

# Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 84 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

## Kane Co. farm focuses on medicinal value of garlic

By Kay Shipman, reprinted from FarmWeekNow.com  
This Elburn, Illinois certified organic garlic farm provides a "life of meaning" for Kane County family.

The motivation was medicinal for the founding of Garlic Breath Farm, a Kane County farm specializing in garlic with disease-fighting attributes.

Owners Tony and Sharon Pferschy share a history of cancer among friends and family. They have raised and donated money to support cancer research, and they even once shaved their heads for a friend taking chemotherapy treatments.

"We started realizing there

was something we could do to be more a part of the solution," said Sharon, also a breast cancer survivor. "We realized the importance of food and nutrition, and everything you could do to heal your bodies from within."

Garlic Breath Farm this month harvests more than 35,000 certified organic bulbs of garlic. The farm grows a hardneck variety high in allicin, a component supported by studies for its cancer-fighting properties. The Pferschys said most grocery stores sell softneck varieties with little allicin. As a result, the couple's attention as the garlic guy and gal at local

farmers' markets has grown.

In part, their farm's name, which their son suggested, grabs attention, as does "Stinky," the mascot that Tony

"As a farm, our motivation is medicinal produce," said Tony, a half Italian who loves garlic and recently resigned from his six-figure job to farm full time.

USDA organic certification in 2018 and plans to expand into other produce. The couple also would like to host more farm-to-table dinners and partner with agencies to share the farm's therapeutic qualities with veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"We're service-driven people, and helping people is the core of our business," said Sharon, whose farm also makes frequent donations to a local food pantry. "We have to remind ourselves to make money sometimes."

The Pferschys bought their 3-acre minifarm near Elburn to grow healthy food and provide an acceptable home for their pet pig, Kevin Bacon. Almost everything about garlic's nine-month growing season is labor intensive. In fact,

Tony joked that he ends the season with one gigantic Arnold Schwarzenegger arm.

Every October, they plant one-third of an acre of garlic for harvest in July. They also grow

(continued on page 6)



Garlic Breath Farm owners Sharon and Tony Pferschy of Elburn check freshly harvested garlic bulbs (Photo by Catrina Rawson).



Tony operates a cutter that loosens soil prior to hand-harvesting. The Pferschys will harvest more than 35,000 certified organic bulbs of garlic this month (Photo by Catrina Rawson).

sketched. More than that, the farmstand welcomes repeat buyers for the garlic's flavor and attracts cancer patients who share their stories while they look to strengthen their bodies' defenses with food.

"We hope to get to a point where we are really relied upon as far as producing organic-certified produce that you can't find or is hard to get from a locally grown standpoint."

Garlic Breath Farm attained

## Winner chooses...the truck!



Ulyana Lynevykh of St. Charles was the grand prize winner of the KCFB Foundation's 2019 Winner's Choice Raffle. It was no surprise Ulyana chose the 1966 Ford 100 pick-up with her grand prize choice, as she and



husband Andriy (below, left) have a 14 year old son, Anatoliy, (center). Anatoliy is now really excited about getting his driver's license! Lynevykh purchased her winning ticket in April at Touch-A-Tractor on the KCFB lawn.

Second prize winner (\$500 in groceries) was John Peters of Maple Park and third prize winner (\$500 in fuel) was Rose Norman of Sugar Grove. KCFB Foundation extends its thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets. The Winner's Choice raffle supports KCFB Foundation college scholarships and KCFB Ag-in-the-Classroom programs.

### KCFB CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2019

2 Labor Day, KCFB Office Closed

4 Adopt-A-Legislator 83rd District Tour, Rep Barbara Hernandez, Aurora (Woodford CFB)

12 Board of Directors, 7:00 pm

13 KCFB Foundation, 8:30 am

13-15 125th Anniversary of the Big Rock Plowing Match

15-21 National Farm Safety and Health Week

17 Young Farmers BBQ & meeting, 6:30 pm

19 Kane County Board Ag Cmte, 10 am, County Bldg

23 Food for Thought meeting, 10:30 am

### SEPTEMBER FEATURED PRODUCT

Steakhouse  
Boneless  
Pork Chops

This month we're offering special steakhouse boneless marinated pork chops! Each box comes with 8 sealed, 8-oz. chops. These special Smokehouse Pork Chops are marinated in a balsamic reduction with mustard seed and just a hint of onion. They are ready for your grill. The price is \$24.90 per box, Non-members pay \$28.63, and Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. They are available while supplies last at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street, in St. Charles.

## State Rep. Skillicorn tours local farms

On Monday, July 22 Kane County and McHenry County Farm Bureaus converged to give 66th District State Representative Allen Skillicorn and his office manager, Julie Schmidt, farm tours in both counties. The tours came about because Skillicorn expressed an

interest in visiting local farms during KCFB's March "Lunches to Legislators" program.

The goal of the tour was to familiarize Representative Skillicorn with local farmers, provide a growing season update and help him better

understand the legislative issues that affect farmers. KCFB thanks Gehrke Farms and Wayne, Carolyn and Beth Gehrke for taking time out of their schedules to welcome Representative Skillicorn.

Following a tour and meeting at the Gehrke farm, the group headed north for lunch in Huntley and a tour of prevented planting in McHenry County led by McHenry County Farm Bureau President Dan Ziller.

## Big Rock Plowing Match date set

The special 125th-anniversary edition of the Big Rock Plowing Match will be held Friday, September 13-Sunday, September 15, at Plowman's Park in Big Rock, IL. Experience the farming scene on Saturday and Sunday. Both days, Drawing for Lands starts at 9 a.m., plowing begins at 9:30 a.m., and trophy presentations happen at 4 p.m.

The weekend event also features horse and livestock shows, FFA and 4-H education exhibits, the craft and art show, live music from the Wooden Rockers and others, a pedal tractor pull and much more.



L-R: 66th District State Representative Allen Skillicorn and office manager Julie Schmidt listen intently as farmer Wayne Gehrke discussed drainage issues on his family's farm near Elgin and Gehrke's mother, Beth, and sister, Carolyn, listen in.

## Farm Toy of the Month—Did you grow up with red in your ♥

We have something for you!

This month we feature the 1/32 die-cast metal replica "Case Steiger 580 Tractor" ERTL/TOMY farm toy. In 2014, the original full size machine cost \$432,852, but our toy of the month mini version is on sale for only \$35.08! This toy is bound

to go the extra mile with your little one!

Regular price is \$38.98, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of September and you can save an extra 10% when you reference this ad. Supplies are limited, so we'll see you soon!

