

# 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. 86 NO. 1 JANUARY 2021

## Lenkaitis family to host virtual local farm tour

Since its construction in 2017, the state of the art Dairy Barn at Lenkaitis Holsteins in Campton Hills has hosted scores of groups for tours. This has included industry professionals, trade groups, government officials, school children and much, much more. The family even hosted an Ice Cream Social fundraiser in June 2018 to help the KCFB Foundation meet its 10,000 Gallon Challenge goal (to donate 10,000 gallons of milk to local food pantries).

This month, owners Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis open their

barn doors virtually, to welcome school teachers and literally



Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis and their son pose in their barn in this 2018 photo. Their farm will be toured in an upcoming Illinois Farm Bureau Beyond the Barn Door virtual field trip.

thousands of students as part of the Illinois Farm Bureau's Beyond the Barn Door program offerings, <https://beyondthe-barndoor.wordpress.com/>.

Beyond the Barn Door offers

virtual Teacher Training, Lesson Plans, Field Trips, Author Visits and much more. The Lenkaitis family is the latest of a host of farm families from around the state to welcome the public to get a look at farm and food production from a farmer's perspective. This fun, interactive field trip will help attendees learn where the milk and other delicious dairy products they love come from.

The January 14 virtual tour is sponsored by IFB's Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program and Midwest Dairy. Teachers can learn more and sign up class-

rooms for a Zoom link to watch the presentation in-classroom at <https://iaitc.co/dairytrip>. Those

who prefer to watch the tour via YouTube LIVE can go to: <https://youtu.be/YJNajNZbKUg>.



## Burlington FFA student serves FB internship

The Kane County Farm Bureau has a new, smiley face in the office these days, McKenna Berglind, a sophomore from Central High School in Burlington. Berglind is the daughter of Eric and Kris Berglind and resides in rural St. Charles. Berglind has a special interest in agricultural education, music therapy, and speech pathology. During her time with KCFB, Berglind hopes to gain knowledge and experience, networking opportunities, and to challenge herself beyond the classroom.

Berglind is working under the supervision of KCFB Development & Ag Literacy Coordinator Kelcee Miller to help her complete an FFA SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) Record Book requirement toward her FFA State Degree. The SAE Record Book work experience was arranged with the assistance of Burlington FFA Advisor Katlyn Post.

Since joining the KCFB staff, Berglind has helped compile research on social media and communication trends, attended Ag in the Classroom Coordinator meetings, and assisted with informational

newsletters. She has researched topics for AITC updates for teachers as well as Corona Virus Relief Funding for farmers. In addition, she volunteered her time in the Kane County Farm Bureau Country Store prior to Christmas and helped prepare Vintage Truck raffle tickets to support Ag Literacy programs and College Scholarships through the KCFB Foundation.

Berglind's work experience with the Farm Bureau is expected to last through the summer months. Currently she works Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday afternoons, after her classroom work is completed. She will gain additional hours as the summer approaches. Please stop by the Farm Bureau office in St. Charles and say 'Hi.'



McKenna Berglind (L) and Kelcee Miller use sidewalk chalk to create a greeting to welcome shoppers to the KCFB Country Store on a pre-Christmas weekend.

## Touch-A-Tractor tentatively set for April 16-18

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 15th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will tentatively be held Friday – Sunday, April 16-18. We will bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It could be your first chance to get the kids out of the house this spring!

Kids get to touch and even sit in the seats of big, farm machinery they normally only see from the road. They can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, frolic in the corn corral, crawl through culverts, bang on pots and pans, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and see farm animals. Area moms tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2021 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2021, a Vintage Truck Raffle ticket will get

FREE family admission all 3 days, all others will pay \$2 (adult) or \$5 (family) admis-



**Touch-A-Tractor**

*Touch-A-Tractor – the name says it all! Dozens of hands-on activities, tractors and fun entice the whole family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 16-18, 2021.*



sion. Proceeds from Touch-A-Tractor and the Vintage Truck Raffle benefit the college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier!

If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, or have tractors or equipment to share, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

## Get your tickets now for this fun ride

Tickets are now available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2021 Vintage Truck Raffle.

The Grand Prize this year is a 1972 Chevy C/20 Camper Special. As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor in April 2021 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$15 each, 2/\$25 or 5/\$50 and ticket sales help provide Ag Literacy programs and college scholarships for Kane County students.

Return the form on page 8, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA or MasterCard.

The KCFB Foundation is sponsoring a Vintage Truck Raffle to raise funds for College Scholarships and Ag Literacy programs. The Grand Prize in the 2021 Raffle is a 1972 Chevy C/20 Camper Special – great for glamping in your vintage camper/trailer, hauling your vintage muscle car, or just chores around the farm.



See ticket order form on page 8

### KCFB CALENDAR JANUARY 2021

**1** New Year's Day – Office closed

**10-13** AFBF Annual Meeting (virtual)

**14** Board of Directors, 7 pm

**21** Ag Committee, Kane County Bd, 10 am

*Happy New Year!*

### JANUARY FEATURED FOOD

## Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

The special this month is 3 individually wrapped, 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the most tender part of the pork loin. They are designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°F, sliced thin and used as an entrée. The roast is netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$20.60 to Farm Bureau members, Non-members pay \$23.69. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!

# Up to 20 scholarships available—application deadline near

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to members or dependents of members who wish to pursue higher education for a career in an agriculture related field, including a NEW scholarship opportunity for 2021. The applications are for the 2021-22 school year.



*The KCFB Foundation awarded 15 scholarships last year to area students, including Jackson Kettelkamp of Elburn, who was awarded the Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship for study at University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Applications for the 2020-21 school year are now available and are due Feb. 15.*

College students and high school seniors are invited to apply for these Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION scholarships. Email [info@kanecfb.com](mailto:info@kanecfb.com) for an application packet, or, pick one up at the KCFB office, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles. A brochure is also available to assist students in identifying potential careers and areas of ag-related study.

Farm Bureau internships are also available for the 2020 winter, and 2021 spring and summer breaks. A separate Internship application is also available. The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 15 scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

**NEW - Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship**, up to \$2,000, for an Illinois resident and student

accepted to or enrolled in a School of Veterinary Medicine in the state of Illinois. The scholarship seeks to help develop the next generation of animal

care practitioners.

**President's Scholarship** (1) \$1,500, reserved for the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation General Agricultural Scholarship from among high school seniors, will provide a minimum \$1,500 to be applied towards tuition.

