

# Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

2012 Report to  
Donors & Contributors



## Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Programs & Activities

### Scholarship Programs

#### Foundation General Scholarships

Awarded to students pursuing degrees in agricultural fields whose parents have been KCFB members for at least the past 2 years. Recipients receive a minimum of \$1,000. Foundation scholarships totaled nearly \$22,000 for 2012-13.



#### President's Scholarship

Recognizes the most outstanding local high school seniors seeking higher education in an agricultural field of study. The 2011-12 award of \$1,500 was received by **Michael Long of Big Rock**.



#### Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship

**Carolyn Gehrke of Elgin** was named the recipient of this award, established by the family & friends of former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer, Chuck Swanson. It provides a \$1,250 award for a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an ag related career field.



#### John Buck Memorial Scholarship

**Tyler Fabrizious** received this \$1,000 award that goes to a student in the 8 county Buck Bros./J.W. Turf service area. The scholarship was established in 2001 by an endowment in memory of Buck Bros. Inc. founder John Buck by friends & family of the late John Deere dealer.



### SPROUTS

SPROUTS, the Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers & Students, has reached nearly 8,000 students in the past 5 years through classroom visits by Farm Bureau volunteers, who read a farm-themed book, *Heartland*, to third graders and explain how farmers grow the world's food.

In 2012, a copy of the book *Corn in the History of Agriculture* was donated to each classroom so teachers can continue to teach students about the importance of agriculture - Illinois' most important industry. SPROUTS is supported through a memorial fund in honor of Bob Konen, established by his family and friends.



### Harvest for ALL

In the past three years **Harvest for ALL** has gathered more than \$60,000 in donations for local food pantries, enough for over 400,000 meals. In 2011 it earned an ASAE Summit Award, the highest recognition an association can receive. The effort turns crop proceeds, farm products and cash gifts into food for the pantry of the donors choosing. The program promotes leadership by farmers and ag industry professionals in the area of hunger awareness, while educating the public where their food comes from.



### Centennial Grove

Founded in 1912, Kane County Farm Bureau is a permanent part of the county's landscape. In honor of the association's 100th Anniversary, the Foundation is facilitating a tribute program to honor people or events through a grove of hardwood trees on the Farm Bureau property.

Whether to remember a loved one, celebrate a family's agricultural heritage, or simply show support of Farm Bureau and the Foundation, **Centennial Grove** offers a fitting & permanent public venue & one that will be viewed by visitors to the Farm Bureau grounds for generations. For information on this unique opportunity call 630-584-8660.



*The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*



### Scholarship Spotlight



*"It's an amazing opportunity, interning at the Kane County Farm Bureau. I thought this would be a great chance to contribute to the association and to the people who have been helping support my education from the very beginning through Ag in the Classroom programs and college scholarships. I'm eager to show them they made a good investment."*  
- Sarah Weirich  
KCFB Summer Intern

Sarah Weirich didn't grow up on a farm, but learned the values of country living after her family moved to Hinckley when she was seven. She began to see the influence agriculture has on everyone's life. A senior at Iowa State University majoring in animal science & ag education, she plans to pass on her appreciation for farming to students, as an ag education teacher. Her involvement with Farm Bureau started in high school, when she helped at the annual Ag Days Expo, providing lessons in agriculture 4th graders. As a student who pays her own college expenses, Sarah said her internship & Foundation scholarships have been invaluable in helping her reach her educational goals.

**The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports education, leadership development, research & charitable activities for the benefit of agriculture and farm families. It was established to promote Education, Leadership Development & Research in agricultural fields. For the 2012-13, over \$25,000 has been committed in scholarships and internships to area college students pursuing careers in one of Illinois' largest industries, Agriculture.**

**"FUN"draising**

With thousands of dollars in prizes and a grand prize iconic of our industry, the **Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle** is a perennial favorite, the perfect grand finale at



Touch-A-Tractor, & our biggest annual fundraiser. Our 2012 grand prize winner, chose the cash prize of \$2,500 over the 1957 Allis Chalmers WD-45 or a John Deere

riding lawn mower. Our 2013 grand prize will help us mark our 100th anniversary.