# PLUS status membership—like a KCFB Booster Club—with perks

All Kane County Farm Bureau members are an integral part of the farm bureau family. Your annual support is important to the future of farms and food. On behalf of all those in the agricultural industry – from farm gate to dinner plate – we thank you for continued membership in our organization and your important

**JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB**

contribution in the form of annual membership dues. All members may choose to upgrade their KCFB membership to PLUS status for an extra \$25 a year, an extra level of committed support to the Kane County Farm Bureau. PLUS members SAVE more money, add CONVENIENCE and show greater SUP-

PORT for farms, food and agriculture, and not for nothing! PLUS members receive perks in addition to existing membership benefits. For adding PLUS status to your existing membership, you receive one FREE 9" fall mum, FREE admission to KCFB's annual Touch-a-Tractor spring event, one FREE 16" or 18" tractor-shaped Pillow Pet, and a 10% discount at our in-house

KCFB Country Store when you purchase merchandise like farm toys, apparel, accessories and books (excludes perishable foods and monthly specials).

PLUS status is a membership upgrade, an add-on for members who want to do more for Farm Bureau. It's like joining the KCFB Booster Club, without having to work a shift in the concession stand!

Whether you elevate to PLUS status or not, your membership is important to Kane County Farm Bureau and its mission – more profitable farms, more literate citizens, stronger communities and healthy food for all. You are

a part of our continued efforts and can lend further support with a PLUS upgrade.

To upgrade to PLUS status, please fill out and return the form on page 8. Current KCFB membership and a \$25 payment are required. Checks should be made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau. For more information or to pay with a credit card, call (630) 584-8660 or visit our office at 2N710 Randall Rd in St. Charles, IL 60174.

*See page 8 for application form and become a PLUS member today!*

## 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:

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

- Professional networking opportunities and engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm and 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.

### Regular members

James Fidler Maple Park  
Ron Flint Maple Park  
Juan Flores-Rodriguez Aurora  
Matt Harvell Maple Park

### Professional members

Victor Alvarado Carpentersville  
Joshua Austin Hampshire  
Stanley Butler Aurora  
Dan Cooper Oswego  
Dominick Davero St. Charles  
Keith Eakins Elburn  
Robert Effner North Aurora  
Zach Fox Montgomery  
Kevin Gomes Sugar Grove  
Kelly Landorf North Aurora  
Kevin Laurie North Aurora  
Calin Marchis Aurora  
Joshua Quail Campton Hills  
Charles Quick Hampshire  
Milton Reynolds St. Charles  
Debbie Stob St. Charles  
Edward Stuehm Geneva  
James Trumbower Hampshire  
Todd Wilcox Elburn

*Your Farm Bureau membership means Value*

## KCFB recognized for hunger relief efforts in Circle of Hope Society

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) thanked Kane County Farm Bureau (KCFB) in a recent letter for its continued charitable giving in Fiscal Year 2019. That recognition, in turn, belongs to the scores of loyal members who support hunger relief efforts by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, established in 1989 to advance research and education and support the local community.

KCFB will be recognized as a member of the Circle of Hope Society at the Planter level in the Northern Illinois Food Bank 2019 Annual Report. NIFB will also include Kane County Farm Bureau in a list of 2019 contributors on its Donor Wall display at the West Suburban Center in Geneva. In the past year, NIFB provided 69 million meals to hungry neighbors through its network, surpassing records set in each of its previous years of operation.

Kane County Farm Bureau has a strong history of raising funds for hunger relief initiatives, both its own and those of NIFB and its partners. In 2009, they launched the local Harvest for ALL initiative as part of a larger effort of County Farm Bureaus across the nation. In 2011, the American Society of Association Executives recognized KCFB with a Summit Award from for its impact on community and its contributions to society. Awards followed

from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the West Suburban Philanthropy Network in 2013 for its Million Meal Challenge. In addition, KCFB's Young Farmers group led the state of Illinois for 15 consecutive years in fundraising dollars for local hunger relief.

In 2013 the KCFB Foundation also initiated Food>FORWARD to address hunger on a larger scale – feeding a growing world population expected to top 9 billion. As part of Food>FORWARD, KCFB Foundation raises funds for college scholarships and agricultural education in classrooms in order to attract and retain the brightest minds in agriculture-related programs of study and careers. Harvest for ALL continues as a legacy campaign and frames KCFB's ongoing efforts at local hunger relief.

Last year, KCFB Foundation took aim at the nexus of hunger and a struggling dairy economy. Following on the heels of previ-

ous success, the Foundation launched the 10,000 Gallon Milk CHALLENGE. In June 2019 the Foundation announced it had surpassed its goal of providing 10,000 gallons of milk to local food pantries in less than a year! An Ice Cream Social at the 2019 Dairy Open House, hosted by Lenkaitis Holsteins in St. Charles on June 29, was the culminating event in the successful campaign.

KCFB thanks all its donors who, over many years, have generously contributed their time and resources to Kane County Farm Bureau and its Foundation for the sake of producing food and feeding neighbors. Last year, KCFB channeled 100% of contributions made for the sake of Harvest for ALL and the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE directly to local food pantries with no administrative cost.

If you are interested in the inseparable relationship between farming and food, and in joining the efforts of Kane County Farm Bureau to address local hunger, please contact us at (630) 584-8660.



**Beef store is now open!**  
By appointment only

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100% hormone free beef.  
Selling individual cuts. Buy as little or as much as you want.

**815.895.4691**  
Mark & Linda Schramer, Owners  
8N840 Lakin Road, Maple Park

**Sample Packs make great gifts!**

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
B. GEHRKE	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				
W. KECK		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
K. KETTLEKAMP	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X		X		X				
A. LENKAITIS		X	X	X	X	X		X				
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
D. PITSTICK	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				

**Kane County Farmer**  
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# National Farm Safety & Health Week—September 15-21

National Farm Safety & Health Week is September 15-21 and it's time to remind everyone working in agriculture to make health and safety a priority. This year's theme, "Shift Farm Safety into High Gear," brings to focus the importance of a safe and healthy lifestyle. Each day highlights a different health and safety topic.

Harvest season is just around the corner. That means combines and farm equipment will begin traveling on country roads, and long days of hard work are ahead. Farmers and ag workers need to remember to take equipment safety seriously. Every tractor operator is responsible for ensuring the tractor does not present any unnecessary hazard to him/her, other farm workers, or innocent bystanders. Don't wait until it's too late before you take safety seriously.

While safety is top priority during this time of year, it is equally important for farmers and ag workers to take care of

their own health as well. Last year, over 2,200 people died in Illinois of overdoses. Health officials are calling it an opioid

crisis, and it's hitting rural Illinois communities hard. Three out of every four farmers say it would be easy for someone in their community to access a large amount of prescription opioids or painkillers without a prescription. The opioid epidemic is devastating to its victims and their families. It has a compounding ripple effect throughout communities, affecting qual-

ity of life, economic opportunity, and rural prosperity. No corner of our country has gone untouched by the opioid crisis, but the impact of this issue on small towns and rural places has been particularly significant. In 2017 the rate of deaths involving opioids was 17.2 per 100,000 persons, which is higher than the national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons.