**General Agricultural Scholarships** (up to 10 available) @ \$1,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline. Student must be pursuing higher education for an agriculture related career. A brochure is available to assist students in identifying those careers and areas of study.

**John Buck Memorial Scholarships** (2) @ \$1,500, through an endowment to the Foundation and supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, the

fund provides for two (2) \$1,500 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Students in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will counties are eligible to apply.

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively. The family & friends of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

**Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship** (1) @ \$1,000, established by the family and friends of the former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer, to provide an annual award for a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

**AGCO Global Women's Network (AGWN) Scholarships** (2) @ \$1,000, for women residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. AGCO GWN scholarships are supported by members of the local chapter at

**AGCO Parts Division**

**Scholarships** (2) @ \$1,000, for students residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. Local AGCO Parts division employees in Batavia raise funds to support this scholarship effort.

**AGCO Platinum Scholarship** (1) @ \$2,500, for an Illinois resident and currently enrolled college sophomore, junior or senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field. Funds provided by special activities and projects

carried out by our friends at AGCO Parts in Batavia.

**General Scholarship** (1) @ \$1,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline, pursuing higher education for a career in ANY field.

For more information on FOUNDATION scholarship programs, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Application deadline is February 15, 2021.



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

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

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

## KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2020 THRU DECEMBER 2020

	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	X	X
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	*
J. ENGEL	X	X	^	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	*
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	X
W. KECK	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	*
M. KENYON	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. LEHRER	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A. LENKAITIS	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	*	X	X	*	X
N. LONG	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	X	*	*	*
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	*	X	X
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. WHITE	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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

## 20th annual Shopping Spree update

No date has been chosen but KCFB will soon approach grocery stores and local public officials to discuss a 2021 Food Check-Out "Challenge." The "Challenge" will be the organizations' 20th annual shopping spree, where public officials race to collect food for local food pantries.

Although COVID related restriction may postpone the event which is typically held in February, the Farm Bureau is committed to recruiting public minded and public-spirited local officials to continue this tradition of giving. The event has been held at the Batavia Jewel-Osco for the past 19 years.

For the Challenge, two local

public officials will be given five minutes (minimum) to race to collect as many non-perish-

able groceries as possible for local food pantries of their

*(continued on page 8)*

Many State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County, local Mayors and elected officials have competed in Kane County Farm Bureau's annual Food Check-Out Challenge. Since its inception in 2001, the Farm Bureau sponsored Shopping Sprees have donated over \$38,000 in groceries to local food pantries.

Last year's "contestants," State Representative Dan Ugaste and State Senator Jim Oberweis, joined area public officials who have participated over the years including State Senator Donald DeWitte and State Representative Jeff Keicher; current and former State Senators Cristina Castro, Steve Rauschenberger, Chris Lauzen, John Millner, Linda Holmes and Michael Noland; Representatives Steve Anderson, Keith Wheeler, Ruth Munson, Patricia Lindner, Tim Schmitz, Linda Chapa LaVia, Keith Farnham, and Kay Hatcher; Circuit Judge Patricia Golden; current and former Kane County Board Chairs, T.R. Smith, Karen McConaughay, Mike McCoy, and Theresa Barreiro.

## Nominations sought for KCFB Director

The Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking eligible candidates for election to the association's Board of Directors. A Farm Bureau director is an individual who helps provide governance, set policies, and supports the philosophy and actions of the organization. Directors should be willing to dedicate time to make a difference in

agriculture and to provide direction, inspiration, and motivation to the largest, most influential and effective farm related organization in Kane County.

Eligible candidates are regular members (farmers and farmland owners) residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in March, to

regular members in each respective District. KCFB has five districts each made up of three townships.

To suggest potential candidates for election, members should call 630-584-8660 by January 15, or fill out the form below.

**TO: Nominating Committee, Kane County Farm Bureau**  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Form completed and returned by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to this form to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174  
Return on or before January 15.

The Nominating Committee will evaluate candidates and propose a slate to run for director.

## Kane County Farmer

**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY**

**Steven J. Arnold, Editor**

**Audre Pack, Bookkeeper**

**Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator**

**Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator**

**Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator**

**Sindhu Saveen, Membership Assistant**

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| <p>■ <b>DISTRICT 1</b><br/>Aurora, Sugar Grove,<br/>Big Rock Twship.<br/><b>Nan Long</b><br/>11461 E. County Line Rd.<br/>Big Rock, IL 60511<br/>815-693-7214<br/><b>Donna Lehrer</b><br/>7S027 Jericho Rd.<br/>Big Rock, IL 60511<br/>630-556-3476<br/><b>William Keck</b><br/>P.O. Box 281<br/>Sugar Grove, IL 60554<br/>(630) 466-4030</p> | <p><b>Joe White</b><br/>President<br/>47W727 Main St. Rd.<br/>Elburn, IL 60119<br/>630-557-2517<br/><b>■ DISTRICT 3</b><br/>Virgil, Campton,<br/>St. Charles Twship.<br/><b>Andrew Lenkaitis</b><br/>6N707 Corron Rd.<br/>St. Charles, IL 60175<br/>630-513-9980<br/><b>Chris Collins</b><br/>1143 Anderson<br/>Elburn, IL 60119<br/>630-934-4642</p> | <p><b>Mike Kenyon</b><br/>Secretary/Treasurer<br/>1250 E. Main St.<br/>South Elgin, IL 60177<br/>847-741-1818<br/><b>Craig Bradley</b><br/>37W791 Orchard Lane<br/>Elgin, IL 60124<br/>847-888-2380<br/><b>■ DISTRICT 5</b><br/>Hampshire, Rutland,<br/>Dundee Twship.<br/><b>Joe Engel</b><br/>15N720 Walker Rd.<br/>Hampshire, IL 60140<br/>847-347-5561</p> |
|---|---|--|
- |  |  |   |
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| <p>■ <b>DISTRICT 2</b><br/>Kaneville, Blackberry,<br/>Gen./Bat. Twship.<br/><b>Bill Collins</b><br/>1125 Lewis Rd.<br/>Geneva, IL 60134<br/>630-484-6852<br/><b>Karl Kettelkamp</b><br/>47W407 Main Street Rd.<br/>Elburn, IL 60119<br/>630-365-2713</p> | <p><b>Dale Pitstick</b><br/>2N118 Pouley Rd.<br/>Elburn, IL 60119<br/>630-816-0223<br/><b>■ DISTRICT 4</b><br/>Burlington, Plato<br/>Elgin Twship.<br/><b>Beth Gehrke</b><br/>12N860 US Hwy. 20<br/>Elgin, IL 60124<br/>847-697-2538</p> | <p><b>Gerald Gaitsch</b><br/>10613 Brittany Ave.<br/>Huntley, IL 60142<br/>847-669-2003<br/><b>Wayne Schneider</b><br/>Vice President<br/>721 Lindsay Lane<br/>West Dundee, IL 60118<br/>847-428-0488</p> |
|--|--|---|

# IFB Young Leaders elect 2021 executive committee

Wayne Gehrke of Kane County has been elected the 2021 Chair of the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee. Gehrke, who just finished his term as IFB Young Leader vice chairman, grows pumpkins, hay, corn and soybeans with his family in northern Illinois.

