 14
- Recycling Day 15
- Apple Cider Day 18

- Peanut Butter Fudge Day 20
- Gingerbread Cookie Day 21
- Stuffing Day 21
- Thanksgiving 23
- Cake Day 26
- French Toast Day 28
- Lemon Cream Pie Day 29

*National Month of:*

- Fun with Fondue Month
- Peanut Butter Lovers Month
- Pepper Month
- Pomegranate Month
- Raisin Bread Month

<https://nationaltoday.com/november-holidays/>



in celebration of the family farmer.

Contrary to common belief, families – not corporations – own and operate 96% of Illinois farms.

**In the Bag  
Pizza project promotes the families in farming**

For years, I triggered curious looks from fellow restaurant patrons while holding my commercial-sized pizza delivery bag. Nowadays, I get asked if I'm with DoorDash, a food delivery service.

Until recently, the presence of this red pizza bag felt so unorthodox that my husband and kids were too embarrassed to show it in public. But I had no shame for the sake of hot pizza and took that bag right inside the front doors of Casey's General Store or other pizza places during an era when only delivery drivers carried them. We live 30 minutes from a city with significant grocery shopping and restaurant options. We clock 15 minutes from the nearest Casey's, where we frequently order pizza. I permanently carry a cooler in my van, too.

Appropriately timed, National Pizza Month falls in October during the heart of the harvest season when pizza pickups equally deliver "pick-me-ups" for the harvest crew. Field meals provide a moment to look forward to in a 12-plus-hour harvest day. And this year, Casey's teamed with the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois commodity groups to use pizza to promote the "We are the 96%" Campaign

groups and Casey's sought to debunk the corporate myth with images of Illinois farm families like ours in self-stick flyers on 250,000 Casey's pizza boxes statewide in the month of October.

Three generations of our family and employees make up our harvest crew, and the pizza bag performs. It maintains warmth for up to 10 meals in Styrofoam containers and up to five large pizzas, one more than advertised. The bag doubles as an over-sized soft cooler when I throw in some ice packs and certainly makes my list of favorite things. Today, I own pizza bags for two vehicles. My sister-in-law owns one. My mom, three. Collectively, we can handle delivery for the annual 4-H pizza party for 100 people.

"Is Grandma bringing food?" our son often texts from the tractor with grain cart during the 5 o'clock hour. Our now-15-year-old asked the same question at age 4 when he visited the fields during harvest. Now he's working in them.

Yes, and by family tradition, expect pizza one night a week.

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

# 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 September 15 - October 16, 2023.



Donor	Beneficiary
Sherry Gehrke (Gordon Gehrke Memorial Fund) in Memory of Gordon Gehrke Rita Brummel Bruce & Susan Rucks Jeff & Karla Morris	KCFB Foundation Little Lending Library KCFB Foundation KCFB Foundation

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

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

## Little Lending Library – November spotlight

Our Little Lending Library sits underneath the windmill at KCFB and is open to the community 24-7, 365! Installed in October of 2022, the little red barn is full of ag literacy books for all ages on a variety of topics and

from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life.



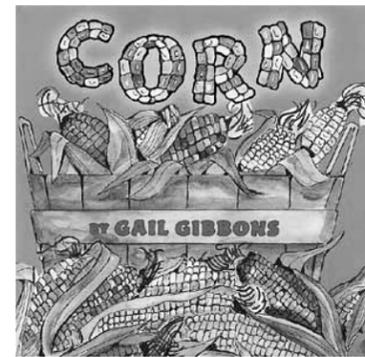
Little Lending Library

helps bridge the gap between consumer and farmers to help make a positive impact in the name of agriculture. No matter who you are or where you are

The spotlight book for our young readers is *Corn* by Gail Gibbons. In addition we will have copies of our *Corn-AgMags* and the brand new *Farm Bites* about Popcorn for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure.