It is also important for farmers and ag workers to keep their physical and mental health at the forefront. Working long hours, often in the isolation of a combine or tractor, can wear on farmers. Remember to take occasional breaks and to talk to friends or family about your frustrations and stresses.

There are many benefits to growing up on a farm, but it is well known that farms are dangerous places and keeping children safe should be a top priority. A simple checklist can be used to perform safety checks on your farm, enhancing the safety of children who live, work and visit your farm.



**NATIONAL**  
Farm Safety & Health Week  
September 15-21, 2019

- Monday, September 16** – Tractor Safety & Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, September 17** – Farmer Health & Opioid/Suicide Prevention
- Wednesday, September 18** – Safety & Health for Youth in Agriculture
- Thursday, September 19** – Confined Spaces in Agriculture
- Friday, September 20** – Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture

According to the 2017 USDA statistics for Illinois, women make up more than 28 percent of the producers annually. This statistic shows that

women continue to play a vital role in the day to day management of our farms and ranches.

National Farm Safety & Health Week serves as a reminder to think about tractor safety, safety on rural roads, physical and mental health, opioid and suicide prevention, kids on the farm, confined spaces, and safety and health for women in agriculture.

Tune in to RFD Radio Network during National Farm Safety Health Week to hear interviews on a variety of subjects. You can also visit the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (<http://www.necasag.org/nationalfarm-safetyandhealthweek/>) for daily webinars, or contact Kane County Farm Bureau for more information on these topics.

## Time to update your family portrait?

Kane County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer members a memory-making opportunity. Gather the family for a FREE professional portrait sitting at the KCFB office in St. Charles. As a Farm Bureau member family, you will receive a FREE 8"x 10" full-color family portrait. Individual poses are available. However, this program is limited to one (1) FREE portrait per family or household. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in the free portrait. You will be able to view your photos immediately on a digital viewing system.

Appointments are available Friday, October 4th, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, October 5th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family photos make a wonderful gift or keepsake. Appointments fill quickly. Call KCFB at (630) 584-8660 to schedule.



## KCFB members save on admission to Santa's Village Azoosment Park

Plan a visit to Santa's Village Azoosment Park with the 2019 KCFB member benefit. The park is open June 10th–August 23rd and weekends only August 24th–October 27th. General admission tickets are \$24.99 + tax (age 2 and under are free). KCFB member ticket price is

only \$18.99. NO BLACKOUT DATES. Enjoy 20 rides and 100's of animals. Target audience is 12 and younger. Parking is FREE and food & drink can be brought in. Call the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to purchase tickets or for more information. Check the

Santa's Village website [www.santasvillagedundee.com](http://www.santasvillagedundee.com) for further details.



## NOW TEST YOUR WELL IN OCTOBER!

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District offer water testing in October this year. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and well testing helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The well testing program has three simple steps: (1) pick up and pay for a water test kit at Kane County Farm Bureau between Monday, Oct. 7, and Friday, Oct. 11; (2) at home, collect a water sample as close as possible to turning it in; and (3) return the water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Results will be mailed to your home.

Three kits are available and prices vary:

**A. Basic Package (Nitrate Package) – \$45.00**

Test for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, soluble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

**B. Pesticide Screen – \$80.00**

Test to indicate the presence of triazine herbicides, lasso, dual or harness.

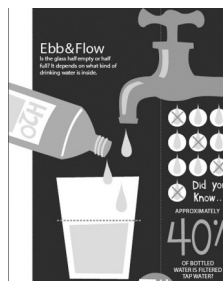
**C. Metals – \$95.00**  
Test for 23 different metals.

All kits include detailed sampling instructions. KCFB or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation

District can provide additional information about each test.

The certified lab at Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, OH tests all samples. The lab is nationally recognized for its work testing rivers and lakes.

Mark your calendar for a FALL water test or call Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 with questions.



**Private well testing kits available Oct. 7-11**

## The MUMS are back! Fall Harvest Décor here in October

Back by popular demand – beautiful fall colors of mums and other décor! With fall right around the corner, it's time to think about decorating your home or business with fall harvest décor from the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This yearly fundraiser, with all proceeds benefitting Ag Literacy and scholarship programs, is sure to be your one-stop-shop for fall décor. Choose

from straw bales, corn shocks, garden mums, Indian corn, small gourds, and all sizes of pumpkins! We have it all and expect décor to arrive the first weekend in October. It will be displayed on our lawn and on the parking lot area directly in front of Costco.

More details to follow mid-September. Please visit our Facebook and be on the lookout. Call (630) 584-8660 with any questions.

## Fall Harvest & Halloween — Decorations —



### Pre-order, by the piece

	Number	Total \$
Straw bales (full bale)	each \$8.00	_____
carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.)	each \$ 6.00	_____
pie pumpkins (soft ball sized)	each \$3.00	_____
assorted small gourds/mini pumpkins (3-6 in.)	ea. 4/\$1.00	_____
indian corn (tied in 3's)	each \$ 5.00	_____
mums (assorted colors) 9" pot	each \$ 8.00	_____
Corn Shocks	each \$7.00	_____

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

### or by the package

	corn shocks	straw bales	carving pumpkins	gourds/mini's	pie pumpkins	indian corn	mums 5-6"	
<b>\$35, the townhouse</b>	1	0	2	4	1	1	1	_____
<b>\$70, the cottage</b>	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	_____
<b>\$100, the homestead</b>	3	2	4	8	3	1	4	_____

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

**GRAND TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to KCFB Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd., St Charles, IL 60174.

Cash, check, VISA/MC accepted. Non-members add 10% to total.

Pre-order deadline is Friday, September 27.

Pick-up at the Kane County Farm Bureau any time after October 4th. M-F, 9:00 -4:00.

A la carte sales will also be available without pre-order -only while supplies last.

All proceeds benefit Ag Literacy and Scholarship programs of the KCFB FOUNDATION.

Don't forget to order straw for fall garden mulching - for more info, call 630 584-8660.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



My February article concentrated on my looking for wonders during 2019. As I prepare to join the retired folks, I find myself looking back at all the wonders of being KCFB's Ag Literacy Coordinator for the past 15 years.

The wonder of agriculture ... how technology and updated practices have made it possible to feed the world.

The wonder of the farmers who work so hard and with such compassion ... I remember one of them telling me, "I LOVE corn!" as he explained a year in his life as a grain farmer.

The wonder of watching children learn as I go into classrooms ... I never tire of seeing the "ah-ha moment" of learning in their eyes.

The wonder of the teachers who learn new facts about agriculture to take back to their students. There are always some at Institute Day or SAI's that proclaim their newly found appreciation of what has been all around them. Their eyes are opened with wonder.

