

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. 85 NO. 10 OCTOBER 2020

Beyond the Barn Door—your access to Illinois ag info

A pandemic may have slowed our social lives, but agriculture doesn't slow down. Crops ripen, harvesting needs to be done, and farmers are out working every day.

Illinois Ag in the Classroom (IAITC) chronicles the process of agriculture in fascinating, engaging, fact-packed videos and blogs. Teachers and anyone with an interest in agriculture can stay at home and check in anytime to attend virtual field trips as varied as Soybeans and The Staley Museum in Decatur, an Illinois apple orchard visit, a pollinator plot field trip at Brookfield Zoo, corn growers, beef producers and much more.

IAITC also features accurate book reviews and recommendations, and books that are

read by the author. Their recommendations include books for grade schoolers, teens and adults, covering topics as varied as beekeeping, urban farming and WWII France. There are books by Illinois authors including Richard Peck of Decatur, Kristina Springer of the Chicago suburbs and Lisa Amstutz of Chicagoland.

Teachers can tune in for "PD in your PJs," Professional Development training on apples, pumpkins and more. They can also access information from the farmer-members of the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Beef Association and the Midwest Dairy Association to help them formulate accurate ag lesson plans.

Families and educators can

check in for family engagement episodes such as making homemade applesauce, trail mix and other family fun projects. These projects and lessons are enjoyable and engaging for the whole

family.

Classes and virtual tours are archived and easily accessible. Autumn is here and winter is a time for reading and learning. You'll enjoy a visit to

<https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/> to harvest a whole lot of learning, and explore and experience agriculture in Illinois.



Above: Beyond the Barn Door with Illinois Ag in the Classroom is your doorway to Illinois agriculture production, ag related books and much more.

Left: A recent virtual field trip visited Braeutigam Orchards in Belleville, for a tour of the orchard and apple harvest.

Harvest decorations on sale now – don't miss out!

The KCFB FOUNDATION wants to help make Kane County the most festive county in Illinois again this year by providing Farm Bureau members with decorations to complement your homes. In October, while supplies last, the Kane County Farm Bureau office will be your one-stop har-

vest decoration shop. Choose from a variety of garden mums, Indian corn, gourds, pumpkins, straw bales and corn shocks all produced by LOCAL growers.

Don't wait, as products are only available while supplies last. Proceeds from all sales benefit the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholar-

ship and agricultural literacy programs.

Hours: M-F; 9am-4pm and weekends 11am-3pm. A self-serve payment box will be set up for those times when the display is not staffed, so feel free to stop by anytime! For further inquiries or questions, contact our office at (630) 584-8660.



| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Straw bales (full bale) | \$8.00 each |
| Carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.)..... | \$6.00 & up |
| Ornamental/Heirloom pumpkins..... | \$6.00 & up |
| Pie pumpkins (softball sized)..... | \$3.00 each |
| Assorted small gourds/mini pumpkins (3-6 in.) | 50 cents ea., 2/\$1.00 |
| Indian corn (tied in 3's)..... | \$5.00 each |
| Mums (assorted colors) 9" pot..... | \$9.00 each |
| Corn shocks | \$8.00 each |

New veterinary medicine scholarship through KCFB Foundation

For 2021, the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is pleased to announce the addition of a new scholarship funded by Donald N. Rodholm Charitable Fund. The Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship will provide a \$2,000 tuition award for an Illinois resident accepted to or enrolled in a School of Veterinary Medicine in the State of Illinois.

Rodholm established the

scholarship in recognition of his grandparents, farmers in Northern Illinois in his youth. By providing this scholarship, he seeks to help develop the next generation of animal care practitioners.

Applications for the Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship, along with 20 or more other scholarships offered through the KCFB FOUNDATION for the 2021-22

school year, will be available at www.kanecfb.com after November 1. Click on "Scholarships & Internships." Applications are due February 15, 2021.

The KCFB FOUNDATION has provided over \$500,000 in scholarships to help college bound agricultural enthusiasts pursue their dreams. Recipients will be named in April. Call (630) 584-8660 with questions.

Start planning your Thanksgiving feast!

Order a fresh, never frozen, Ho-Ka turkey from Kane County Farm Bureau for pick up at our St. Charles office the week of Thanksgiving. Watch next month's issue of the *Farmer* for an order form and pricing or call (630) 584-8660 for pricing and to order by phone.

Ask a Farmer

Q: What are the big, white linear bags I see on some farms in the fall and winter? Sharon S., Aurora

RESPONSE – Joe Engel, Dairy farmer, Hampshire IL

A: Cattle are ruminant animals, with four stomachs, and can break down and digest many green plants that we humans cannot. The bags are used to store silage, which is the entire corn plant chopped into smaller pieces early in the fall for feed, or haylage, a similar feedstuff made from chopped hay. Both are used to feed cattle until next year's harvest. The bags work like silos, to keep out oxygen and prevent spoilage.



Foundation offers 1969 Chevy C/10 pickup at 'Dutch' Auction

The KCFB Foundation Board of Directors have announced their intention to sell the 1969 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck purchased as a Grand Prize option for the organization's 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle. The truck will be offered

for sale through a "Dutch" auction. See page 8 for more info.

Dutch Auction

A Dutch auction initially offers an item at a price in excess of the amount the seller expects to receive. The price lowers in steps until a bidder accepts the current price. That bidder wins the auction and pays that price for the item.



There is nothing fair about PIT

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Joe White is a lifelong farmer in the Elburn area. He has a long list of volunteer service to his community and local government and has served as President of the Kane County Farm Bureau and its associated not-for-profit Foundation since 2010.*



By Joe White, President, Kane County Farm Bureau.

We urge all voters to VOTE NO on the proposed Constitutional Amendment question that will be on the November ballot. If enacted, this amendment would end our State's flat income tax and will implement a progressive income tax. But we believe there is nothing fair about a progressive tax – a tax that shifts the state's financial burdens onto the most successful businessmen and women. VOTE NO on the Constitutional Amendment to keep our State's income tax flat and fair.

Illinois' current non-graduated, or flat, income tax of 4.95% fairly applies the same tax rate to everyone in the state. Compare that to the proposed progressive tax. If the amendment is approved by voters in November, a progressive income tax rate structure – already agreed to by lawmakers – would take effect. This progressive income tax structure divides Illinoisans into categories based on their level of income, and, as income levels get progressively higher so do the tax rates. Under this progressive income tax structure, the tax rates start at 4.75% and go all the way up to 7.99%.