• **Kane County Fair Country Store**

The Fair provides the opportunity to raise funds and friends by the sale of farm-themed items. Buck Bros, Inc. of Hampshire and DeKane Implement of Big Rock cooperate in this effort, allowing the Foundation to sell farm toys & ag-themed items.



• **Bucket Raffles** The Foundation holds an annual Bucket Raffle

at the County Fair. Local businesses donate merchandise & gift certificates, fairgoers buy raffle tickets to place in the bucket of the prize they hope to win. Funds go towards Foundation scholarships and internships for college students pursuing careers in agricultural fields of study.

• **John Buck Memorial Golf Outing**

Established in 2001 by an endowment in memory of the late John Deere dealer, the proceeds raised from this annual benefit fund John Buck Memorial Scholarships, administered by the Foundation.

**U of I Extension Grant**

An annual Foundation grant to U of I Extension, Kane County helps fund Extension's 4-H, youth education, food and nutrition programs.

**National AITC**

Annual participation in National AITC Conference tours, workshops, exhibits & contacts help keep local AITC materials and presentations up-to-date on the latest technology in agriculture.

**Ag Literacy Library**

The Foundation helps fund many Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Programs. The Ag Literacy Library at the Farm Bureau has hundreds of books with agricultural themes. Farm Bureau members can check out books on topics ranging from vegetable gardening to children's stories about life on the farm. Thanks to donations and memorial contributions the collection continues to grow.



**Ag Days**

Nothing helps youngsters learn about agriculture better than hands-on experiential learning. For the past 28 years, Kane County Farm Bureau's AgDays expo has been promoting the agricultural industry to students in a fun, educational and exciting way.

Nearly 2,000 fourth graders and teachers from urban and suburban areas spend a day at Mooseheart to experience the many facets of agriculture & how it affects their lives. The program's longevity and volunteer support show its importance & why the Foundation provides financial support.



**Touch-A-Tractor**

The 7th Annual Touch-A-Tractor at the Farm Bureau featured a 1913 Steam Tractor and a professional chainsaw carver who created a unique 15-foot tall tribute to agriculture on the KCFB front lawn. The activities helped celebrate KCFB's 100th year. As always there was family fun & interactive activities for the kids, and of course lots of tractors! Our 21 Foundation scholars were honored at a ceremony just



before the drawing of our annual raffle winners. Volunteers added to the community feel by grilling burgers & hot dogs and serving popcorn for visitors, with the proceeds benefiting future Foundation scholars & ag literacy programming.

**FFA Chapter Grants**

Established in 2009, FFA Chapter Grants recognize the contributions of Kane County FFA Chapters in the success of Foundation programs. In 2011, two Kane County Chapters capitalized on the grant, each receiving \$500 for participation in KCFB activities.



Chapters are rewarded for the completion of a community service project, which Kaneland FFA did by participating in the KCFB Foundation Harvest for ALL effort. Grants of up to \$500 per chapter are available in 2012.

**Internship Programs**

**Internships** are offered by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation during summer, winter and mid-term breaks, to students who have completed 30 undergraduate hours. Structured to meet student needs, develop professional skills & build knowledge about agriculture.

**Summer Ag Institutes**

The Foundation provides support for the KCFB Summer Ag Institute & Agricultural Tour for teachers, a graduate credit course on



agricultural research, inputs, production, processing and marketing. The 1-week course provides a broad overview of Kane County farms, commodities and agribusiness.

In 2011, teachers on a newly developed SAI part II titled *Hungry Planet*, toured farms and ag businesses to learn how food is grown, shipped and distributed around the world.

**Other Revenue Sources**

• **Member contributions** An agreement between the Foundation & KCFB allows Farm Bureau members to make Foundation contributions with annual dues to KCFB.

• **Foundation Memorials** Memorials have been established by the family and friends of several Farm Bureau Members upon the passing of a loved one. Funds may be earmarked by contributors to benefit specific Foundation programs/scholarships.