The wonder of watching a child or adult interact with baby chicks at Ag Days, Touch a Tractor or other programs. (I always feel that wonder as I watch the chick put some water in its beak and tip its head back to swallow it. Or that I am now able to tell a chick from a poult, thanks, Beth.)

The wonder of my finding new and different ways to teach others about various concepts, be it pollinators, precision farming, myth busting or other such topical issues.

The wonder of learning firsthand about agriculture in other

areas of the U.S. or the world, seeing the similarities and differences worldwide.

The wonder of all the people involved in our Ag Days ... how each of them take two mornings to teach the 4th graders about their facet of agriculture. Year after year, they answer in the affirmative when I ask if they would help again. Many of these are second generation volunteers, children of the former volunteers ... now that's dedication. THANK you to each and every one of you.

The wonder of all the SPROUTS volunteers that have taught 3rd graders about agriculture through the book *HEARTLAND*. Again, a huge thank you for your dedication that has made this program a success.

The wonder of all the farmers and agricultural related sites that welcome the SAI teachers to their places of work. They make such a difference in the teachers' understanding the importance of agriculture in our lives. Amazing people, such a pleasure to have worked with them.

The wonder of all the other volunteers that help out with supplies for my programs. . . corn, straw, machines and more. Again, they are there to help whenever I call, making them very special to me.

The wonder of all the coordinators throughout the state that have shared ideas with me, struggled with me in writing curriculum, presented with me on various occasions during the National AITC conferences or Illinois AITC coordinator meetings, laughed with me at meetings ... all adding up to the wonder of true friendship.

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

The wonder of support, friendship and a ton of great memories from the IAITC and FCAE staff members throughout the years. The memories shared with these special folks will make me smile for years to come.

The wonder of the staff at KCFB that have supported me all these years. Steve, for giving me the go ahead to add the SPROUTS program, to bringing the farm machinery out to KCFB from Ag Days, allowing me to work on the mAGic kits with FCAE and other coordinators. . . basically always being there with the "big picture" to broaden my perspective. (He

also made me say directions using north, south, east and west, not left and right.) All the others that have worked with me, helped me when my load was too big, helped with computer problems, drove the van for SAI, ordered lunches, wrote checks for my expenses and put up with me ... THANKS.

The wonder of the KCFB board that supported my programs both financially and personally all these years. Without their support, the program would not have grown as much as it did. THANKS.

Lastly, the wonder of all the fantastic people that I have met

and now consider friends. That friendship means the world to me. You were always there to teach me, encourage me, give me ideas, and support me. What a pleasure it has been to work with and know you all.

So, with all these wonders, I can truthfully say that I have enjoyed every day of my being the Ag Literacy Coordinator for KCFB. Thank you all – including my readers who let me know they enjoyed my articles for being an integral part of these past years.

As I have often told my children – I am blessed.

## Book of the month

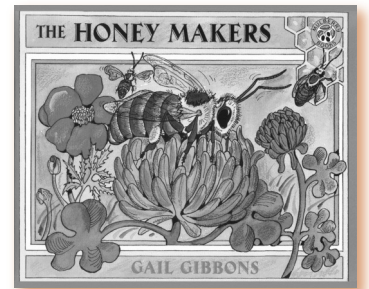
Do you wonder about the flight of the bumblebee? Come to KCFB and check out *The Honey Makers* by artist Gail Gibbons. Gibbons uses short explanations to tell the story of honeybees. She also tells about the people who keep them. The book has simple diagrams and colorful illustrations. It teaches vocabulary to explain how bees make honey and store it in the hive. Gibbons' artwork helps children, especially ages 4 to 8, understand mysterious activities inside a beehive. *The Honey Makers* is useful for families and classrooms. Learn all about where honeybees live,

what they eat, and special jobs they do. For example, did you know bees dance? They dance to help a colony find flowers filled with nectar!

But don't take my word for it! At LibraryThing.com, Kerry Wood says, "A very informative book regarding bee colonies and how honey is made from start to finish. Highly recommended for children, ages Pre-K to 1st grades as a read-aloud and 2nd-3rd grades for individual reading, information and research."

The Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a

library! – was the idea of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. Funding has been provided by the Bob Konen family.



*The Honey Makers* by Gail Gibbons

## Save time & 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](http://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 membership 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.

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



**Bob Effner**, CLF®, LUTCF  
St. Charles – Elgin  
Agency Manager  
St. Charles  
630-584-0001



**Ashraf Gerges**  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



**Bob Riedel**  
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**Todd Wilcox**  
St. Charles  
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**Bob Kearns**  
S. Elgin  
847-888-3200



**Gary Bolger**  
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**Bobbi Boston**  
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**Michael O'Brien**  
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**Sherri Schramer**  
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**Chuck Quick**  
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**Dan Cooper**  
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**Edward Stuehm**  
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**Luke Fawkes**  
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**Ted Schuster**  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



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- Delivery

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# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



## HONEY

Nothing tastes sweeter than honey. Honey in tea. Peanut butter and honey sandwiches. Honey mustard. Honey butter. Maybe you like Honey Nut Cheerios or oatmeal with honey in the morning. For dessert in the evening, put honey on Greek yogurt, and add dates and walnuts on top. Then you are headed straight for the land of milk and ... honey.

But what is honey, actually? In simple technical terms, honey is concentrated plant nectar, and the honey bee is responsible. Bees use ultraviolet vision to find flowers full of nectar. They suck the sugary liquid with their long straw-like tongue, called a proboscis. Honey bees do not digest the nectar. Instead,

they carry it around in a special part of their body, called the honey stomach, crop or honey sac. As bees fly, nectar sloshes around in the honey sac, where enzymes change its chemical makeup and the pH. Bees carry the nectar home. Back at the hive, they pass nectar from bee to bee, mouth to mouth, spitting it up over and over again, until it reaches a special storage cell in the hive. Nectar loses water as it passes through the hive. When it reaches the honey cells, bees fan the nectar until it evaporates some more. Then they seal the honey cell with wax. Later, especially during winter, bees open these cells to eat stored honey.

Honey bees do not eat honey only. A colony of bees eats milk and honey, bread and jelly throughout its lifecycle. That's right! Bee milk, honey, beebread, and royal jelly! Baby worker bees and drones, when they are in the

larva stage, eat bee milk. Bee milk is a syrup made in the glands of honey bees. Adolescent worker bees and drones, when they are in the pupa stage, eat beebread, a mixture of honey and pollen. All adult honey bees eat honey. And the queen bee eats honey and royal jelly, another syrup. Both the food honey bees eat and the jobs honey bees do are different according to a bee's age and role in the colony.