In the year ahead, he sees continued challenges and opportunities for Young Leaders. "I think the biggest challenge that the Young Leader program across the state will face is: How do we keep the interest of our membership throughout COVID?" Gehrke asked. "And what value can the Young Leader program bring to their memberships?"

But regardless of barriers this past year, Young Leaders did adapt some programs into virtual or digital formats for their recent annual meeting, including the discussion meet, committee elections and the Harvest for ALL fundraiser.

Gehrke also sees new potential opportunities for Young Leaders to engage with the incoming Biden administration. "We also have a new incoming administration in which we will

certainly see new policies," noted Gehrke. "How will that affect the Young Leaders program? Will we have more opportunities to speak with legislators? And what will that look like?"

In 2021, Gehrke is eagerly looking forward to having in-person Young Leader Committee meetings, although he's not sure when that will be possible. Nonetheless, Gehrke is "honored" to be selected by his peers for this leadership position.

"You never know what a year is going to look like and what a year will bring is maybe the biggest lesson we've learned from this past year," reflected Gehrke. "I think I'll need to be willing to be adaptable this year as well."

Other 2021 IFB Young Leader Executive Committee members include vice chair Aaron Mitchell (Winnebago-Boone County); secretary Gracelynn Dale (Bureau County); education and recruitment subcommittee chair Sadie Asher (Henry County); achievement subcommittee chair Ryan Zelhart (Macon County); and governmental affairs and commodities subcommittee chair Seth Root (Edwards County).



Wayne Gehrke

# Gehrke runner-up in Statewide Discussion Meet

Carolyn Gehrke of Elgin was recently named Runner-up in the 2020 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Statewide Discussion Meet. The Discussion Meet was held virtually on Saturday, December 11, 2020.

Gehrke, recently re-elected Chair of the Kane County Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Committee, raises row crops, hay, pumpkins and mums on a family farm near Elgin. She is a past Discussion Meet competitor and reported that the virtual competition offered both advantages and disadvantages to the traditional face-to-face format.

The Discussion Meet serves as an exchange of ideas and information in which contestants – Young Leaders between the ages of 18 and 35 – analyze problems and develop solutions in a cooperative manner.

IFB promotes and sponsors the discussion meet with the goals of developing young people's leadership and communication skills on behalf of agriculture, and of working together and reaching consensus on how

to deal with current issues in agriculture.

Contestants from around Illinois participated in District competitions during the fall. Those advancing to the Statewide Discussion meet competed in several round robin exchanges on December before four were chosen for the finals. In final round of the meet, four contestants discussed the topic: "Is big data a big solution or big exposure?"

Alex Mahrenholz of Lawrence County, was declared winner. She will represent IFB at the National Discussion Meet during the American Farm Bureau Federation Virtual Convention, Jan. 10-13.

Mahrenholz grew up working on her family's grain farm in southeastern Illinois. She just recently started a new job as a Purdue University extension educator in Pike County, Indiana. She received a John Deere riding lawn mower and \$2,500 cash, courtesy of IFB and COUNTRY Financial, for her first place finish.



Carolyn Gehrke

# Farms, food and the environment Opportunities for teachers, students & FB members

For those who stand in front of a classroom, and those who sit behind a desk in one, Kane County Farm Bureau is forging ahead with planning for spring and summer events to help students and teachers gain greater knowledge about food, farms and the environment that sustains us all. Our award winning agricultural literacy program is built upon offering teachers lesson plans and resources they can take back to the classroom through hands-on experiences and contact with local experts literally "in the field."

COVID has impacted some of our traditional late winter/early spring offerings (for example, Ag Days, our longest running program, is NOT expected to be held in 2021). However, we will proceed with planning other activities make judgements in cooperation with registrants and local government entities regarding restrictions in effect at the time of the program(s) offering.

### Ag Days for 4th Graders,

For nearly four decades, Kane County fourth grade students gathered each March for Ag Days, a fun, fascinating expo that gave them knowledge about

Kane County's considerable agriculture industry. COVID related concerns conspired to cancel the event in 2020. Classroom time already lost in the fall semester of 2020 and the continuing cloud of the pandemic has led us to the decision NOT to attempt Ag

have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours will reveal the essentials of research, production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields and a crew of dedicated volunteers who share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

Topics will include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today. Look for further information on Kane County Farm Bureau's Summer Ag Institute in future issues of the *Kane County Farmer*. Please contact Kelcee Miller at [aite@kanecfb.com](mailto:aite@kanecfb.com) or 630-584-8660 for more information about any of the KCFB programs.



Days in 2021. While we regret not having the opportunity for our farmers and presenters to meet the hundreds of fourth graders and their teachers who typically attend this program, the Farm Bureau will be offering presenters a similar opportunity to share their knowledge through participation in Touch-A-Tractor in 2021.

### Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will

# New ways to support the KCFB Foundation

The KCFB Foundation is pleased to have two new ways for members to contribute to its mission of support for education, local scholarships, hunger relief and community projects – from the comfort of your own home – and even without spending more money!

Calling all Amazon shoppers! The KCFB Foundation now has an AmazonSmile account and would greatly appreciate your support! **AmazonSmile** is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient



shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the extra bonus that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Step by step instructions:

1. Click the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3691384>
2. Click the yellow "Start shopping" box
3. Sign in using your Amazon log-in info
4. Begin shopping!

To verify that you've followed the steps properly, at the check-out portion of your purchase there will be a box stating, "Supporting Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation"

You will also see on various items that it will say, "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation."