Supplies are limited and there are no guarantees so make

like a tree and leaf the house today because it may be gone tomorrow!



## Grants promote ag literacy for Kane Co. youth through Ag in the Classroom

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program continues to thrive as a resource for educating Kane children about agriculture. The program recently received funding to continue classroom lessons thanks to IAA Foundation grants to local county coalitions.

Eighty coalitions serving 89 Illinois counties were awarded \$647,000 in grant dollars which can be used for materials, training, educational lessons, and activities taking place during the 2022-2023 school year. "Providing these grants ensures teachers have the right resources to integrate accurate agricultural content into their classrooms," said Kevin Daugherty, education director, IAITC.

programs presented 28,848 individual programs throughout the state. Classroom presentations, farm field trips, and agriculture expos add a new dimension to existing curricular standards.

"IAITC continues to help highlight Illinois' #1 industry. Student reach increased 182%, showing a positive trend as we adjust to post-pandemic education," Daugherty reflected. Kane County Farm Bureau promotes agriculture and ag literacy by offering a Little Lending Library, available 24 hours a day in the KCFB parking lot and stocked with ag themed books, ag mags and other material. We also have a lending library inside KCFB full of titles for preschool through adult. KCFB also has "Lessons in a Bucket," 5-gallon chore buckets available for Kane County K-5 teachers,

filled with themed books, activities and Ag Mags about topics including dairy, apples, pumpkins, and pollinators. Call 630-584-8660 for more information. County coalition grants are made possible through funding from the IAA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau. The IAA Foundation raises funds for the IAITC program each year, and in addition to county grants, provides funding for Ag Mags, teacher grants, Summer Ag Academies, and more.

"Consistent and sustainable funding is key for IAITC to have great results," said Susan Moore, director, IAA Foundation. "And knowing that so many Illinois students are making stronger connections to agriculture drives our donors to keep making ag literacy a priority, and we are grateful for that."

### Lesson

(continued from page 3) out the learning blueprint including target grade, subject, length of lesson, objective, materials needed, standards, suggested readings as well as instructions from beginning to end.

As a bonus there is a mAGic lesson about Corn Plant Genetics. This activity illustrates the role chromosomes have in how genes are inherited from parent to offspring! The Multidisciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lessons are designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. They address the Illinois

Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts and social studies.

The learning doesn't stop there! Inside each bucket, there is an infographic postcard all about corn for each student to keep.

Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve yours today!



On a Friday evening in late September, a group of Young Farmers gathered around the campfire at the Gehrke Farm pond in Elgin for a pre-harvest social. The group enjoyed beverages, roasted hotdogs and smores and shared stories.

**Several Kane County Farm Bureau member farms & businesses offer Christmas Trees & some offer wreaths and roping/garland.**

— These locations include: —

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse – St. Charles  
630-377-6288 • (trees & wreaths)

Klein's Farm & Garden Market – Udina  
847-697-4910 • (trees & wreaths)

Kuipers Family Farm – Maple Park  
815-827-5200

Lee's Trees – Lily Lake • 630-365-2116

Spring Bluff Nursery – Sugar Grove  
630-466-4278 • Trees & wreaths

Randy's Vegetables – Sleepy Hollow (Dundee)  
\*Heiden's Christmas Trees  
906-280-1897

Theis Farm Market & Greenhouses – Maple Park  
815-761-8374

Christmas trees (limited supply – open weekends starting Nov. 20th) & wreaths

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse - Huntley  
847-669-3421 • Christmas trees

Trellis Farm & Garden – St. Charles  
630-584-2024 • Christmas trees & roping



### "WE ARE THE 96%" KCFB-Casey's gift card give-away

To celebrate the success of the "We are the 96%" campaign, Illinois farm families, farmers and harvest, Kane County Farm Bureau will be giving away \$25 Casey's gift cards in the month of November. Casey's partnered with the Illinois Farm Families coalition in October by featuring the families of Illinois farms on every pizza box to spread the message that 96% of Illinois farms are family owned! Gift card recipients will be chosen in a random drawing from all who complete and return the entry form below by November 15.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ What percent of Illinois farms are family owned? \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 by November 15.

## Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month to Ralph Chandler of Plano, the November winner of our Plus (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time Ralph stops in our office, he will receive a FREE special of the month from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we offer each month.

In addition to the discounts and benefits of Plus membership, ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered in a monthly drawing for a featured food product or seasonal prize.

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 **Victor Alvarado**, who has been named the September Agent of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Victor is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and

long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Victor's expertise help you! You may reach Victor at 847-742-0003 or [Victor.Alvarado@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:Victor.Alvarado@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Victor.Alvarado/>. Congratulations, Victor!

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Jeff Jones! Jeff has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since November 2019. His



Jeff Jones

office is located at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles and may be reached at 630-492-5293. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.

## 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

Greg Voirin	Maple Park
Brock Bollivar	Elburn
Dominick Davero	St. Charles

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 seven 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.*

## Don't rake fall leaves, recycle them

By U of I Extension Writer Nancy Kreith

Every fall, an onslaught of leaves drop relentlessly into yards leaving homeowners to rake, bag, and haul them out on the curb. But what many don't know is that those golden-hued leaves are gold in the garden.

"After raking leaves this fall, think about recycling them on your property rather than bagging them for curbside pickup," says Nancy Kreith, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

Fallen leaves are one of the most readily available forms of organic matter for home gardeners. Decomposing leaves increase organic matter in the soil, can be used as mulch for garden beds and lawns, and are a valuable addition to compost piles.

Break down leaves with a leaf shredder or mulcher. Or, run over raked leaves with a lawnmower to cut them into smaller pieces. This initial breakdown allows for improved air circulation and more surface area leading to quicker decomposition.

"Be sure to separate diseased leaves from the leaves you plan to recycle or compost," says Kreith.

The rate of decomposition for leaves will depend on the

leaf size, tree species and moisture level. Brown leaves break down faster if they are shredded and moistened. If un-shredded leaves are applied as mulch, they tend to mat together and suffocate the soil or vegetation.



"However, having matted leaves in a vegetable or annual garden bed in the fall will help smother winter annual weeds," Kreith says. "In the spring, the leaves can be incorporated or tilled into the soil."

Another easy way to recycle leaves is by storing them in garbage bags with small holes that allow leaves to break down naturally. Wetting the leaves and having holes in direct contact with the earth, where more microbes are present, will speed up the decomposition process. The end result is referred to as leaf mold or partially decomposed leaves.

"Leaf mold can then be used as mulch or saved as a carbon source for adding to your compost pile in the summer when there is less readily available

'brown' materials," Kreith says.

Brown or dry materials are typically high in carbon and will help to balance the "green" or wet nitrogen-rich materials in a compost pile.

Leaves serve as a wonderful soil conditioner and increase organic matter in the soil, which has a variety of benefits. More organic material will increase the amount of microbial activity which includes beneficial bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms that aid in plant growth. Organic matter also coats finer clay particles in the soil providing more air space and binds sandy soils allowing for better water retention.

Ideal garden soils should test at 5% organic matter. A standard soil test will provide the percentage of organic matter in soil. For information on soil testing kits and labs, contact a University of Illinois Extension office at [go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice](http://go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice).

"By recycling leaves on your property, not only will you be improving your garden soil, you will also be making an environmentally conscious choice to keep your yard waste on-site rather than having it hauled off as waste," Kreith says.

To learn more about the basics of composting, visit [extension.illinois.edu/global/composting-resources](http://extension.illinois.edu/global/composting-resources).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

### SERVICES

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

### WANTED

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

### FOR SALE

Straw bales for mulching plants or straw bale gardens - \$7 while they last at KCFB - 630-584-8660

**Farming Funnies**

Do mummies prefer white bread or wheat?  
Neither, they always prefer a wrap.