Revenue from this proposed progressive tax structure is unlikely to meet the State's current deficits and debt obligations, or future obligations. Until our State's politicians get their fiscal house in order, costs

Share the road

Along with combines in the fields, tractors, grain carts and trucks like these are a familiar sight on rural Kane County roads during fall harvest. With wet conditions and soft fields, sometimes the trucks may be loaded on the roadside, as in the picture below. Equipment used in farm fields is generally equipped with tracks or flotation tires to reduce soil compaction and allow operations in less than ideal conditions. Trucks, designed for road use, are not similarly equipped. Loading them in wet fields generally results in them getting stuck and/or bringing mud on the roads.

Kane County Farm Bureau urges all drivers on rural roads to SLOW DOWN during this harvest season. If you see farm equipment, flashing lights or Slow Moving Vehicle emblems on the road please exercise CAUTION and let's let everyone work safe and arrive safely!



will continue to grow. ALL our taxes will continue to increase, just like the recent increases on gasoline taxes and vehicle registrations.

The progressive tax would shift more of the tax burden on to the highest earners in the state, but raising taxes on the highest earners will not fix our State's financial problems and – in the long run – may only lead to higher taxes for all of us. It is a farce to think the top 3% of Illinoisans will cover this additional, multi-billion dollar increase in costs. If asked to do so, these top earners will simply shift assets out of state, or will leave Illinois altogether. And, when our state reaches that point, who else is there to be taxed: the other 97% of us. The 97% will be forced by lawmakers to pick up the tab.

Additionally, we know most of the revenue from the progressive tax will be spent in two places: our State's exorbitantly

high pension costs and mounting debt obligations. And not spent – as proponents claim – on our public schools, social services, and public safety. (Remember the promise made for starting the Illinois Lottery?) Lawmakers have been digging themselves into pension and debt holes for decades and now they expect us – the taxpayers – to bail them out. As taxpayers we didn't create these problems, lawmakers' poor policy decisions did. Taxes should not be raised on the folks that had nothing to do with the policy decisions that got us to this point.

Adding to the already dismal financial situation, is our State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The sudden, months long halt of our State's economy means less tax revenue for the State as businesses are not open, workers are laid off, and consumers stay at home. Ironically, proponents will claim these lower tax revenues are a perfect reason to support the progressive tax. Don't be fooled! This unexpected pandemic should NOT be used to advocate for a change in our constitution.

Illinois Farm Bureau's grass-

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.

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roots policy clearly states support for a flat tax. Now is not the time to enact a progressive tax in Illinois. The progressive tax will not solve our State's financial troubles and will – in the long run – lead to higher taxes for all

of us. Let's tell our State lawmakers to get the state's financial house in order before they reach deeper into our pockets, by voting NO on the Constitutional Amendment in November.

| KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| JANUARY 2020 THRU DECEMBER 2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JULY | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| C. BRADLEY | X | X | X | * | * | X | X | X | * | | | |
| B. COLLINS | X | X | X | * | * | X | X | X | X | | | |
| C. COLLINS | X | X | X | * | * | X | X | X | X | | | |
| J. ENGEL | X | X | ^ | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| G. GAITSCH | X | X | X | * | * | X | X | X | X | | | |
| B. GEHRKE | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| W. KECK | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| M. KENYON | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| K. KETTELKAMP | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| D. LEHRER | * | * | * | * | * | | | | | | | |
| A. LENKAITIS | X | X | X | * | | X | X | * | X | | | |
| N. LONG | X | X | | * | * | * | * | * | X | | | |
| D. PITSTICK | X | X | X | * | | X | X | X | X | | | |
| W. SCHNEIDER | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| J. WHITE | X | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | | |

* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Attending IFB Leaders to Washington program.

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Farm toy of the month

This toy is for pint-sized people who are experiencing farms for the first time – picking pumpkins and apples and seeing chickens and cows. This Tomy 1st farming fun – Fun on the Farm playset has just what toddlers need to manage their own well run farm.

This sturdy plastic John Deere farm playset includes two farmers; a wee combine loaded with corn; gator and tractor, harvest wagons, and tomatoes and hay bale to transport to appreciative horse, cow, goat and chicken. Your ag-minded toddler will plant himself for hours

with this playset!

Regular price is \$36.16 with tax, but Farm Bureau members get a 10% discount in October. Stop by and show us your apple or pumpkin picking photos!



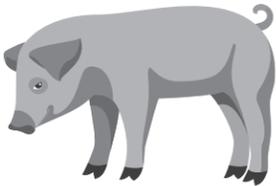
Local pork?

Gould Premium Pork from Gould Farms in Maple Park launched in April in response to the pandemic to offer premium cuts of pork to local families. From one pound packages to whole hogs, customers can order online at gouldfarm.com for pick-up.

Marc and Luis Bernard of Rustic Road Farm on Brundige

Road west of Geneva offer pasture raised organic Red Wattle pork – from choice cuts to half and whole hog options. Customers can order online at rusticroadfarm.com, or visit one of their on-farm markets.

We encourage you to check out the local Kane County Farm Bureau members, and buy local!



Hungry for pork & want to support your local farmer?



Photo courtesy of National Pork Board and pork checkoff.

Visit these sites to learn more about pork:

Three reasons to choose pork: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2018/08/14/three-reasons-to-choose-pork/>

Pork up close: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2018/10/02/pork-up-close-nutrition-and-culinary-possibilities/>

7 reasons to choose sustainable pork: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2018/04/18/u-s-pork-is-more-sustainable-than-ever/>

The environmental impact of pig farming might surprise you: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2018/05/17/the-environmental-impact-of-pig-farming-might-surprise-you/>

How to cook the perfect bacon every time: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2018/10/05/how-to-cook-the-perfect-bacon-every-time/>

Spicy pork chili with pumpkin: <https://www.watchusgrow.org/2019/10/22/spicy-pork-chili-with-pumpkin/>

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Vote NO signs interest KCFB members, non-members alike

The Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business – Illinois, and Technology and Manufacturing Association joined together to urge Illinois voters to vote NO on the Progressive Tax constitutional amendment that is on the Illinois November ballot. They note that Illinois already has the second highest property tax in the nation, highest sales tax rate in the Midwest, and highest wireless tax in the nation.

Kane County Farm Bureau has a limited number of “Vote NO” signs available to members who are leery of the Progressive Tax constitutional amendment on the Illinois November ballot and want to display their message.

Members and non-members alike have been stopping in at Kane County Farm Bureau to get yard signs.

We asked some of them for their perspectives. Here’s what they shared.



Doug G., St. Charles, Finance – Bond trader

FB member? **A:** No

Q: Do you expect the change to affect you personally, or affect your taxes? **A:** Yes

Q: Why did you decide to post a yard sign? **A:** I noticed the signs peppering Route 64 on a return trip from Galena and was curious about their origin. A little investigation led me to Illinois Farm Bureau and Kane County Farm Bureau.