### Our Caps, Your Cause:

In 2018, we encouraged the community to join us in our 10,000 Gallon Milk Challenge by buying and donating to the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

With the successful event in mind we are shifting gears a little bit in 2021. We are excited to be working with Prairie Farms Dairy in their Our Caps, Your Cause program. Simply purchase Prairie Farm Dairy white or chocolate milk in a gallon or a half gallon or Prairie Farms iced coffee and peel off the special Our Caps, Your Cause sticker to reveal a unique, redeemable code. For every redeemable code, Prairie Farms will give 5-cents to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. We hope you will join us in our next challenge and bring your milk caps into KCFB or mail them to us. In the meantime, keep drinking your milk and save your caps all year long! It's a small change that can make a big difference!



# 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 November 16-December 14, 2020.



Donor	Beneficiary
Konen Family Foundation	S.P.R.O.U.T.S. – KCFB Foundation
<b>Harvest for ALL</b>	
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp & Paul "Griz" Stover	Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry
Mike & Carol Kenyon	Feeding Greater Elgin
Mike & Carol Kenyon	South Elgin Food Pantry



**Keeping up with Kane** – Like us on Facebook for a helping of humor, info about Illinois agriculture and the latest at Kane County Farm Bureau: [kanecountyfarmbureau](https://www.facebook.com/kanecountyfarmbureau)

*Happy New Year* from the Kane County Farm Bureau



**Your local source for feed, supplies, and so much more!**

Pet Food • Propane  
Salt • Delivery

**St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024**

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Happy New Year, Kane County! I hope you all had a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. What a wild ride 2020 was, am I right? I think we can all agree it was a year full of twists, turns, ups and downs. Whether it was good or bad, happy or sad, I think 2020 has taught us many life lessons. It has highlighted the importance

of things we value most and has reminded us to slow down and appreciate life a little more. This past year challenged us to think outside the box to be creative and innovative in ways we never thought possible. As we kick off the new year, I hope we can look back at all of the lessons both good and bad from this past year and I know we will persevere,

## More than \$875,000 in scholarships available

Throughout the state, the Illinois Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureaus are awarding over \$875,000 in scholarships to local and state-wide applicants. For a complete list of scholarships offered statewide, please visit <http://www.iaafoundation.org/iaaf/Scholarships/CountyScholarships.html>.

**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION** – 2020 scholarship applications are now available. Over 20 scholarships are available to members or dependents of members pursuing higher education in an agricultural related field. Call 630-584-8660 or email [info@kanecfb.com](mailto:info@kanecfb.com) to receive an application. You'll also find scholarship requirements and a brochure to help in identifying careers and areas of study. Last

year, the FOUNDATION awarded 15 scholarships totaling over \$20,000 in scholarships and internships to area students. The application deadline is February 15, 2021. Call 630-584-8660 with questions, or e-mail Steve Arnold, Executive Director at [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com)

**IAA Foundation** – Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members and their children may apply for college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. Seventy one scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, will be awarded in total of \$121,500 for the 2021-2022 school year.

A full listing of available scholarships, eligibility guide-  
*(continued on page 7)*

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

just like we always have.

I have always loved the start of every new year. It is a time for reflection, time for a fresh start, time to establish new goals, and to feel the excitement of what is to come. While life can be unpredictable at times, one thing we can always control is our attitude and how we approach each day.

I encourage you all to be always kind and positive with yourself and to others. It truly is the little acts of kindness that can have a big impact because we may never know what others are going through. Whether it is a warm smile, holding the door for someone else, paying it for-

ward at the drive-through, one small act of kindness can really go a long way and create a lasting impression. After conversations with family and friends, we have created a New Year's Resolution Challenge and I encourage you to participate too. Ask yourself at the end of each day, "What have I done to make someone else's day?" or "What have I done to make a positive impact in someone else's life today?" This may not be accomplished every single day of the year, but if we are intentional of how we treat ourselves and others it can have a lasting ripple effect for a positive year!

Lastly, while we are on the

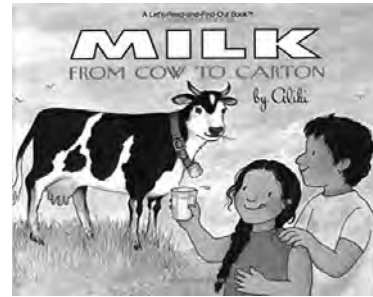
topic of innovation and creativity, I would love to invite you to join Ag in the Classroom (AITC) and Midwest Dairy on their virtual farm tour to our very own local, Lenkaitis Holstein Dairy Farm on January 14. Lenkaitis Holsteins is located in Campton Hills and is home to over 60 registered Holstein and Red and White Cows. Viewers will be in for a real treat to see their state-of-the-art dairy barn.

To learn more and to sign up for our January virtual field trip, please follow the link: <https://iaitc.coldairytrip>.

## Book of the month

The book of the month for January is *Milk from Cow to Carton*, written and illustrated by Aliko Brandenburg. Aliko takes readers on an adventure of how milk goes from cows to the cartons and products in our refrigerators. On this journey, Aliko explains how cows produce milk, how the milk is collected and processed through machinery on the farm and at the dairy, which is the plant where raw milk is processed. The trip concludes with how different products such as cheese, butter, and more are

made from milk. Can you imagine where dairy farmers would be if they had to milk their dairy



*Milk - From Cow to Carton*  
by Aliko Brandenburg

cows and process it all by hand without help of any assistance from machinery or modern technology?

To see the long voyage milk travels before it becomes the products on our tables, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a FREE library! – and check out *Milk from Cow to Carton*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

## Helping you protect what matters most



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



**Edward Stuehm**  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



**Bob Riedel**  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



**Todd Wilcox**  
St. Charles  
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**Deb Stob**  
Geneva  
630-208-0890



**Gary Bolger**  
West Dundee  
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**Bobbi Boston**  
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**Michael O'Brien**  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



**Sherri Schramer**  
Elburn  
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**Keith Eakins**  
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630-762-1324



**Jeff Jones**  
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**Dominick Davero**  
Elburn  
630-365-3737



**Kelly Landorf**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1328



**Victor Alvarado**  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



**Chuck Quick**  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



**Donna Tonovitz**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7694



**Luke Fawkes**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**David Berreles**  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



**Orazio Difruscolo**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



**Sherry Lochen**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**Dan Cooper**  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



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



**Bob Kearns**  
S. Elgin  
847-888-3200



**Ted Schuster**  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

## Special thanks



The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to thank Jay Schrock and the staff at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse in St. Charles for the use of their greenhouse and assistance with the KCFB annual citrus sale distribution in December. The Schrock family has allowed Farm Bureau to use its greenhouses for citrus distribution to our members on cold December days for a quarter century. We appreciate their generosity in helping to provide this service to Kane County Farm Bureau members.