If you love honey and think honey bees are interesting, you can learn more about them this year at the Field Museum in Chicago. A special exhibit called Fantastic Bug Encounters runs through April 19, 2020. But you can also learn more about honey right here in the September Kane County Farmer Farm Facts & Fun! How sweet it is. Bye bye, honey pie!

### Nothing in Ag is as busy as a BEE!

- 80% of our food crop is pollinated by honey bees
- 1 of every 3 bites of food is directly or indirectly from honey bee pollination
- Honey bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion of U.S. crops every year
- 1 bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers a day. That's about 4 million soybean plants.
- 8-18% Increase in yields of soybean fields near honey bees according to some findings
- A queen can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day. That's about 1 every 45 seconds. (Whew!)
- 1 ounce of honey can fuel a honey bee for a flight around the world
- Honey bees fly about 55,000 miles to produce 1 pound of honey

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology An International Journal, Vol. 48, n.1, pp. 31-36, January 2005 ISSN 1516-8913 Printed in Brazil <sup>2</sup>Angela D Upah, Troy J Askelson, Gerald W Hayes Jr, Catherine L Turner, Derek J Cornelius and Richard Joost (2015) Do Honey Bee Ecosystem Services Benefit Soy Farmers: An Opportunity For Stakeholder Collaboration. TCM 9 June 2015



### JOKES

Why did the bee get married? Because he found his honey.  
 What letter makes honey? B.  
 What does a bee style his hair with? A honeycomb.  
 Where do bees keep their money? A honey box.  
 What did the bee say to the flower? Hello, honey!



### Honey Muffins

#### Ingredients

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 c. 2% milk
- 1/4 c. butter, melted
- 1/4 c. honey

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 400°F. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.

In a small bowl, combine egg, milk, butter and honey. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened.

Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 15-18 minutes.

Cool 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Serve warm.

Freeze cooled muffins in freezer containers. To use, thaw at room temperature or, if desired, microwave each muffin on high until heated through, 20-30 seconds.

Nutrition Facts. 1 muffin: 179 calories, 5g fat (3g saturated fat), 29 mg cholesterol, 242mg sodium, 31g carbohydrates (15g sugars, 1g fiber), 3g protein.



### September is ...

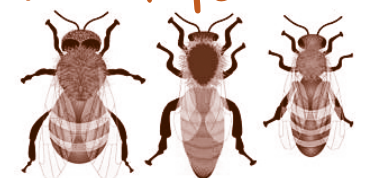
#### National HONEY Month and National

- Chicken Month
- Piano Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Courtesy Month
- National Papaya Month
- Baby Safety Month
- Better Breakfast Month
- Self-Improvement Month
- National Sewing Month

#### Special days in September:

- 2 Labor Day
- 3 Telephone Tuesday
- 4 National Wildlife Day
- 5 International Day of Charity
- 6 National Read a Book Day
- 8 National Grandparents Day
- 11 National Day of Service & Remembrance
- 12 National Video Games Day
- 15 Batman Day
- 15 National Gymnastics Day
- 17 Constitution Day
- 19 International Talk Like A Pirate Day
- 20 National Pepperoni Pizza Day
- 23 First Day of Fall
- 24 National Voter Registration Day
- 26 National Pancake Day
- 27 World Tourism Day
- 28 National Good Neighbor Day
- 28 National Hunting & Fishing Day
- 29 Family Health & Fitness Day
- 30 International Podcast Day

### Fun Facts



Drone Queen Worker

Beekeepers usually harvest honey in late summer & early fall.

People once used honey as medicine and as money!

It takes nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

Honey never spoils; it is one of few foods having an eternal shelf life.

Only seven of 20,000 bee species on Earth make honey.

Bees can fly at about 15 miles per hour.

Bees dance to tell each other how far away nectar-filled flowers are.

### Congratulations

**Mary Devadas** from Schaumburg is the August Word Search winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. She even found the word NATURE twice! For her participation, she receives a backyard Bug Protector gift set with mosquito repellent and body balm!

### Honey word search

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

- APIARY
- BEE
- BEEKEEPER
- BEESWAX
- BROOD
- CELL
- COLONY
- DRONE
- FLOWER
- FRUCTOSE
- GLUCOSE
- HIVE
- HONEY
- HONEYCOMB
- LARVAE
- NECTAR
- POLLEN
- POLLINATE
- PUPA
- QUEEN
- SMOKER
- SWARM
- SWEET
- WORKER

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

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

# Greenhouse gas emissions are trending down in U.S. Ag

The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) has unveiled a new film that highlights the urgency needed in the fight against climate change. Despite uncertain economic times, farmers are front and center as the agents for change in “30 Harvests.”

“The next 30 years are the most important in the history of agriculture. Food production will need to increase by 70% to feed the world by 2050. How do we nourish a growing population while our farmable land is shrinking?” said Erin Fitzgerald, CEO, USFRA. “30 Harvests captures the passion and hope that our farmers have in providing a dependable source of healthy food while addressing economic and environmental concerns for current and future generations.”

The docudrama follows the plight of farmer Jay Hill of Dell City, Texas, and farmer and soil scientist Meagan Kaiser of Bowling Green, Missouri. In the short film, they articulate the challenges farmers face while embracing the opportunity to meet the increasing demands for food, and ultimately help solve one of the greatest challenges of this generation:

climate change.

“As farmers, we need to let the world know that we’re on the front lines of climate change,” said Hill. “If you think that we’re not scared of a changing environment, then you’ve got it wrong.”

Thirty harvests quantifies the crop cycles left before 2050, the year the global population is expected to be 9 billion people. According to American Farmland Trust, the U.S. loses 175 acres of farmland every hour, mostly to urban encroachment. Additionally, the U.S. Global Change Research Program reports that the effects of climate change are already being felt, with increases in average temperature, extreme heat conditions, heavy rainfall, droughts and extreme weather events contributing to excessive runoff, flooding, and soil erosion, loss of soil carbon and reduce the availability and quality of water. However, agricultural soils have the capacity to capture and store carbon, making every acre of farmland more important than most ever believed, and putting farmers and ranchers in a position to be the change makers.

“30 Harvests is just one story.

There are hundreds – thousands – of other stories about how farmers are continually innovating and evolving with climate smart agricultural practices, even in a tough economic environment,” said Kaiser.

USFRA is convening leaders in the agriculture and food value chain to create a strategic roadmap to meet the challenges of the next decade of nourishing an unprecedented population while enhancing the environment on which we all rely and benefit from.

“This is a call to leaders in food, finance and science to be part of the solution to co-create sustainable food systems with U.S. farmers and ranchers,” said Fitzgerald. “We’re starting with climate change and how we can pull down carbon on our farms. Our hope is that one day soon, we can be the first sector in our country that is carbon neutral and over time, helping offset for other sectors.”

“30 Harvests” is available to view at [www.usfarmersandranchers.org](http://www.usfarmersandranchers.org).