Q: What message would you like to share with neighbors, FB members and other voters.

A: COVID has introduced a new remote work possibility for many workers. I along with many can simply leave Illinois to avoid the taxes.

Again, I along with many can simply leave Illinois to avoid the taxes.



Jordan P., Montgomery, Police Officer – City of DeKalb

F a r m Bureau member? **A:** Yes

Q: Do you expect the change to affect you personally, or affect your taxes? **A:** Yes.

Q: Why do you oppose this proposed Constitution Amendment? **A:** Potential for future tax on retirement income tax, further tax increases.

Q: Why did you decide to post a yard sign? **A:** I feel I need to get more citizens informed and research before they vote.

Q: What message would you like to share with neighbors, FB members and other voters?

A: We all need to vote, but we have to vote on informed decisions, progressive tax is not the way out. We are already over-taxed in Illinois.

Q: Other thoughts or perspectives? **A:** It is time for change and time we stand up to politicians and take a stand against the “same old.” Save our middle class and farmers.

“We all need to vote, but we have to vote on informed decisions, progressive tax is not the way out. We are already over-taxed in Illinois.”



Name: Jim G., Batavia, Retired Airline Pilot

F a r m Bureau member? **A:** Previously.

Q: Do you expect the change to affect you personally, or affect your taxes? **A:** The amendment passes, it may or may not affect us immediately, but eventually it will no doubt negatively affect all of us in Illinois.

Q: Why do you oppose this proposed Constitution Amendment? **A:** Progressive tax rates are inherently unfair, in that they penalize people simply because they earn a higher income.

Q: Why did you decide to post a yard sign? **A:** I want to let my neighbors know that we do not support this tax hike amendment.

Q: What message would you like to share with neighbors, FB members and other voters?

A: This amendment would open the door to the Illinois legislature changing tax brackets and raising tax rates at will. If you think that the higher tax rates won’t eventually get down to you, think again. Illinois currently does not tax retirement benefits, which is about the only redeeming part of the Illinois code. If this amendment passes, that will likely change. The Springfield politicians have proven that they cannot be trusted to behave responsibly with our money. The last thing we need to do is give them more. What we need is a balanced budget amendment. We must all live within our means, so should our state.

Q: Other thoughts or perspectives? **A:** Illinois citizens already have one of the highest overall tax burdens in the country. Enough is enough!

Save time and renew online!

It’s easy to make sure your Farm Bureau Membership is current. The Illinois Farm Bureau provides many services to all Kane County Farm Bureau members, for example, online membership renewal through their website.

Did you know you can renew your Farm Bureau membership online? You can also view your payment history, print a lost or updated membership card, and update your account information including address, spouse/

dependents, phone and e-mail all through the Member Center of the website.

To do this, simply visit www.ilfb.org. Click on the Membership tab at the top, and then Renew your membership. You will be asked to register using your Farm Bureau number and to create a username and password.

The ability to check your membership information anytime, anywhere can help prevent unwanted Farm Bureau mem-

bership late fees and keep you eligible for COUNTRY Mutual and COUNTRY Preferred insurance coverages. Don’t delay, check to make sure your information is updated today!

REMINDER: Regular (voting) and Professional Members are due for renewal in September. Associate members’ renewal dates vary, please sign on to the website or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to check on the status of your membership.

Farm Bureau 2021 calendar gifts to members

In appreciation of our Kane County Farm Bureau members, we will soon have 2021 wall calendars featuring antique tractors, barns or scenic agricultural landscapes. Pick up your FREE calendar at our St. Charles office while supplies last.



As autumn harvesting begins across Northern Illinois 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. Banners are available at the Kane County Farm Bureau on a first come, first served basis.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Lessons – and a great story – from Illinois farmer memoir

The big bins at grocery stores have transitioned from watermelons to pumpkins. Chances are Frey Farms grew both of those beautiful behemoth botanicals. Based in Southern Illinois with farm locations across the country, Frey Farms is the country's number one purveyor of pumpkins and melons. Company "founding farmer," Sarah Frey has written a compelling new book: *The Growing Season: How I Built a New Life – And Saved an American Farm*, which tells the story of how the lessons and perseverance learned during a hardscrabble childhood led her to build a multimillion dollar agribusiness.

On a farm they called the Hill near the tiny town of Orchardville, she grew up poor – a woodstove for heat and thin soup as a typical dinner – with her four brothers, who were her rocks. (She is actually the youngest of 21 combined children of her mother and father.)

This is a tale of hard work and self-determination. Farm chores at age 5. A melon selling route with her mother and negotiating with store produce managers at 12. She moved out of her family home and started another melon delivery business at 15. As a junior in high school, she attended high school in the

morning, worked at Tractor Supply in the afternoon and took community college classes in the evening.

When her dad's luck and ability to sweet-talk the bank finally runs out, the farm goes into foreclosure. As Sarah leads the last horse off the farm to its new home, she realizes she just can't let go of the land where she had all her memories of growing up: the pond where she learned to swim, the woods where she learned to hunt, eating blackberries off the vine, taking care of the horses, playing hide-and-seek with her brothers – "laughing, crying, bleeding."

She works out a deal with the bank to buy the farm – at all of age 19. "The good news about a failing farm is that it can't get much worse. I'd learned what not to do," she says. "With every part of my soul, I love the soil and I love owning plots of it. In that way, I'm a typical farmer. The land is a part of me. I can't explain my connection to this land except to say that I need the feel of the dirt under my feet the way I need oxygen and water. I don't care how disconnected you might be from

the earth in your day-to-day life, our ancestors grew, hunted, harvested. It's in our bones. My soul is rooted here. I hate it and I love it, and I suspect that I would wither like a harvested plant if I ever left."

She knew to take advantage of opportunities when they are presented: At age 19, she had a successful though modest business of delivering pumpkins and melons to local stores, including individual Wal-Mart stores.

When she notices a distribution center opening nearby, she walks right in, finds the fresh produce buying officer and makes a deal on the spot: they want truckloads of cantaloupes and watermelons (that's semi-truck loads, Frey realizes, not the

pickup truck loads that she is used to). And a multimillion dollar business is born. "There's preparation and there's luck. When the two meet, it can be life-changing."

The melon business was going well but she needed to add a fall crop: pumpkins, she decides. Of her field of pumpkins she says, "It was the most beautiful thing that I had ever

seen. The blossoming flowers welcoming the bees. The crunching of the vines under my feet. The brightly colored dots of joy in the brown dirt. Pumpkins were my salvation."