Didn't get your citrus this year? Watch the *Kane County Farmer* for information on our seasonal sales on citrus, fresh Illinois peaches, local turkeys, hams and other foods throughout the year, or call us at 630 584-8660 to be added to a mailing list for all of our food specials.

## January

### Lessons and Activities Schedule

Theme: Dairy  
Subtheme: Sweater Weather

December 31st	Lesson for the week of January 4th: Moo Mask
January 6th	Classroom Challenge for January: Design Your Own National Day
January 7th	Lesson for the week of January 11th: King Cotton
January 8th	Family Cooking Challenge: Ice Cream
January 14th	Lesson for the week of January 18th: Milk Emulsion
January 14th	Virtual Field Trip: Lenkaitis Holstein Dairy Farm
January 15th	Family Engagement Challenge: Make Your Own Milk Plastic
January 21st	Lesson for the week of January 25th: Sweater Weather Weaving
January 23rd	February PD in Your PJ's: Lincoln

All activities and lessons will be released on the IAITC Facebook and Instagram pages on their release dates.



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

## INNOVATION

### Better farms, food, world



For farmers, growing and raising our food means continuous improvement. It means discovering ways to do things better and finding solutions to complex problems. Farmers make decisions every day that advance their methods for raising animals and growing crops. That's why innovation grows here.

Innovation on the farm – self-steering equipment, field-mapping drones, animal health monitors – means less environmental impact, safer food and a healthier world. In Illinois, farmers use the latest in science and technology to advance the way they grow and raise food that is better for you and our world.

Find out why firsthand from the farmers who are bringing this innovation to life.

<https://www.watchusgrow.org/innovation-grows-here/>

**Innovation Grows Here:**

Growing Biofuels featuring Elliott Uphoff (Shelby County)  
Direct link to video: [https://youtu.be/koc90bhcg\\_l](https://youtu.be/koc90bhcg_l)

Growing a Better Environment with Bioplastics featuring Alexis Hartman (Monroe County)  
Direct link to video: <https://youtu.be/UNdgyQXRpq4>

## Feeding the world—American farmers grow abundance

American farmers have increased corn yield considerably since the 1930s.

Through the mid-1930s, 26 bushels per acre was the average for corn yield.

American growers began adopting double-cross hybrid corn in the late 1930s. Within a few years, the improvement in grain yield was impressive – about 0.8 bushels per acre per year through the mid-1950s.

A second boost to corn grain yield began in the mid-1950s in response to continued improvements in genetic yield potential and stress tolerance plus increased adoption of N fertilizer,

chemical pesticides, and agricultural mechanization. The annual rate of corn yield improvement more than doubled to about 1.9 bushels per acre per year and has continued at that steady rate ever since, sustained primarily by continued improvements in genetics and crop production technologies.

Corn yield in 2019 was 175 bushels per acre, according to the USDA National Ag Statistics Service.

Today, farmers use GPS to “map” fields and hone planting, fertilizer and pesticide application. Management of soil and planting benefits include:

- Accurate soil sampling,

data collection and analysis, enable variation of chemical applications and planting density to suit specific areas of the field.

- Precise field navigation reduces redundant applications and skipped areas, and enables maximum ground coverage.

- Giving the ability to work through low visibility field conditions such as rain, dust, fog and darkness, leading to increased productivity.

- Accurately monitored yield data enables future site-specific field preparation.

- An increase in spray efficiency and greatly reduced over-spray.

## Create your own biodegradable plastic

### Supplies:

- Cornstarch
- Cooking oil (vegetable or canola)
- Water
- Spoon/something to measure with
- Microwaveable container
- Microwave

### Directions:

- Add 1 TBSP Cornstarch, 1.5 TBSP Water, 3-5 drops cooking oil in a microwavable safe bowl.
- Mix ingredients together to form a milky looking mixture.
- Microwave on high for 25-30 seconds.
- When the mixture looks

slightly transparent, take it out of the microwave and let it cool. Once it is cooled, knead it until it is soft and mold into the shape of your liking.

Let the plastic dry for 24-hours

Enjoy your newfound invention!

### Tips:

Add food coloring to give the biodegradable plastic a splash of color or mold your mixture into a pot for plants so you start the plants indoors and then once

they've grown you can put them in the ground!

For more ideas and inspiration, please check out: <https://www.instructables.com/Easy-Biodegradable-Plastic/>



## Chocolate mug cake

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup white (or regular) sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 tablespoon water

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Large mug or cereal bowl (warning: may overflow if mug/bowl is too small)

### Directions:

Step 1: Mix flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt in a large microwave-safe mug

Step 2: Stir in milk, canola oil, water, and vanilla extract

Step 3: Cook in microwave until cake is done in the middle, about 1 minute 45 seconds.

Fun tips: Add some ice cream, sprinkles, whipped cream, or frosting for a little extra flavor!

Recipe found by McKenna Berglund on: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/241038/microwave-chocolate-mug-cake/>



## January is ...

### National

- Buffet Day ..... Jan. 2
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day.....Jan. 3
- Spaghetti Day ..... Jan. 4
- Bird Day ..... Jan. 5
- Whipped Cream Day ..... Jan. 5
- Bean Day ..... Jan. 6
- Houseplant Appreciation Day ..... Jan. 10
- Milk Day ..... Jan. 11
- Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day ..... Jan. 14
- Bagel Day ..... Jan. 15
- Fig Newton Day ..... Jan. 16
- Popcorn Day ..... Jan. 19
- Cheese Lover's Day ..... Jan. 20
- Banana Bread Day ..... Jan. 21
- Pie Day ..... Jan. 23
- Peanut Butter Day ..... Jan. 24
- Peanut Brittle Day ..... Jan. 26
- Chocolate Cake Day ..... Jan. 27
- Croissant Day ..... Jan. 30
- Hot Chocolate Day ..... Jan. 31

### National

- Blood Donor Month
- Hobby Month
- Hot Tea Month
- Mentoring Month
- Oatmeal Month
- Slow Cooking Month
- Soup Month
- Walk Your Dog Month

## Congratulations

**Susanna Erd** of St. Charles. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a farm themed product! Thank you, Susanna, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

## Jokes: ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

- What do you get if you mix a vampire with a snowman? ❄️ Frostbite!
- Who are Frosty's parents? ❄️ Mom and Pop-Sicle!
- Who is Frosty's favorite Aunt? ❄️ Aunt Arctica!
- What did Jack Frost say to Frosty the Snowman? ❄️ Have an ice day!