What do you call Ryan Gosling in a mummy costume? Ryan Gauzeling

What do you call a mummy covered in chocolate and nuts?  
A Pharaoh Roche.

Like us on Facebook for the latest KCFB info about upcoming events, deals, Ag in the Classroom info and a Friday dose of humor to start your weekend with a smile.

## Turkey production rises, prices drop, just in time for Thanksgiving

By Bernt Nelson

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has had a long hold on poultry and egg farmers in the United States. The H5N1 outbreak that began in January 2022 spanned almost 19 months with over 800 confirmed detections affecting nearly 59 million birds in commercial and backyard flocks. The resulting supply concerns and record turkey and egg prices during the 2022 holiday season caused problems for both consumers and farmers. With economic concerns still looming, consumers are wondering if Thanksgiving dinner will cost as much as last year.

### HPAI

The status of HPAI is much different now than it was just a year ago. Migratory birds are a major vector of this virus, which naturally makes spring and fall migration high risk times. Detections from the current outbreak peaked during March 2022 with 20.96 million birds affected before gradually falling

to just 540 birds in September 2023. This can be compared to 8.15 million birds affected in September 2022. June marked the first month with no detections since the outbreak began in February 2022.

### Will Supplies and Prices be More Stable in 2023?

USDA's annual Turkeys Raised report estimates that 219 million turkeys were raised in 2023, an increase of 4% from 2022 and 1% above pre-HPAI outbreak levels in 2021. This increase in the number of turkeys raised along with strong placements of poults on feed in May and June is a good indication of lower consumer prices ahead of Thanksgiving.

### Prices and Demand

Turkey prices gave consumers quite a shock in 2022. Driven largely by inflation and the effects of HPAI, prices reached a record \$1.72 per pound for an 8-16-pound, frozen, Grade A, whole young hen, 20% higher than the previ-

ous year. These higher prices, caused by HPAI induced supply depletion, led to lower demand, with USDA estimating a decrease per capita demand of 2% in 2022, dipping from 14.9 lbs. per person to 14.6 pounds per person.

Average turkey prices in 2023 have fallen due to growth in production. The average price for the 8-16-pound turkey typically served for Thanksgiving was \$1.27 per pound in August 2023, 22% lower than August 2022. Some of the more specialized products have come down even more since last year. Boneless, skinless, tom turkey breasts, for example, have declined by 61% from the near record \$6.65 per pound to \$2.59 per pound in August 2023. The September 2023 USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report forecasts per capita demand for turkey to increase by 6% to 15.5 pounds per person in 2023 in response to lower prices.

**Support what MATTERS**

with the IFB VISA CARD

A portion of every purchase on your IFB Visa Card from the IAA Credit Union goes to benefit Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom!

Already a member of your County Farm Bureau? You're eligible to join IAACU.

800.676.2541 [www.iaacu.org](http://www.iaacu.org)



NCUA ESI SOCIAL HOUSING LENDER

## THANKSGIVING... EVERY DAY

By Alice Macha  
Communications Coordinator



Gratitude. I try to count my blessings each day, and they are bountiful.

I am healthy. I can walk again with confidence and vigor after knee surgery.

Every day, as I stroll my favorite forest preserves, I find little treats that add delight to my day – whitetail deer that amble over for a visit, migrating

birds that chatter and flit overhead, daily walkers who greet me with a nod and tell me to “have a good day!” while their dogs sidle over for a pat. I am thankful for all of them.

I have an interesting job and great co-workers. Smart, interesting, capable, good people who make it a pleasure to go to work. In fact, when I visited

friends recently in Wisconsin, and they drove me through an area in which rainwater and golf course polluted runoff mitigation had been applied, I knew a bit about it, thanks to my boss, his vision and KCFB’s collaboration with the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District to build KCFB’s Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden. I was able to chat about polluted rainwater mitigation with a modicum of knowledge. Cool.