Not everything went quite as planned. "Actually, nothing went remotely as planned." She says, "There is nothing simple about being a farmer. They have to struggle and fight and understand that it might all come to nothing. Sometimes, through no fault of your own, you have a catastrophic year. And then you have to go out and do it again as soon as the weather tells you to."

As her business grew and she became a wife and mother, she struggled with time commitments. But she learned to make it work: business meetings took place around the family dinner table, kids in the boardroom and employees over for dinner. She says, "You have to work in front of your kids without apology and you have to love your kids in front of your bosses without apology."

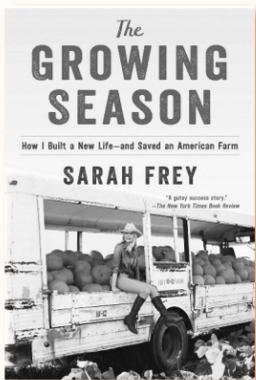
Other secrets to her success include persistence ("no" just means "not today") and her knack for relationship-building. "There's so much serendipity in business. You just never know which meeting or connection will be the one that changes your

life." She also credits her lifelong ability to tune out negative voices and believe in herself. Starting her business as a very young woman, she faced a lot of derision. "No complaining – just the sweet satisfaction of winning," is how she handled those who told her she would fail.

With business thriving, her goal became to improve the country's diet, improve food quality and end food waste, all while helping other families earn more profits from small farms. She had long been frustrated with the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables that went to waste. If they were not "perfect," they were often plowed under, despite potentially being the tastiest ones. That's how she ended up turning the watermelons into bottled juices and harvesting pumpkin seeds for packaged snacks.

Her drive is to run a successful operation. But she clearly knows the deeper point of having a successful business is to be able to provide for her family and her community. As she says, there will always be difficult times, but the farmer is resilient and will rise to the occasion.

The Growing Season is available to borrow at the KCFB library.



Book of the month

October is National Pork Month; want to learn all about pigs? The book found in our

lending library, *Pigs*, says it all! There are many names for these animals – what's the difference? A female is called a gilt prior to having babies, after which she is called a sow. Males are called boars and can weigh 900



Pigs by Gail Gibbons

pounds or more. The wild boar is the animal from which all domestic pigs descended. There are about 300 different breeds of pigs, but all have the same basic characteristics. They have a heavy, round, bristly-skinned body with a round, flat nose called a snout. Pigs have four toes on each foot. There is a hard hoof at the end of each toe. Many pigs have wiggly, curly tails.

Some common breeds of pigs have fanciful names and include the Landrace, Gloucester Old Spot, Duroc, Berkshire, Tamworth, Hampshire, Chester White and Poland China. Each breed has special characteristics. Pigs are very vocal, have good hearing, and an excellent sense of smell but poor eyesight. Farmers feed their pigs corn, cereal grains, and soybean meal. Pigs love table scraps, too. Is it

fair to say that someone who is a messy, greedy eater "eats like a pig?" No! Pigs only eat as much as they need.

Pigs grow more quickly than any other kind of farm animal. When they are born, they weigh about three pounds. By the time they are six months old, they will be about 200 pounds.

Some fun facts:

- Ancient Egyptians used pigs to help them plant crops. Their hooves made holes just the right size and depth for seeds.
- Wild pigs can be found in most parts of the world. Some wild pigs are the wild boar, the warthog, the forest hog, the river hog, and the babirusa. All of them can be very dangerous.
- There are about 800 million domestic pigs in the world.
- The record weight for a pig is about 2,000 pounds.
- A pig can run as fast as 30 miles per hour and is a good swimmer, too.

Pigs is available at the Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Library, made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

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Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
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Celebrate autumn with color and fun!

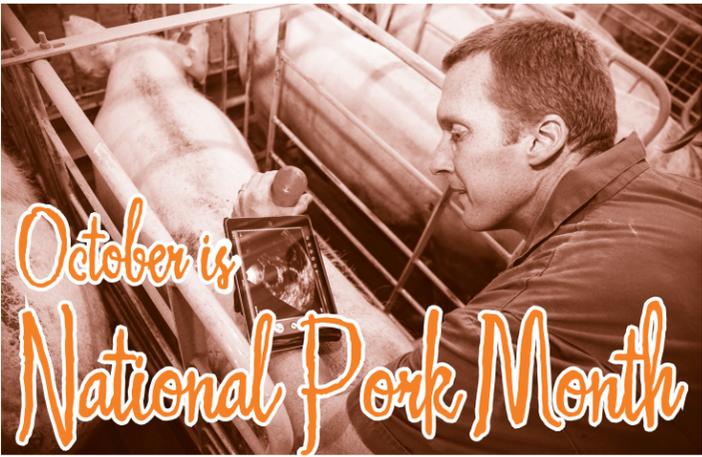
See page 1 for mums, pumpkins and more to enjoy autumn and Halloween in style!





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Did you know?

Pork Timeline-

- 4900 BC:** The first domestication of pigs is thought to have occurred in China.
- 1500 BC:** Pigs were being raised in Europe.
- 1539:** Hernando de Soto brought America's first 13 pigs to Florida. He is known as the "Father of the American Pork Industry." By 1542, the original group had grown to more than 700.
- 1660:** The pig population in Pennsylvania Colony numbered in the thousands. By the end of the 1600s the typical farmer owned four or five pigs, supplying salt pork, ham and bacon with the rest sold as barreled pork.
- 1700s:** Pioneers heading west hung wooden crates from the axles of prairie schooner wagons and filled them with young pigs.
- 1800s:** Cincinnati led the nation in pig processing and became known as "Porkopolis."
- 1930s:** Pig insulin was first used to treat diabetes.
- 1972:** The pork industry started celebrating October as National Pork Month.
- 1988:** The first World Pork Expo at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa, attracts 60,000 people.
- 2016:** A record export of pork was achieved, with 2.31 million metric tons of U.S. pork exported worldwide.

Nutrition

Pork is a great source of lean protein. The protein in pork is considered "lean" by the USDA because it contains less than 10 grams of fat and 4.5 grams of saturated fat per 100 grams of meat. There are many beneficial nutrients found in pork as well. A serving of pork contains thiamin, selenium, protein, niacin, vitamins B6, phosphorus, riboflavin, zinc and potassium.

Fun Fact

Bacon was eaten by astronauts on the moon in 1968.

A piggy puzzle

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

- BACON
- BERKSHIRE
- BOAR
- BRISTLES
- COLLAGEN
- DUROC
- FAT
- GELATIN
- HAM
- HERD
- INSULIN
- MEAT
- OINK
- PIG
- PORCINE
- PORK
- PROTEIN
- RENNET
- ROAST
- SNOUT

Name _____
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 Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by October 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a box of Inboden's bratwurst. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within 30 days.