For more laughs check out: <https://kidactivities.net/winter-jokes-kids/>



## Farming innovation

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

Automatic  
Biofuel  
Bio-plastics  
Biotechnology  
Customization  
Discovery  
Drones  
Field-mapping  
Fortitude  
Goals  
Gratitude  
Hands-free  
Improvement  
Innovation  
Modern  
Monitors  
New Year  
Renewable  
Satellites  
Self-steering  
Smartphones  
Solar panels  
Technology  
Zoom

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by January 15, 2021  
to be entered in our drawing for a farm themed prize.  
Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.



**Innovation grows on the farm**

As infatuated as I am with old barns and windmills, I'm equally captivated by rows of young corn plants that don't overlap at the end rows, a pleasing visual credited to satellite technology and

automatic planter row shutoffs. Photographs of our farm's old barns decorate walls of the farm office, where the top of a weathered windmill also backdrops my desk. The newest canvas print on the wall shows modern machines harvesting biotech crops near the solar panels that help power our grain drying and storage.

We fondly respect the farm's nostalgic qualities as well as the generations of innovation that have improved the farm and likewise the world. "Innovation grows here" and represents the topic of a new docuseries at the Illinois Farm Families web site WatchUsGrow.org. As a kid, my

grandpa remembers farming with horses to grow feed for his own livestock. He retired with hands-free, satellite-guided steering in a high-horsepower tractor to grow grain and oilseed for a global market.

Innovation on the farm leaps significantly one generation to the next, just as smartphones, online shopping, and Zoom have changed modern life. Satellite-guided machinery drives with greater accuracy than car navigation systems to precisely place seed and nutrients. Seed biotechnology produces more crops with fewer inputs and less environmental

impact. Farmers grow cleaner-burning fuel from corn and soybeans, a local-grown, renewable resource producing more than 1.7 billion gallons of renewable biofuels in Illinois alone.

Modern livestock farmers tell me about smarter barns that automatically control air quality or customize feed rations based on scans of an animal's identification tag. At our grain storage facility, my brother controls grain drying and monitors grain temperature from his tablet. We can observe solar energy production from an app, watch market prices on the go, and receive alerts when hail potentially damages crops in a field miles away from the home farm.

Evolving farm practices that improve the bottom line often benefit the environment, a reason innovation will continue.

Our farm planted more cover crops than ever in fall 2020. Ground cover of cereal rye, balansa clover and radish (the type to reduce soil compaction, not eat) grow in fields to control erosion and hold nutrients in place until we plant the next crop.

When our kids schooled remotely during harvest, we had plenty of cab time to talk technology and how their great-grandparents farmed. The older ones learned to drive a tractor with a modern-day transmission, too. The experiences strengthen their respect for the farm, its history, and the innovation that helps fulfill our duty to leave the land better than we found it.

*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 —**

**Ron Brummel..... Hinckley  
Jill Haka ..... Maple Park  
Richard Marinello ..... Aurora**

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 and engage-

ment 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 and 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 and 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.*

## Members set policy during IFB virtual Annual Meeting

Illinois Farm Bureau successfully held its 106th Business Meeting in an entirely virtual format to conduct its annual business session and set policy for the upcoming year.

Traditionally, the IFB Annual Meeting is held at the historic Palmer House hotel in Chicago over a four-day period. Thousands of members, farmer delegates, staff members and spouses travel upstate for an extended weekend of policy debate, networking and celebration of the year's successes.

The event was taken entirely virtual – a first for the organization – in 2020.

"Pandemic mitigation meas-

ures made it clear early on that we would not be able to hold our annual meeting in the same capacity that our members look forward to," said IFB President Richard Guebert Jr. "While a live virtual event is not ideal for our business session, this is our best solution during circumstances that limit face-to-face gatherings, which we know our members prefer."

The meeting kicked off with the President's Address, in which President Guebert acknowledged the accomplishments of the organization during the trying times of the pandemic.

"I'm proud of how Farm Bureau shifted and adjusted to

continue serving our members," Guebert said.

Delegates voted on policy submittals virtually this year using an electronic balloting process. This action concluded prior to the start of the Saturday business meeting.

Due to the bulk of policy discussion taking place ahead of time, delegates were able to approve policy resolutions during the live business session and present the finalized 2021 policy book.

Voting delegates for the meeting, totaling 336, decided on policy surrounding small business liability, crop protection, requiring notifications from highway authority, and dairy policy. The language of these approved policies will be forwarded to American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration during their upcoming annual meeting.

A recommendation for the creation of a Livestock Working Group was also submitted to the IFB board of directors for consideration. This group would focus on recent pricing issues and price disparity seen within the livestock industry this year.

"Each year our policy book receives a full review by our delegates, a process that starts months before the annual meeting," said Executive Director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities Mark Gebhards. "While we were not able to gather in person this year to debate policy changes in-person, we have adapted to make sure our members' voices are still heard."

Approximately 880 IFB members and staff attended the meeting virtually. County awards and several annual awards were suspended this year.

*(continued on page 7)*

## IFB creates Presidential Memorial Scholarship

Illinois Farm Bureau's rich history includes a list of former Presidents that reads like an honor roll of well-known and well-respected individuals. In recognition of the past presidents who shaped and influenced Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), the Board of Directors, at the suggestion of the IAA Foundation Board of Trustees, recently voted to create the Illinois Farm Bureau Presidential Memorial Scholarship fund.

"As a tribute to all former Presidents of this organization, we feel strongly that this scholarship is a meaningful gesture

that acknowledges the leadership they provided" said Richard Guebert Jr., President, Illinois Farm Bureau. "It is a genuine privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

**Scholarship honors previous leaders, supports IFB families**

Generally, the award amount will be \$1,000 and presented in honor of all former Presidents of IFB. However, in the scholarship program year immediately following the passing of a former IFB President, the award amount will be \$2,500 and presented specifically in that person's memory.