And cool too, that the IPPRG is becoming a haven for pollinators, a place built from water-logged lawn into a welcoming attraction for bees, butterflies, birds, and garden-minded visi-

tors who stop by busloads to tour the garden and get ideas for their own spaces.

Nature works at it’s own pace, one that we busy humans try to rush. I am grateful I am semi-retired, and can slow down and enjoy the small gems of daily life. With that comes the time to reflect on the great blessings in my life.

In an era in which there is great strife and negativity in our world, gratitude is a gem that I keep in my pocket, a talisman against doubt and discouragement.

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.

— Corrie Ten Boom

I hope your lives and holi-



A curious companion for a brief time on a recent morning walk.

days are filled with blessings great and small, KCFB friends.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Come on, travel with fellow FB members

See three “Belles of the South”: Charleston, SC, Jekyll Island and Savannah, GA. Tour Dates: March 15-21, 2024.

The beautiful Spanish Moss-draped oaks, antebellum mansions, lush gardens, and ornate architecture will make you feel like you’ve stepped back in

time! Enjoy southern hospitality while visiting coastal islands, historic plantations, and beautiful cities! Our second travel opportunity will take you abroad. The Danube Explorer tour will visit five countries: The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary

and enjoy a seven night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard an Emerald Waterways Star-ship.

Tour Dates: August 24-September 3, 2024.

Please call for more information – 630-584-8660.



A panoramic view of Prague, Czech Republic

Northern Illinois Farm Bureaus have TWO great travel opportunities

Illinois measures about 400 miles from its northern border to its southernmost tip. Cold, fairly dry winters and warm, humid summers with ample rainfall allow the land to support many kinds of crops and livestock.

Much of Illinois is comprised of fertile flat loess, left behind by glaciers and wind millions of years ago. About 89 percent of the state’s cropland is considered prime farmland, ranking the state third nationally in total prime farmland acreage.

Special thanks to Theresa Baine of Waterman for her generous contribution of Ag Literacy books to our Little Lending Library! Swing on by anytime and see what’s new!



## Christmas tree discount for KCFB members

Marks’ Tree Farm, which has been doing business in St. Charles for three decades, will establish a Christmas tree lot at the Kane County Farm Bureau on November 20th, and sell between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, or until the trees sell out. Marks’ provides quality, fresh cut Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Spruce and White Pines grown on their farm in Northern Wisconsin. They also offer evergreen wreaths and crosses,

perfect for doors or walls that need a little “sprucing” up!

Kane County Farm Bureau members will receive a \$10.00 discount on all trees on the lot. We hope you take advantage of this convenient and money saving member service. And, while you are at the Farm Bureau, stop inside for holiday gift ideas including farm toys, puzzles, branded apparel, and a selection of local meats, honey, seasoning, and much, much more!



## Holiday Product Order Form

### CITRUS, NUTS, CHEESE, MEAT, POPCORN, SPICE

Kane County Farm Bureau is once again offering fresh citrus and seasonal items for the holidays trucked in fresh to fill our orders. Members say the taste and freshness are hard to beat! An annual tradition for at least half a century, this is one you’ll be glad to be a part of. KCFB members receive a discount & PLUS members get an even better deal. Check out the gift boxes for holiday gift giving.