Recipe - Maple candied bacon

Have you ever had candied bacon? This might be the best thing ever! Great for breakfast of course, but a friend serves this at her dinner parties and people go crazy for it!

- 1 package bacon (about 12 slices)

Materials:

- One sandwich size Ziploc bag
- Yarn
- Blue, white, or silver candy
- Toasted Oat Cereal
- Peanuts
- Raisins
- Multi-Colored Candy
- Peanut Butter Candy

1. Copy the pig feed sack chart below and insert the paper

- 1/3 cup brown sugar
 - 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- Preheat oven to 350°. This recipe must be made in the oven, not a skillet.

Line a baking sheet with foil and place a rack on top. In a medium bowl, stir syrup into brown sugar. Separate bacon

and toss them with the sugar mixture until they are covered. Lay bacon strips on rack in a single layer, not overlapping. Bake for 20-25 minutes, checking after about 18 minutes. Bacon is done when the brown sugar is melted and the bacon is a deep brown color.

Craft - make a feed bag and learn what pigs eat

- into your Ziploc bag.
- 2. Add the blue, white, or silver candy, toasted oat cereal, peanuts, raisins, multi-colored candy, and peanut butter candy to the bag.
- 3. Tell a friend what pigs eat and how the things in your Ziploc bag represent what pigs eat.

- 4. Enjoy your feed sack snack!

Pig Feed Sack chart

| Pigs Need: | Represented by: |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Water | Blue, white or silver candy |
| Carbohydrates | Oat cereal |
| Minerals | Raisins |
| Vitamins | Multi-colored candy |
| Fat | Peanut butter candy |
| Protein | Peanuts |



Photos courtesy of the National Pork Producers Council.

It's hard to go wrong with bacon, but there is an art to cooking it perfectly every time. Whether you're cooking breakfast, sandwiches, or even dessert, use your oven to get the perfect amount of crispiness every time.

Cooking Perfect Bacon:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit

- 2. If you don't plan to save the bacon fat, line a sheet pan with aluminum foil. When finished, you'll be able to easily peel the foil from the pan and discard, minimizing clean-up.
- 3. Lightly coat both sides of a wire cooling rack with cooking spray, place cooling rack in the sheet pan.

- 4. Lay strips of bacon across the width of the cooling rack. Pro tip: Avoid crowding the bacon. The key to crispy bacon is to allow some room between strips while cooking so heat can circulate evenly. You can fit about one pound of bacon on one sheet pan for baking.
- 5. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes.

October is ...

- National Pork Month
- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- Cookie Month
- Eat Country Ham Month
- International Drum Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Vegetarian Month
- National Popcorn Popping Month
- Seafood Month

- 1 National Homemade Cookies Day
- World Vegetarian Day
- 4 National Frappe Day
- 5 National Kale Day
- 10 National Angel Food Cake Day
- 12 National Gumbo Day
- 14 National Dessert Day
- 17 National Pasta Day
- 18 National Meatloaf Day
- 21 International Nacho Day
- 21 National Pumpkin Cheese-cake Day
- 22 National Nut Day
- 25 World Pasta Day
- 30 National Candy Corn Day

- 6. Remove bacon from oven. Place bacon on a plate lined with paper towels and pat away excess fat. *Enjoy!*

Originally posted at Illinois Farm Families website at www.watchusgrow.org. Photo courtesy of National Pork Board and pork checkoff.



Illinois Pork Facts:

- Illinois is the 4th biggest state for pork production, behind Iowa, North Carolina, and Minnesota.
- In 2017, Illinois produced 2.1 billion pounds of pork.
- Pike County is the largest pork-producing county in Illinois, with nearly 300,000 pigs.
- There are more than 2,100 pig farms in Illinois.

Congratulations

Nair Peterson of St. Charles is the September 2020 word search winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's word search puzzle. For her participation, she receives a harvest themed prize to be picked up at the Farm Bureau within the next 30 days (prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Nair, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



**Porktober:
Time to salute pork**

My husband had never acted so delighted about supper.

He sat on the porch in anticipation of my first attempt at barbecued baby back ribs on our new smoker. He inhaled the smoky aroma from his porch seat, sipped a choice beverage, and voiced approval during the final un-foiling of the fare. The pile of rib bones after the meal

told the finger-licking tale: I had found his new favorite meal.

Our family has always enjoyed pork but established a deeper-seated love for “The Other White Meat” since the gift of a pellet smoker. Now, a variety of smoked cuisine ranks among our traditional pork entrees. Oven-baked pork tenderloin repurposes well as pork stir fry. The kids clean their plates of pork chops, grilled to a safe and moist internal temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pork represents the world’s most widely eaten meat, and Illinois ranks No. 4 in the United States for its production. While the industry collectively gives a nod to hog farmers for National Pork Month in October, our household salutes them year-round with fresh bacon in the fridge and extra

packages in the freezer. Most Sundays, I brown our favorite pork sausage for homemade pizzas or the occasional sausage gravy over biscuits for a special breakfast.

While we dine on pork products on Sunday morning, hog farmers tend to chores, a daily cycle uninterrupted by weekends and holidays. More than 2,000 Illinois farms raise pigs, a number that included our family farm years ago. Today, our state’s hog farmers raise more with less, often in climate-controlled, bio-secure barns, a preferred environment for an animal that does not sweat, contrary to the popular expression.

Our state’s hog farmers deserve extra praise and support this year, having faced unimaginable stresses and decisions due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Nationwide actions to control the pandemic disrupted the food supply chain and forced emergency pig depopulation, devastating to the mental and financial health of family hog farms nationwide.

Easter dinner wouldn’t be the same without making Grandma’s ham recipe. Ham sandwiches help us through the harvest season. Our daughter misses those fairground pork burgers as much as exhibiting at

the county and state fairs, both canceled due to COVID.

With a cleared social calendar, we smoked ribs again on a pre-harvest Sunday afternoon. The activity fills six hours, offering a pandemic-friendly way to praise pork from the front porch.

About the author: Joanie Stiers’ family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Welcome to the next level!

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

Regular Members

- Kyle Bronski Big Rock
- JMER Farm LLC Sierra Madre
- Bob Miller Geneva
- PKM Farm Sierra Madre
- Michael Yockey Maple Park

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

- Professional networking

opportunities & engagement with farmers

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

Road safety: patience + good judgement

Along with combines in the fields, tractors, grain carts and trucks are a familiar sight on rural Kane County roads during fall harvest. Sometimes the trucks may be loaded on the roadside. Equipment used in farm fields is generally equipped with tracks or flotation tires to reduce soil compaction and allow operations in less than ideal conditions. Trucks, designed for road use, are not similarly equipped. Loading them in wet fields generally results in them getting stuck and/or bringing mud on the roads.