*(continued on page 7)*



### Touch-A-Tractor

**ALL Tractors Welcome!**

We hope to host Touch-A-Tractor April 16-18, 2021 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau! This year we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier! If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, or have tractors or equipment to share, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve.

**Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 17 or Sunday, April 18)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to bring the following farm equipment, vintage truck or livestock to display for your guests

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/livestock.  
For truck or tractors, include year, make, and model.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau,  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174



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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTE

By Alice Macha



This past year made me think often of my childhood in London, England. I lived there from 1964 to the end of 1969, and there were things I experienced that didn't fully register in childhood, but have left an indelible imprint on my adult life.

During my time in London, I

watched a city rebuilding from World War II. Damaged houses, apartments, businesses, churches and city blocks were still being repaired or torn down and new buildings and infrastructure slowly replaced them. It was not uncommon for construction crews to find buried ordnance, some still live, and clear it away

outlined in their application.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines for the 2021 Scholarship Program is available on the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). **NEW TIMELINE:** The application opens January 1, 2020 and must be completed online by February 15, 2021.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@ilfb.org](mailto:jsmith@ilfb.org).

*The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.*

college students who are children/stepchildren of an Association member. The application will be available at [www.kanecountycorngrowers.com](http://www.kanecountycorngrowers.com), please check the website for further details and dates.

**Kane County 4-H FOUNDATION scholarships** – Three scholarships are expected to be available to local 4-H members. The first is Educational Scholarship (\$3,000 total, up to \$1,000/winner). The second scholarship is the Bob Konen Memorial Scholarship (\$500). The third scholarship is Woodman's Markets Scholarship (\$500).

Please call 630-584-6926 with any questions.

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

before they could continue with rebuilding. It was a laborious process for a city that was still recovering from the bombing raids of WWII.

My siblings and I had a wonderful baby sitter, Mrs. Miller, who took good care of us when my parents were away. She was the widow of a British Army captain, and lived off of Sloane Square in a modest flat. She told us stories of life during wartime, with her husband away and air raids that shrieked her out of bed and into the Sloane Square tube station to spend the night in the train tunnels, not knowing what she would emerge to the next morning. It was a horrible hardship and literal nightmare for her and eight million fellow Londoners. She survived with a kind heart and generous spirit. *Indomitable.*

Fast forward to 2020.

I can't begin to calculate how many hours in 2020 went into developing not one, but five COVID-19 vaccines, the first of which rolled out in mid-December. What a daunting task to race the clock with an eye to the mounting toll of lives lost, and to explore the virus, find its

weaknesses and develop a vaccine to exploit that weakness and bring us immunity to a devilish disease. *Indomitable.*

I can only guess how many hours our extraordinary doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers have worked in 2020, diagnosing, treating, worrying and grieving as they struggled with exhaustion and cared for COVID-19 patients. What a daunting task to go to work each day, not knowing what to expect and hoping you don't become infected with the virus. *Indomitable.*

I can only imagine how many hours and how much frustration our dedicated teachers have spent developing lesson plans, adapting to in-school and at-home learning and taking crash courses in new software and hardware, trying to be reassuringly stable rudders for students in a choppy sea of doubt and confusion, all while worrying about their own health and that of their families. *Indomitable.*

I can only marvel at the tenacity of our nation's firefighters from around the country, who spent months fighting the ferocious wild fires on the

west coast and in Colorado and neighboring states this past summer and fall. Multiple fires burned over six million acres, thousands of homes and billions of dollars in property. Tens of thousands of firefighters including fire department volunteers, prison work crews and plain old folks worked in the infernos. How they kept going and didn't let the fires overwhelm them is extraordinary. *Indomitable.*

I am humbled and filled with gratitude as I think of the strength of the human spirit. I will close with a couple of quotes from Sir Winston Churchill, who led England through WWII with indomitable will and spirit. I can only imagine how he must have wrestled with his thoughts and decisions during some of the darkest hours in human history.

*"It is wonderful what great strides can be made when there is a resolute purpose behind them."*

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."*

Here's to closing the book on 2020, and beginning a new year with vigor and positivity. Happy new year to one and all.

## IFB Scholarship

(continued from page 6)

An important consideration for the Board was inviting contributions from individuals, organizations, and County Farm Bureaus who wish to pay tribute to a specific leader, or all former Presidents. Guebert went on to say, "we feel strongly that this is an initiative that others will choose to support." Gifts to this fund can be accepted at any time on the IAA Foundation website or by contacting the IAA Foundation.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their proven leadership experience and an emphasis will be placed on their work/internship experience as

## Scholarships

(continued from page 4)

lines, and application documents are available at the Foundation website, [http://www.iaafoundation.org/iaaf/Scholarships/overview\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.iaafoundation.org/iaaf/Scholarships/overview_scholarships.htm). Completed applications must be submitted online by Feb. 1, 2021.

**Kane County Corn Growers Scholarships** – Two scholarships are available to dependents of current Kane County Corn Grower members: Kane County Corn Growers Ag Scholarship and/or Kane County Corn Growers General Scholarship. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and

## Recruiter of the Month

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

is located at 2172 Blackberry Dr., Geneva and may be reached at: 630-492-5293. Thank you, Jeff, for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Jeff Jones

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

**Sherry Lochen** has been named the Rep of the Month for November 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Sherry has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services:

Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Sherry's expertise help you! You may reach Sherry at 847-742-0004, [sherry.lochen@countryfinancial.com](mailto:sherry.lochen@countryfinancial.com), or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/sherry.lochen/>. Congratulations, Sherry!

**Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager**

**Zach Fox**, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for November 2020. 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) 326-1996. 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!

## Annual meeting

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"While I was disappointed we could not meet in person, I'm impressed with how our county Farm Bureaus, delegates, directors and staff responded to make the virtual business session a success," Guebert said.

To finish up the day, delegates confirmed four new members to the IFB board of directors and five incumbent directors.

Don Meyer of Amboy in Lee County will represent District 4, which includes LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties. Keith Mussman of St. Anne in Kankakee County will represent District 6, which includes Ford-Iroquois, Kankakee and Livingston counties. Richard Carroll of Brimfield in Peoria County will represent District 8, which includes Fulton, Knox, Peoria and Warren-Henderson counties. Larry Dallas of Tuscola in Douglas County will represent District 12, which

includes Champaign, Douglas, Edgar and Vermilion counties.