### ABOUT USFRA

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) represents farmer and rancher-led organizations, and food and agricul-

tural partners, with a common vision to further our global sustainable food systems. We believe farmers uniquely contribute to nourishing our planet, people, and natural resources. Our focus is creating a proactive collaboration between the

best minds in food, agriculture, science, and technology to co-create solutions that will result in environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Learn more at [www.usfarmersandranchers.org](http://www.usfarmersandranchers.org).

## COME IN, COME IN

By Erin Real



In September, county fairs, summer vacation and crops roll to the end of the line. The Ferris wheel comes down. It’s back to school. And everything always depends on the weather. Coincidentally, we round out wedding season, too.

Years ago, I stood up in a Catholic wedding. The theme was baseball. We took pictures at home plate. The cake was smeared thick with fondant, and two bobble-head figures of the bride and groom perched on top. Love, honor and the American Pie united two hundred and seventy-five guests for a few hours in celebration. Afterward, my date said, “I’ve never felt so American in all my life.” Dress, tuxedo, hair, flowers, photography, food and disc jockey ... the wedding ceremony, even the occasional nuptial kitsch, connect bride to groom, family to family, and guests from both sides of the aisle to each other. Not surprisingly, it is a powerful occasion.

I love weddings. I love small talk with strangers at the table, and sly smiles between friends. The dancing. Sometimes a full moon. And there’s nothing like reception-hall coffee. Weddings are also revealing. There was a late-night candy buffet at the baseball wedding: Cracker Jack, licorice and popcorn. That’s when they rolled out the rented photo booth. You know, the kind that snaps four shots in 20 seconds and insta-prints the photos in long strips, trimmed in white. To this day, that bride and groom page through the scrapbook of photo-booth wedding pictures and say, “Of course she would do something like that.”

Weddings mark the end of some things. But they initiate important beginnings. Most of all, they continue a process of

learning together, and of learning about each other. Even the maid of honor gets that.

After all, readers, you and I are in this together, too.

You know some things about me already. For example, you know I am new at this. These fields – corn, cattle and climate – are not quite the Man of La Mancha, el Cid, or lessons on the past tense. You know I was a teacher and that I am still a student. I know a lot about learning. On the odd chance you want to hear all about theories of language learning, then stop me on the street in Elburn sometime. I would like to know you. If it is Friday, then I will invite you to the best fish fry in town and we can chat.

But I want to know you anyway.

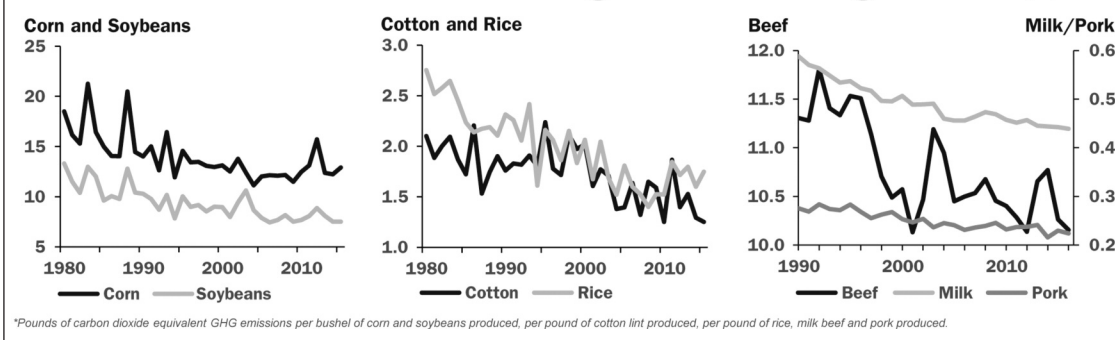
I know you are reading. You tell me so on the street, in church and in the office. I am curious about that tomato blight. I am pleased to know the Picnic word search prompted fond memories and good conversation. Thank you for the zucchini! I don’t know what to recommend you in the way of garden-variety varmint repellent. But I am now in possession of a promising homemade weed remedy. And I wonder, what will you do with those eleven boxes of peaches. Keep the comments, and the questions, coming.

In fact, tell me more. Help me write the syllabus. Share ideas, tell me stories, wonder aloud or on Facebook, post recipes, and join us. I will find my footing, and I will keep writing to you. Please write back.

Summer is fading, but I think this old dog still learns new tricks. As if children stopped learning over summer vacations, as if any of us ever stops learning.

I invite you; please, come in.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Are Trending DOWN In U.S. Agriculture\* 2/ 5/



## IFB responds to USDA announcements

The following are statements from Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding:

### USDA's declaration of an agriculture disaster in all 102 Illinois counties, August 8, 2019,

“Most of this year has tested Illinois farmers’ mental and physical fortitude. Weather variability, from unrelenting spring rains to extreme July heat, has caused uncertainty in our communities as we head toward what is sure to be a long harvest. The Secretarial Disaster Declaration is a recognition of our struggles in 2019 through the availability of federal resources to aid our recovery. With this declaration, Illinois farmers will be eligible to access other forms of assistance from the USDA.”

“We extend our sincere thanks to Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director John Sullivan for their fight to get the declaration approved. We are also grateful to the USDA for

their recognition of Illinois farmers’ trying times, and to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue for his continued support.”

### and USDA's announcement that it will delay crop insurance premium due dates, August 15, 2019.

“USDA’s decision to defer interest accrual of all agriculture producers’ spring 2019 crop insurance payments lends farmers much-needed flexibility in a year that hasn’t afforded them many wins, either in the field or in the markets.

“Farmers feeling the stress of this year’s weather challenges and volatile commodity prices can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they have a bit more time to pay their crop insurance premiums without the threat of accruing additional interest. The interest deferral will certainly help Illinois farmers as billing dates approach, yet late-planted crops are not ready to harvest.

“Illinois Farm Bureau leaders advocated for the deadline extension during a June visit to

D.C. In addition, Illinois elected officials offered timely support this summer with the submission of House-sponsored and Senate-sponsored formal letters to RMA Administrator Martin Barbre asking for the extension. We’re grateful for the leadership of U.S. Reps. Kelly and Bost, U.S. Sens. Duckworth and Durbin and each of the members of the Illinois congressional delegation who recognized the need – our concerns were heard.

“The RMA has my personal thanks for their recognition of and response to this unusually stressful time for ag producers.”

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 394,742 and a voting membership of 78,999. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

## Garlic

(continued from page 1)

and sell spring-planted baby garlic that resembles green onions and market garlic scapes, edible flowering stems available in June.

The couple focuses on sales at farmers’ markets, where they

can engage with customers. They also sell direct to some local businesses and cater to online customers at [GarlicBreathFarm.com](http://GarlicBreathFarm.com).

“Garlic Breath Farm helps us to have a life of meaning,” Sharon said. “Without a life of meaning, you have no life at all.”