Kane County Farm Bureau urges all drivers on rural roads to SLOW DOWN during this harvest season. If you see farm

equipment, flashing lights or Slow Moving Vehicle emblems on the road please exercise CAUTION and let’s let everyone work safe and arrive safely!

There is much to improve in road safety. The federal government updated its report Federal Highway Traffic Safety Policies: Impacts and Opportunities in July 2019. It explained “The vast majority of crashes are due to driver behaviors ..., and these are errors of judgment rather than of ignorance or lack of skill.” The report gave a common statistic: “as many as 90% of road deaths are due at least in part to driver error or misbehavior.” The same report cited motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of

death for Americans overall, and the number one cause of death for teenagers. It also said “motor vehicle crashes are estimated to have cost some \$242 billion in 2010 in lost productivity, medical costs, legal costs, property damage, and time lost in congestion caused by crashes.” Last, data showed Illinois residents in rural areas are more likely to die in car crashes than residents in urban areas.

This month, the *Kane County Farmer* offers reminders and tips for changing our driving habits before we have more negative consequences, whether a dangerous crash or a traffic ticket. Look for tips for motorists and farmers within these pages.

Tips for Motorists

SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY with farm equipment. He is moving the planter to the next field. She is hauling corn to the grain elevator. Farm equipment travels at a slow rate of speed and may be wider than other vehicles. If road and shoulder conditions are safe, the farmer may try to pull over to let you pass safely.

Above all, slow down and be patient.

- ▶ Reduce speed when encountering farm equipment on public roads. Flashing amber lights mean “caution.”
- ▶ Slow down when you see the Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem—the orange and red reflective triangle warns you that the tractor or combine travels at a slow rate of speed.
- ▶ Keep a safe distance from the farm equipment so the farmer can see you. If you can’t see his mirrors, he can’t see you.
- ▶ Pass wide, large farm equipment only if you know conditions are safe and you are sure the farmer will not be making a left-hand turn. Be cautious when pulling back in.
- ▶ It is illegal to pass in a no passing lane or within 100 feet of an intersection, railroad crossing, or bridge.
- ▶ Be prepared to yield to wide equipment.
- ▶ Always wear a safety belt and heed the road’s speed limit.
- ▶ Watch for the farmer’s indication of a turn. Newer equipment has one or more amber lights flashing rapidly to indicate a turn. Older equipment is typically not equipped with turn signals so watch for the farmer’s hand signals.

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Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the FOUNDATION. These contributions help in the areas of to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from August 17-September 16, 2020.



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

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| Kathy Konishi, Carpentersville | Northern Illinois Food Bank | Milk2MyPlate |
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| Rita Brummel, Newark, IL | KCFB Foundation | College Scholarships |
| Tom Richter, Wayne | KCFB Foundation | College Scholarships |
| Donald Rodholm, Elgin | KCFB Foundation | *Rodholm Veterinary Scholarship |

** New for 2021, the Rodholm Veterinary Scholarship will provide a tuition grant of \$2,000 to a student from Illinois, accepted to or enrolled in a College of Veterinary Medicine in the State of Illinois.*

For more information on KCFB Foundation scholarship, education or community service programs, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director at 630-584-8660.

See page 8 for Dutch Auction details –

another chance to get a nice ride – the 1969 Chevrolet C/10 pickup truck.



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Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. – Tree removal, tree trimming, & stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured – Free Estimates – Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730.

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

HELP WANTED

SENIOR CAREGIVER-COMPANION – Caregiver needed MONDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM for 82 year old female with early dementia. Located West Side of Saint Charles. Call Bob 630-377-1056 ext 101 or Lisa 630-443-6949 for further information. Perfect job for CNA or Nursing student.

OVER NIGHT SENIOR CAREGIVER-COMPANION – Weekend “live-in” caregiver needed FRIDAY 5:30 PM thru MONDAY 8:30 AM for 82 year old female with early dementia. Located West Side of Saint Charles. Call Bob 630-377-1056 ext 101 or Lisa 630-443-6949 for further information. Perfect job for CNA or Nursing student.

STUDENT for PART TIME CLERICAL OFFICE POSITION High school or college student wanted for clerical office position located East side of Saint Charles. Minimum of fifteen hours weekly including Saturday mornings. Days and hours can be adjusted to your schedule. Call Bob 630-377-1056 ext 101 for further information.

FOR RENT

Apartment for rent, Elburn. Walking distance to train, shopping & library. No smoking or pets. \$1,200 per month. Includes: heat, water, garbage and WiFi. Leave message. CALL: 630-365-6335

House for Rent – 3BR/1BA house in Elgin, near St. Joseph hospital; large family room; beautiful kitchen; appliances include washer and dryer; large lot with fenced back yard; no garage; well and septic; \$1450 per month and deposit required; pets allowed with separate pet deposit. Contact Lisa at 708.927.9099 for more info.

FOR SALE

2017 John Deere D Garden tractor with 42” deck. Excellent condition. Less than 50 hours. \$1,400 or best offer. CALL: 815-751-4897

Vintage 1938 Allis Chalmers WC tractor-crank start-, N.F., spoke rims on rubber, clean running condition. Great for collector. Can text or email pictures, for additional info or viewing: call. 708-821-7311

Vintage 1969 Chevrolet C10 pickup. Rust free truck from Arizona. 6.6L Pontiac V8, former Grand Prize offering in the KCFB Foundation Vintage Truck Raffle. Sale by “Dutch” Auction. See this edition of the Kane County Farmer for further details or call 630-584-8660.

A NATION FULL OF MIGRATION

By Alice Macha



The days are shrinking – we lose three minutes of daylight per day in October. Crops are drying in the field and being harvested. Things are winding down and we are settling in for another winter around the corner.

As we do furnace check-ups, auto tune-ups and swap out summer shorts and t-shirts for winter pants and sweaters, many of the creatures around us are preparing for a remarkable journey that is daunting.

Many birds and insects are undertaking their extraordinary migrations and it is a spectacle for us humans to behold. The statistics boggle the mind:

Monarch butterflies travel from Illinois to their winter habitat in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico – a distance of 2,000 miles. These tiny creatures, which weigh less than a gram, travel 50-100 miles a

day to complete the trek. They are the only butterflies that make a two-way migration like



Migrating sandhill cranes mingle with deer at Jasper-Pulaski State Fish & Wildlife Area in Indiana.

birds do.

Hummingbirds delight us all summer long with their display of frenetic energy, whisking from flower to nectar feeder to tree branch. They weigh about 3-4 grams (0.11-0.13 oz.). In autumn they pack up their spectacular show and migrate to their winter habitat of Mexico or Central America. This journey may require a non-stop flight across the Gulf of Mexico – an extraordinary feat for these tiny creatures.