*About the Illinois Farm Bureau: 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 378,237 and a voting membership of 77,909. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.*

## Save time, renew online!

It's easy to make sure your Farm Bureau Membership is current. 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.

**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.

### SERVICES

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

### WANTED

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

Happy New Year!

# Private well testing program in February

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water testing program in February 2020. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and this program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The program works simply as follows:

**Step 1. Monday, February 22 – Friday, March 5, 2021**

Pick up water test kits from the Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30am-4:30pm or from Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8am – 4:30pm, M-F. Payment is due for each test kit upon pick-up.

**Step 2. Sunday, March 7, 2021**  
Collect the water sample.

**Step 3. Monday, March 8, 2021**

Return water sample to Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District.

Costs vary for depending on which tests you have performed on your water. Three kits are available:



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

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

**B. Pesticide Screen – \$80.00**

Indicates the presence of tri-

azine herbicides, Lasso, Dual or Harness.

**C. Metals – \$95.00**

Tests for 23 different metals.

More detailed sampling instructions will be included in each kit and additional information on how each test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation's District offices. Testing will be performed by Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, a certified lab that has been nationally recognized for its work in testing rivers and lakes, and results are mailed directly to your home. We are able to provide these deeply discounted testing fees because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested.

Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 with any questions.

# IDOA cover crop applications open

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is accepting online applications for the second state cover crop program.

The Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program applications are available at [https://apps.agr.illinois.gov/BLWR\\_CoverCrop/](https://apps.agr.illinois.gov/BLWR_CoverCrop/). Eligible acres will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis and receive premium discount of \$5 per acre on

the following year's crop insurance invoice for every enrolled, certified cover crop acre.

Before applying, farmers must certify their cover crops were seeded in fall 2020 through their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office with a current FSA-578 and include a federal crop insurance policy number with the application.

Eligible acres must be cov-

ered through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) crop insurance program. Confirmed applications will be forwarded to RMA for processing and application of premium discounts to 2021 crop insurance invoices.

Applications will be available until Jan. 15 on IDOA's website. For more information, call IDOA at 217-782-6297.

# Farm toy of the month

If January brings out the fidget in your kids, we have just the farm toy set to keep them busy.

This 20-piece Tomy Farm Toy Playset includes all the key pieces to keep a farm running smoothly – wagons, horses and hauler, tractors, combine and of course, a trusty truck with flatbed.

Regular price is \$22.24, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the

month of January, and you can save an extra 10% by downloading the IFB Benefits app from Abenity OR showing us the app on your smart phone.

Supplies are limited, so we'll see you soon!



## Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Visa  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

# Shopping Spree

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choice. At the end of the shopping spree, each competitor's groceries will be tallied and a winner declared (all in good fun, of course). Kane County Farm Bureau will purchase the collected groceries on behalf of the respective food pantries. Donations of non-perishable food items will also be collected on site throughout the day of the event for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, to benefit food pantries throughout Kane County.

Through this and other hunger relief efforts including Harvest for ALL and the related Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of nearly 2 million meals to area food pantries. KCFB's 2019 hunger awareness initiative, the 10,000 Gallon C H A L - L E N G E, provided funding for the purchase of over 10,000 gal-


lons of milk for 10 local food pantries and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

In its early years, the Food Check-Out Challenge was always scheduled for early February, during what the American Farm Bureau Federation designated as "Food Check-Out Week." Typically, consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, meaning by early February, most have earned enough for a year's food supply. Today Farm Bureau uses the Challenge to teach consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food, while helping support neighbors in need through local food pantries and reminding FB members to do likewise.



State Representative Dan Ugaste accepted the 2020 Shopping Spree challenge and hustled cartloads of food for area pantries in his 5-minute spree.





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

c/o Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 Ph: 630 584-8660 Fax: 630-587-8479 www.kanecfb.com

**See the full scholarship story on page 2**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**2021 Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation  
Scholarship/Internship Applications Now Available**

The objective of the KCFB Foundation's scholarship/internship program is to assist students pursuing higher education and agriculture-related jobs and careers. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and college students. Applications are available at [kanecfb.com](http://kanecfb.com) by clicking on "scholarships & internships" and must be submitted by February 15, 2021. Additional prerequisites are listed below:

**Scholarships**

**KCFB FOUNDATION President's Scholarship** (\$1,500 minimum) For the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation Agricultural Scholarship from a **high school senior**.

**KCFB FOUNDATION Agricultural Scholarship**: (\$1,000 minimum) For students pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields whose parents are & have been members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing since February 1, two year prior to the scholarship application deadline.

**KCFB FOUNDATION General Scholarship**: (\$1,000 minimum) For **high school seniors only** whose parents are & have been members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing since February 1, two years prior to the scholarship application deadline.

**John Buck Memorial Scholarships**: (2 @ \$1,500) For students from Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, DuPage, Lake or Will County pursuing a degree in an agriculture field with preference given to students with agricultural mechanics and turf management career ambitions.

**Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship**: (\$1,000 minimum) For a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field.

**Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship**: (\$2,000 minimum) For an Illinois resident accepted to or enrolled in a school of Veterinary Medicine in the state of Illinois.

**AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship**: (\$2,500) One award for the most outstanding applicant currently enrolled and who has **completed at least one full year of college education**, pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field of study, residing in the state of Illinois.

**AGCO Parts - AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarship**: (2 @ \$1,000) Two awards for **female students** in Illinois pursuing a degree in agricultural related career field of study.

**AGCO Parts Division Scholarship**: (2 @ \$1,000) Two awards for students from Illinois pursuing a degree in an agricultural related career field of study.

**Internships**

**LOCATION**: Kane County Farm Bureau - St. Charles, Illinois

**DATES**: Offered December 2020 - August 2021

**PRE-REQUISITES**: 30 undergraduate hours (communications or education emphasis preferred)

**REQUIREMENTS**: Minimum of 300 hours, 20 hours/week (**summer**)  
Minimum of 100 hours (**winter**) or 30 hours (**spring**)

**VALUE**: Up to \$2500 to be paid at conclusion of internship (**summer**)  
Up to \$750 (**winter**) and \$300 (**spring**)

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization that supports education, leadership development, research and charitable activities for the benefit of agriculture and farm families.

S/WORD/Foundation/Scholarship/Scholarship & Internship Apps Now Available 2021.docx