Garlic bulbs (photo by Catrina Rawson)



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# FB Ag Innovation Challenge: \$145K in startup funds on table

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2020 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. In its sixth year, the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation challenge is a national business competition for U.S. food and agriculture startups. Entrepreneurs will compete for \$145,000 in startup funds.

Launched in 2015 as the first national competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs, the competition continues in its sixth year to provide an opportunity for U.S. startups to showcase business innovations

in food and agriculture. Startup funds for the Challenge are provided by sponsors Farm Credit, John Deere, Bayer Crop Science, Farm Bureau Bank, COUNTRY Financial and Farm Bureau Financial services.

To apply for the 2020 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge, competitors can apply online at <http://fb.org/aginnovationchallenge> by midnight Eastern Standard Time on Sept. 30, 2019.

"It takes faith, courage and creativity to start a business," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Rural entrepreneurs

face a number of additional challenges compared to their urban counterparts. These include limited access to broadband, high transportation costs and a lack of access to business networks. We're very interested to see how entrepreneurs working in food and agriculture will use startup funds provided by the Challenge to take their businesses to the next level."

Ten semi-finalist teams will be announced on Nov. 5 and awarded \$10,000 each. All 10 semi-finalist teams will travel to AFBF's Annual Convention, in Austin, Texas, in January 2020, with all expenses paid, to compete in a live competition to be the Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year. The 10 teams will compete in Austin to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional

\$5,000 and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives. The final four teams will compete to win:

- Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year award and \$15,000 (chosen by judges), for a total of \$30,000
  - People's Choice award and \$10,000 (chosen by public vote), for a total of \$25,000
- Entrepreneurs and startups with businesses in the following categories are encouraged to apply:
- Farm, ranch, greenhouse, aquaponics
  - Input product or crop variety
  - Method or tool for growing, monitoring or harvesting crops or livestock
  - Production support services
  - Retail, agritourism or

farm-to-table business

- Food/beverage/textile product or ingredient
- Method of production, preparation or packaging of food/beverage/textile products or ingredients
- Value-added processing including yogurts, cheeses and processed meats, wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries.

Entrepreneurs must be Farm Bureau members to qualify as a top-10 semi-finalist. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can join the Kane County Farm Bureau/Illinois Farm Bureau by calling (630) 584-8660. Detailed eligibility guidelines, the competition timeline, videos and profiles of past Challenge winners are available at <http://fb.org/aginnovationchallenge>.

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

### St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

CHARLES (CHUCK) QUICK has been named the Financial Rep of the Month for July 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Chuck 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 Chuck's expertise help you! You may reach Chuck at (847) 683-2100, [charles.quick@countryfinancial.com](mailto:charles.quick@countryfinancial.com), or <https://representa->

[tives.countryfinancial.com/charles.quick](https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/charles.quick). Congratulations, Chuck!

### Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for July 2019. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6981. Zach's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Zach!

## Conservation legacy, local connection

©Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman, reprinted with permission

By Tom Block 8/5/2019  
Miles of terraces, waterways and filter strips help keep the soil where it belongs on Jarad Weber's farm nestled among the rolling hills between the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers in southern Lee County. He also uses cover crops, rotational grazing, variable rate fertilizer application and a range of other practices to make the most of the resources on his family's Century Farm.

"You've got to do what works for you and what works in your area," says Weber, the 2019 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year award winner. "I think any conservation is good conservation. We tried a ton of stuff, and we've had pretty good success with what we've done." Weber says he developed his conservation ethic by working alongside his dad and uncle at a young age, learning how water flows across their land and what it takes to keep the soil in place.

"This thing got started a long time ago, way before me," says the 39-year-old Lee? County Farm Bureau member. "I think it's important for me to do my part to conserve it and teach my kids. If you can keep that dirt where it's supposed to be, then you've got it there to farm it."

The Conservation Farmer of the Year award, co-sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, was presented at the Conservation Districts of Iowa annual meeting in Ames Aug. 18-20. As the 2019 award winner, Weber will receive free use of a John Deere 6E Series utility tractor for up to 12 months or 200 hours of use. The prize, valued at more than \$12,000, is sponsored by Van Wall Equipment of Perry and John Deere. Weber's tractor will be delivered by Sinclair Tractor in Houghton.

Weber and his wife, Hollie, a school teacher, have three children – Aubrey, 11; Kellen, 8; and Kristen, 4. His brother Levi also works full-time on the farm, along with part-time

and field borders to protect water quality.

### Installing a bioreactor

This fall, he is planning to install a bioreactor, which will filter nutrients out of drainage tile water. He credits the Lee County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff for helping identify conservation projects that would benefit his farm and finding funding sources to offset some of the costs. "It seems like it all happened at once, but it's just a little bit at a time, and then it starts rolling along and it snowballs," Weber explains. "Now, we're kind of in the middle of something really cool, and it feels like we're just getting started."

Cover crops are another key practice on Weber's farm, providing a range of benefits including weed control, improved soil organic matter and an additional forage source for his cows. But they also come with challenges, especially in a wet spring like this year. He ended up planting soybeans into a waist-high cover crop this year after the rain prevented him from terminating it as scheduled. "I planned on spraying (the cover crop) when it was a foot tall," Weber notes. He was pleased the cover crops held the soil despite the heavy rains.

The adjustments are par for the course in farming, where even the most well thought out plans can be disrupted by nature, he notes. "I feel like we do more adjusting than planning. This year we've been scrambling from the get-go," says Weber. "I think we learn more in a challenging year than in a normal year. Everything works in a normal year."

Farming mostly rented ground, Weber emphasizes communicating with his landlords and treating their ground like it's his own. "They need to know what you're doing, and they want to know what you're doing," he says. "You're looking at something as important as their kids."



Jarad Weber, a Lee County (Iowa) Farm Bureau member, walks along a field buffer strip with his wife, Hollie, and children Kellen, Aubrey and Kristen on the family farm in Lee County in far southeast Iowa. Weber, Iowa's 2019 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award winner, farms the Century family farm in Argyle, Iowa owned by Kane County Farm Bureau Director Craig Bradley of Elgin.

employee Skyler Wright, who helps manage a 75-head cow-calf herd.

### Cattle part of the plan

The cattle are a key piece of the farm's conservation plan, Weber notes. "Down here, you can't just farm corn and soybeans on all of it," he says. "We've got some alfalfa mixed in. We've got cows. It's just a way to use all the ground we have."

Weber is aiming to increase his cow herd by utilizing rotational grazing, dividing his pastures and timber ground into several small paddocks and moving the cows more often. He has installed drinking water stations to bring clean, fresh water to the cows, allowing the pastures to be subdivided and keeping cows out of stagnant ponds during the summer. "It's a few extra steps, but the benefits are worthwhile," says Weber. "We've got grass all year long now. We haven't had rain since July 6, but if you rest (the pasture), it'll come back."