Sandhill cranes summer in Illinois, Wisconsin, Canada and as far north as Alaska. In autumn, the Midwestern popula-

tion of 65,000-95,000 take to the air in large flocks, forming ragged V's in the sky and communicating to each other with raucous, raspy croaks. They travel to Florida, Texas and Mexico for the winter. One of their stopover spots is Jasper-Pulaski State Fish & Wildlife Area in Medaryville, IN. Thousands of cranes fly in at sunset in a spectacular visual and auditory spectacle.

Some birds leave in August and early September – insect eaters such as grosbeaks, warblers and tanagers. October is the month to see ducks, loons, geese and sandhill cranes making their journey.

An estimated 5 billion birds migrate each fall – parents and offspring making the journey, the latter for the first time. They take their cues from the loss of sunlight and reduction in insect populations and other food sources.

So, while I grumble through my autumn chores of raking, mowing, cutting back perennials and putting the garden to bed for the winter, I will keep my eyes to the skies for a glimpse of the extraordinary spectacle of a migration that puts my modest winter preparations in perspective.

Recruiter of the Month

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

2018. His office is located at 822 Centennial Dr., Hampshire and may be reached at: 847-683-2100. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



David Berreles

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

David Berreles has been named the Agent of the Month for AUGUST 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. David has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto,

Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let David's expertise help you! You may reach David at 847-683-2100, david.berreles@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/david.berreles/. Congratulations, David!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for August, 2020. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

KCFB Foundation funds adult continuing education

As a not-for-profit established with a primary mission to support scholarship and education for the future of farms and food, the KCFB Foundation Board of Directors has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of college

scholarships, agricultural literacy programs, and agricultural leadership education as well as for support of the local community through Extension, 4-H and

FFA. The Foundation has also been a leader in raising local hunger awareness and helping coordinate programs for local (continued on page 8)

Autumn abounds at these farms & markets

Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch
42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire;
Lloyd;
847-464-5952;
emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com

Heritage Prairie Mkt & Edu. Ctr.,
2N308 Brundige Rd., Elburn;
630-443-5989; hpmfarm.com

Klein's Farm & Garden Mkt.
Rt 20, Udina/1175 Lillian St., Elgin;
Matt Klein;
847-683-9647;
kleinsqualityproduce.com

Kuipers Family Farm
1N318 Watson Rd., Maple Park;
Wade & Kim Kuipers;
815-827-5200;
kuipersfamilyfarm.com

Prairie View Farm Market
48W130 Rt 72, Hampshire;
847-683-4970; Cheryl;
prairieviewfarmmarket.com

Randy's Vegetables
I-90 at Randall Rd., Elgin/Sleepy Hollow;
847-428-5244;
randysvegetables@aol.com

Stojan's Vegetables
2N874 Howard Rd., Maple Park;
Phil Stojan; 815-827-3265;
stojans.vegetables@gmail.com

Theis Farm Market
6N953 County Line Rd.,
Maple Park; 815-757-1090;
theisfarmmarket.com

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse
10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley;
847-669-3421;
tomsfarmmarket.com

Wiltse's Farm Produce
50W379 Rt. 38, Maple Park;
Joe Wiltse; 815-739-2573;
wiltsefarm.com

Windy Acres Farm
37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva;
Amanda Srail;
630-232-6429;

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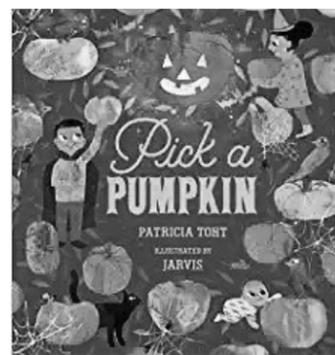
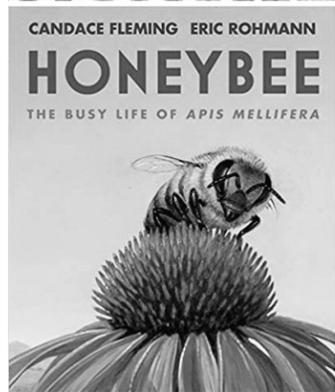
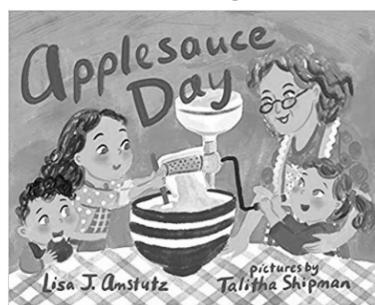
We have three beautiful new books that correspond to Illinois Ag in the Classroom virtual author visits.

Applesauce Day, by Lisa J. Amstutz, illustrated by Talitha Shipman, tells the heartwarming story of a little girl who, along with her family, has an annual tradition of making applesauce with their grandmother using the same steel pot the grandmother used with her own mother. The girl plans to continue the tradition with her children someday.

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera, by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann, is an ideal complement to KCFB's new pollinator garden. This excellent book takes the reader through the life

cycle of the honeybee. The new bee tends to the queen, builds the combs, guards the hive from predators, and searches for nectar. Our bee flies back and forth between nest and blossoms for a total of 500 miles; she has visited thirty thousand flowers. She has collected enough nectar to make one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey. Think of that next time you drizzle honey on your toast!

Pick a Pumpkin, by Patricia Toht, illustrated by Jarvis, follows kids and their families as they venture on a fall outing to "pick a pumpkin from the patch, tall and lean or short and fat. Vivid orange, ghostly white, or speckled green might be just right." The kids bring home their haul and prepare for the carving: "Lumpy chunks. Sticky strings. Clumpy seeds. Guts and things." Options for eyes, noses and mouths abound and when complete, the pumpkin has turned into a Jack-o-Lantern, ready to watch over the house while the kids have fun. Bonus: Toht is a local author and also serves as a media assistant at Wredling Middle School in St. Charles.



Continuing Ed

(continued from page 7) hunger relief.

More recently, the Foundation has turned its attention to continuing education and the need for farmer training for existing, new and beginning farmers. And while the Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies and organizations offer many opportunities for producers of livestock, commodities and specialty crops to learn through statewide conferences and workshops, no single association's offerings can be comprehensive.

To fill the void, in 2019 the KCFB Foundation approved an Adult Continuing Education scholarship program and budget. The intent is to provide support for courses, conferences, training and professional development, not sponsored by Farm Bureau, to advance education for the future of farms and food here in Kane County. Funding will be provided through an application process with applications due 60 days before the

start of the course of study or conference attendance. A review committee will make final decisions on all funding requests.