Complete the order form and return with your payment to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174, by **Wednesday, Nov. 22nd Pickup is Wednesday, December 13th, 2023** at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse (same as last year), 2010 E. Main St., St. Charles (just west of Dunham Road).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

KCFB MEMBER#: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD#: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC#: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

**\$25 for PLUS Member Pricing (Additional benefits apply)**

Questions? Call 630-584-8660

PICKUP TIME: Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: HEINZ BROS. GREENHOUSE  
2010 E. MAIN ST., ST. CHARLES  
(JUST WEST OF DUNHAM ROAD)

PAYMENT: **WITH ORDER PLACEMENT**  
WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER

SEND ORDER TO: KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
2N710 RANDALL ROAD  
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

#### QUANTITY

		Non-Member	PRICE KCFB Member	KCFB Plus (+) Member
___ MESH CITRUS BAG	1/4 Bu. (10 #) fill with citrus mix of YOUR choice at pick-up, 10 lbs.	\$25.75	\$23.50	\$22.25
___ MIXED CITRUS BOX	2/5 Bu. 16-20 Mandarins, 18-20 Navel Oranges, 6 Red Grapefruit	\$38.00	\$35.50	\$33.75

#### CITRUS BOXES

___ GRAPEFRUIT (RED)	2/5 Bu. (Florida)	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$21.85
___ GRAPEFRUIT (RED)	4/5 Bu. “	\$42.75	\$35.50	\$33.75
___ NAVEL ORANGES	2/5 Bu. (California)	\$27.50	\$25.00	\$23.75
___ NAVEL ORANGES	4/5 Bu. “	\$44.00	\$40.00	\$38.00
___ CLEMENTINES	1/5 Bu. (California)	\$24.75	\$23.50	\$22.30
___ CLEMENTINES	1/2 Bu. (California)	\$48.50	\$45.00	\$42.75

#### MIXED BOXES

___ HOLIDAY GIFT BOX	18-20 Navel oranges, 4 Grapefruit, 10 Red Delicious apples	\$38.00	\$34.50	\$32.75
___ GRAND SLAM PACK	6 Red Delicious Apples, 6 D’Anjou pears, 3 Golden Delicious apples, 18-20 navel oranges	\$38.00	\$34.50	\$32.75

#### NUTS

___ PEANUTS – 16 Oz. Skinless Can		\$6.75	\$6.00	\$5.75
___ HONEY KRUNCH PEANUTS - 12 Oz. Can		\$6.75	\$ 6.00	\$5.75
___ PECAN HALVES – 16 Oz. Bag (Georgia)		\$12.75	\$11.50	\$10.75
___ MILK CHOCOLATE COVERED PECANS - 12 Oz. Bag		\$12.00	\$11.50	\$10.75
___ MILK CHOCOLATE COVERED PEANUTS - 12 Oz. Can		\$7.25	\$ 7.25	\$6.75
___ HONEY ROASTED PECANS - 9 Oz Can		\$11.00	\$10.50	\$10.00
___ MILK CHOCOLATE PECAN CLUSTERS - 9 Oz Box		\$12.00	\$10.50	\$10.00
___ DARK CHOCOLATE SEA SALT CARAMELS - 8 Oz Box		\$12.00	\$10.50	\$10.00

#### MISCELLANEOUS

___ POPCORN, Yellow 2 Lb Bag		\$4.00	\$3.50	\$3.25
___ BBQ SPICE, 12 Oz. Shaker Jar		\$11.50	\$10.50	\$10.00

#### MEAT – 5 LB BOX (all individually wrapped)

___ BOURBON SIRLOIN STEAKS, 8 Oz.(4 #)		\$58.75	\$54.50	\$51.75
___ PORK CHOPS - 8 Oz, Seasoned, Bone-In (5 #)		\$37.50	\$35.00	\$33.25
___ PORK CHOPS 8 Oz, Seasoned, Boneless (5 #)		\$37.50	\$35.00	\$33.25
___ PORK CHOPS 10 Oz, Seasoned, Boneless (5 #)		\$37.50	\$35.00	\$33.25
___ LEMON ROSEMARY PORK ROAST / Qty 3, 24 Oz Per Box		\$30.75	\$29.00	\$27.55

\_\_\_ \$25 INCLUDED FOR PLUS MEMBER PRICING (additional benefits apply) \$25.00

**TOTAL # ITEMS ORDERED** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_  
All prices include applicable sales tax.