On his crop ground, Weber has installed more than 5,400 feet of terraces with financial assistance from state and federal cost-share programs. He also no-tills some ground and has installed waterways, filter strips

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# Forum yields ideas to improve roadway safety

“Exercise caution while driving” was repeatedly emphasized at the Rural Road Safety Forum on Tuesday, August 20, hosted by Kane County Farm Bureau.

A crowd of 20 local farmers, law enforcement, transportation and public officials met at KCFB to discuss safety problems on rural roads and identify potential solutions. Roadway safety has been identified as a high priority by the Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors leading into the 2019 harvest season. In a year with historic planting delays and prevented planting acreage, low commodity prices and ongoing trade concerns, everyone understands what is most really most important.

Harsh statistics made that point at the forum. Trooper Liz Clausing of Illinois State Police District 2 said 22 troopers have been struck by vehicles on roadsides in 2019, 2 fatally. That is just State Troopers. It does not include other law enforcement agencies, construction workers, local and municipal road district workers and others who contribute to the safety and efficiency of our transportation system.

Farmers at the meeting shared stories of close calls and near misses and accidents with vehicular traffic while operating farm equipment on local roads. Several cited passing in no passing zones and in blind spots as a severe problem for tractor-dri-

vers in Kane County. Others identified poor shoulders, steep embankments and narrow bridges that force farm equipment to use the full lane of traffic. All forum attendees identified a dangerous lack of patience for slow moving vehicles.

Relating an all too common experience while transporting farm equipment on the road,

*Trooper Elizabeth Clausing (standing), Safety Education/Public Information Officer Illinois State Police District 2 leads a discussion on distracted driving and its effects at the August 20 Rural Road Safety Forum at KCFB.*



*Hampshire dairy farmer Joe Engel, spoke passionately about safety and farm equipment on rural roads at the Safety Forum. Dairy farmers like Engel take slow moving vehicles on the road daily, regardless of planting or harvest season.*



*KCFB has signs available for members to use on large implements of husbandry to remind motorist of safe driving habits and limited visibility. Signs are free to Regular members (farmers & farmland owners)*



Hampshire area farmer said of drivers approaching and passing him, “They see me [on the tractor] and proceed to make a conscious, horrible decision”.

Stories shared at the Rural Road Safety Forum mostly ended in mechanical damage to equipment, bridges or signs. But lives are also on the line, and

forum participants worried how much time before a life is lost.

### Next Steps

There was robust discussion at the forum about farmer responsibility for lighting, marking and SMV signs for farm equipment, as well as signage, banners, and other means of alerting and reminding motorists of potential hazards.

The KCFB Board of Directors will take up those topics and available resources for both audiences at their September meeting. Most agreed, however, that for signage to have a meaningful effect, it must be used in conjunction with law enforcement. Unfortunately, some people need consequences.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to **Felipe Rocha!** Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake St., Aurora and he may be reached at: 630-897-7746. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Felipe Rocha

## Defensive driving class

The Kane County Farm Bureau has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for **Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8 and 9.** The class runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

The 8-hour course covers driving in various road and weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defensive driving methods. Many insurance companies offer a discount on auto insurance to those ages 55 and older that qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

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

## Kane County Farm Bureau PLUS Status Agreement



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This application is for the PLUS membership date beginning at my next renewal period.

Amount due: \$25 Payment method:  cash  check  credit

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Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ KCFB Membership Number: 045- \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*\*While supplies last. \*\*Mums available October 1-31, 2019.*

*Please pick up all items at KCFB. All offers subject to change without notice.*

Local law enforcement was supportive of any effort to keep roads safe. Representatives present from the Illinois State Police, Kane County Sheriff’s Department and municipal police departments are calling for help from area farmers. They invited farmers to pinpoint specific stretches of road and times of day that need patrolling. Kane County Farm Bureau stands ready to assist with that contact between farmers and law enforcement. We encourage farmers to call our office, (630) 584-8660, for contact information for local law enforcement.

Police also asked for useful resources from farmers that may help educate the public about farm equipment on roads. We ask members to please share YouTube links, camera footage, photos and personal knowledge with KCFB that can be used for social media posts. Farm Bureau, in return, will share these with local law enforcement in an effort to spread the word.

Lastly, Farm Bureau committed to lead efforts to spread information about roadway safety during planting and harvest seasons. It will offer farm safety banners to local law enforcement, municipalities and agencies. Farm Bureau will also develop and coordinate Farm Vehicle campaign messaging for the many electronic signs and message boards that dot the landscape in both rural and urban Kane County. Forum participants

expressed enthusiasm about the potential to increase awareness and alertness among drivers. Roadside banners, a renewed emphasis on slow-moving-vehicle signs, social media platforms and electronic message boards may not be the total solution and we encourage members to share other thoughts and ideas.


Everyone gathered agreed that keeping Kane County’s rural roads safe requires more than two parts. Farmers and law enforcement need everyone’s help in exercising caution, slowing traffic and staying alive. Please remember, distracted driving is on par with driving under the influence and fatigued driving. And there might be a combine over that next hill. Nobody is exempt.

### Tips for Farmers

**SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY** with motorists. She is going to work. He is dropping the kids off at school. He is making deliveries for his company. They are traveling to visit family.


*Do everything possible to alert motorists to the presence of your farm equipment and slow travel speed.*

- ▶ Plan travel to avoid rush hours, bad weather, the busiest roads, and the time before daylight and after dark.
- ▶ Be obvious to motorists by proper use of reflective Slow Moving Vehicle emblems on any implement of husbandry operated on public roadways. It’s the law!
- ▶ Use reflective marking tape and reflectors at the extremities of equipment.
- ▶ Turn on hazard lights mounted on farm equipment and turn off field work lights for all roadway travel.
- ▶ Install mirrors that are wide enough for you to see what is following you.
- ▶ Always use turn signals to indicate plans to turn into fields or driveways.
- ▶ Be aware of traffic—oncoming, in front of you, and behind you.
- ▶ If road and shoulder conditions are safe, pull over temporarily to allow traffic to pass.
- ▶ Slow down on turns and curves. Check the traffic behind you.
- ▶ Minimize the width of equipment as much as possible. You may not interfere with traffic in an adjoining lane.
- ▶ When practical, truck larger equipment to the next location.

A project of the Illinois Farm Bureau  
“Quality of Life” Action Team 

## Thanks to our Donors...

Our FOUNDATION is dedicated to providing agriculture-based education for the next generation and to meeting the challenge of providing food for a hungry planet. We look forward to continuing support for these scholarships and for local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education with additional grants to local 4-H and FFA chapters.

 The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education, and scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are pledges received from July 18 - August 16.

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