The application is posted at kanecfb.com under the Scholarship and Internships tab under Adult Continuing Education. Funding will be limited to half of the enrollment, registration or tuition fee and to \$250 per membership per year. It will also be limited to one-time only course enrollment or conference attendance. No successive attendance at annual conferences will be considered.

In this time of COVID, colleges, not-for-profits and other are offering an increasing number of on-line learning opportunities. If you are looking at one or more to improve your farm business, check out our Adult scholarship opportunities!

For more information on the program, contact KCFB Foundation Executive Director Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660 or steve@kanecfb.com.

Foundation offers 1969 Chevrolet C/10 at 'Dutch' auction

The KCFB Foundation Board of Directors have announced their intention to sell the 1969 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck purchased as a Grand Prize option for the organization's 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle. The truck will be offered for sale through a "Dutch" auction.

This rust free Arizona "survivor" was acquired in the fall of 2019 at a Mecum auction in Schaumburg. Originally intended as the Grand Prize in the 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle, the winner of the raffle chose a cash prize auction in which prices start high and decrease until a bidder signals willingness to pay, at which point the auction stops.

If you've never heard of a Dutch auction, it is like an English auction, except that the price is successively dropped until a bidder accepts the going price, and the auction ends. The Dutch auction is so-named because the dropping price technique is used to sell cut flowers in Holland in enormous flower auctions.

In a Dutch auction, all bidders watch the price decline, until it reaches a point that a

bidder bids buys and the auction ends, or an established reserve price is reached and the item is removed from the auction block. For the KCFB Foundation auction, the price



Auction "calendar" 1969 Chevy C/10

| Date | Price |
|---------|---------|
| Oct. 6 | \$8,600 |
| Oct. 8 | \$8,500 |
| Oct. 13 | \$8,400 |
| Oct. 15 | \$8,300 |
| Oct. 20 | \$8,200 |
| Oct. 22 | \$8,100 |

etc., etc.

will start at \$8,600 on Tuesday, October 6 at 9 a.m., and drop \$100 each Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 pm until the truck is sold, or is removed from the auction. The first buyer to call or arrive to buy the truck after a price drop will have 24 hours to complete the

transaction by payment of cash or with a certified check or money order. IF payment is not received, the truck goes back on the auction block.

The truck for sale is offered as is, where is in running and driving condition. It is powered by a later model 6.6L Pontiac engine with an automatic transmission. It can be seen at the Kane County Farm Bureau by chance or appointment, 630-584-8660.

Funds raised by the auction will be used to benefit college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. A search will begin immediately to find a vintage pick-up truck or utility vehicle for the 2021 raffle.

Dutch Auction

A Dutch auction initially offers an item at a price in excess of the amount the seller expects to receive. The price lowers in steps until a bidder accepts the current price. That bidder wins the auction and pays that price for the item.

FB Foundation offers Community Service Grants to FFA chapters

To recognize and encourage the continued contributions of students from Kane County FFA Chapters in the success of Kane County Farm Bureau (KCFB) programs, the KCFB Foundation introduced an FFA Chapter Grants program in 2009. Following its 12th year of success, the Foundation Board has approved Grants for 2020, and renewed the program for 2021.

Grants approved for 2020 will be presented to Burlington-Central FFA, Kaneland FFA and Hinckley-Big Rock FFA in upcoming Chapter meetings or at FFA events. The Foundation places no restriction on the use of the funds, allowing Advisors and students to identify needs and use the funds accordingly.

"Although COVID cancelled many of the Farm Bureau events and activities that typically rely on local FFA Chapter volunteers to be successful, we are happy to still be able to offer these funds to local FFA Chapters," said Foundation President Joe White of Elburn. "FFA does a lot for the future of agriculture and the success of young people in all walks of life." He adds, "Their participation in Farm Bureau programs over the years has

helped FFA members build teamwork, leadership development, and presentation skills



Officers of the Burlington-Central FFA Chapter gather on the parking lot of the Veterinary Sciences building after school on September 22 to accept an "FFA Chapter Grant" from the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. The Foundation, which makes annual awards to FFA Chapters in exchange for providing willing, capable and knowledgeable volunteer for Farm Bureau educational and social events, honored the agreement even in a year when COVID cancelled those events. The unrestricted funds grant gives FFA Advisors latitude in meeting the needs they identify for the Chapter. Inset: Central FFA, like Hinckley Big Rock and Kaneland, received a \$500 grant for 2020.

while representing their Chapter to the public. We hope to get back to some of those KCFB events next year where we will receive capable volunteers and exposure to the next generation of agricultural leaders."

For 2020, each Chapter will receive a grant of \$500. For 2021, the Farm Bureau Foundation has selected four community service, educational and promotional programs, which will promote leadership development skills in FFA members. Participation in two or more of these programs will earn FFA Chapters a minimum \$250 Chapter Grant. Participation in

all four will earn the Chapter \$400. Up to an additional \$100 will be offered to FFA Chapters that complete and report a community service activity, bringing the potential 2021 award up to \$500 per FFA Chapter.

The four KCFB programs approved for FFA Chapter assistance are: Ag Days, where fourth graders gather at the Mooseheart grounds in March for farm-themed lessons; Touch-a-Tractor, the Farm Bureau and Foundation's annual Spring open house and fundraiser; the Kane County Fair, and; an annual "Acquaintance" event with the Farm Bureau Young Farmers. In recent years this event has included re-packaging food for local food pantries at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Kane County Farm Bureau is a non-for-profit membership organization, representing the interest of local agriculturalist. The Bureau's Foundation provides funding to support agricultural, educational, and leadership development for the benefit of agriculture and local farm families. In Kane County, FFA has three chapters at Burlington-Central, Hinckley Big Rock, and Kaneland High Schools.

OCTOBER FEATURED FOOD PRODUCT

Sausage, sausage, sausage!

October is National Pork Month or as we like to call it, "Porktober." To celebrate, KCFB is offering your choice of pork sausage patties, links or bulk pork sausage. Breakfast sausages are unlike all other sausages, largely thanks to the spice mix.

The KCFB member price for a 5 lb. box of pork sausage patties from Inboden's (40 to a box) is \$23. Gould Premium Pork of Maple Park, will be sold in 1 lb. packages; sausage links, \$6.00/lb. and bulk breakfast sausage, \$6.00/lb.

Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Offered while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. at Oak St. in St. Charles.

KCFB President Joe White (right) leads a policy discussion at a recent meeting of the organization's Board of Directors. The Farm Bureau is governed by a board of 15 regular or farmer-members, each elected to serve three year terms, from 5 districts in the county. Directors, listed on page 2, meet monthly at the Farm Bureau office.

