

# 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. 83 NO. 4 APRIL 2018

## Ring in Spring at the 13th annual Touch-A-Tractor

You don't have to travel to the country to get a close-up look at farm life. The Farm Bureau invites you and your family to Touch-A-Tractor, our annual farm-city community event, April 6-8, to celebrate agriculture and the coming of spring. Easy to understand signs next to the modern farm machinery will explain the technology that goes into planting and harvesting our nation's food supply. More than a dozen antique tractors from area farms will be on hand for Mom and Dad to get that perfect photo of the kids for the grandparents.

Kids can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, shell corn, see farm animals, pet a baby chick, make their own music at the percussion string, take pictures with farm-themed backdrops, and play and sit in the seat of one of dozens of tractors. There will be a FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing for kids 8 and under – one entry per child.

Hours are 12pm to 4pm on Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 3pm Sunday with the announcement of our 2018-2019 scholarship winners.

Admission to the event is a donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per adult (children 18 & under free). Funds will be used for

**April 6-8**  
Touch-A-Tractor is a farm to city event  
at the Kane County Farm Bureau.  
The fun lasts all weekend long.



college scholarships and agricultural literacy programs. A Winner's Choice raffle ticket stub will also gain you FREE entry for your family.

The Elburn Lions Club will have food for purchase from 11am-2pm on Saturday and Sunday. FFA volunteers will provide fresh, hot popcorn for a donation.

On Sunday, April 8, at 3 pm, the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION will announce scholarship recipients for the 2018-19 school year and will draw one winner under 8 years of age for a FREE pedal tractor, compliments of the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Clockwise: T-A-T features fun children's activities like a Farm Toy Corral. Here children can play with model tractors, combines, and trucks.

Another popular children's activity is playing in the corn box, which features seed corn harvested by a local farmer.

Bring your child/grandchild and get a photo on the seat of an antique tractor, see the newly hatched baby chicks and get a FREE entry (8 years and younger) in our annual Pedal Tractor drawing.



## 2018 FFA Acquaintance Day at NIFB a 'sweet' success

This year's Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day was a "volunteer night" at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva on March 1. Attendees included 12 FFA members from Kaneland High School, their advisor, Brooke Heinsohn, 7 FFA members from Central High School, 4 Kane County Young Farmers, 6 KCFB Directors and 3 staff members; totaling 33 volunteers.

Orientation began and the group watched a presentation given by Becky Perez, NIFB Volunteer Coordinator. She shared many facts with the group, including 1 in 7 people and 1 in 5 children face hunger in the food bank's service area of the 13 surrounding counties. Last year, the NIFB provided 78.5 million pounds of food, 65.5 million meals, packed by volunteers who donated 136,000

hours of their time. The NIFB is able to stretch the dollar amount needed to feed neighbors because a large percentage of the food they provide is donated, meaning \$1 = \$8. They are 1 in a network of 800 feeding sites and are one of the biggest in the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks.

The volunteer group's task for the evening was to re-package (continued on page 7)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

*April*

- April 5**  
Volunteer night, T-A-T set-up, 4 pm  
KCFB Annual Meeting, 6:30pm  
Board of Directors, 7:00 pm
- April 6**  
Touch-A-Tractor, 12-4pm
- April 7**  
Touch-A-Tractor, 10-4pm
- April 8**  
Touch-A-Tractor, 10-3pm  
Scholarship Awards  
Recognition, 3pm
- April 8-14**  
National Library Week
- April 16, 17**  
IFB & Affiliates Youth  
Conference, East Peoria
- April 16-20**  
SPROUTS in classroom reading program
- April 19**  
County Board Ag Committee, 10am, Co Admn Bldg



## Get your soil ready for spring

A great service the Farm Bureau offers its members is soil testing. Make sure your soil is ready for spring planting. Visit [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) and click on benefits and services for a soil test form, or pick one up at the KCFB office. Deliver samples to Kane County Farm Bureau with payment. Results are sent directly to you by mail. Call the 630-584-8660 for more details. There are three different tests available.

### April SPECIAL Bratwurst

The special for April is a Bratwurst. This box contains 20 delicious award winning Inboden's bratwurst. A definite crowd pleaser at any cookout!

The member price is \$23.00, PLUS members \$22.00, and non-members \$26.00

Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau – Randall Rd and Oak Street in St. Charles – during the month of April or while supply lasts.

Prices listed are for Kane County Farm Bureau members and non-members. Ask us how to save even more when you upgrade your membership to a PLUS membership.

#### Why test your soil?

Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary

to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

#### When is the best time to test soil?

Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results.

### Win a Pedal Tractor at Touch-A-Tractor

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the conclusion of Touch-A-Tractor on April 8. Return the form below to KCFB by April 8 or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 6-8. The pedal tractor drawing is open only to children 8 and under. Entrant's name, age, and phone must appear on the form.

You can also receive one (1) additional entry to the FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing for each child or grandchild in your family by bringing non-perishable food items to Touch-A-Tractor. Food items will then be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.

#### FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing

(For children 8 and under. Entrant's age must appear on the form below)

Please enter me in the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Return By Sunday, April 8 to: Kane County Farm Bureau,  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at (continued on page 3)

### Soil test costs

#### Basic PH Test

\$20 per sample for members, \$30 non-members  
This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

#### Lawn/Garden Test

\$30 per sample for members, \$40 non-members  
This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

#### Lawn/Garden Plus

\$50 per sample for members, \$60 non-members  
This test includes the Lawn & Garden test plus nutrients, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur and boron. This test also includes recommendations.



# KCFB Board meeting review—March

The March meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 pm on March 1, 2018, in the upstairs conference room of the Northern Illinois Food Bank following a Volunteer Night at the Food Bank. FB Directors, staff, Kaneland and Central FFA Chapters, and KC Young Farmers participated in Volunteer Night and 2018 FFA Acquaintance program preceding the call to order.

Guests included Associate Judge Elizabeth Flood, a candidate for Circuit Court Judge; Mr. John Tuttle, General Manager at ConservFS; and Mr. Stephen Ericson, Director of Food Procurement, Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Carolyn Gehrke, Nominating Committee Chair, gave a report of nominations for placement on District election ballots. The candidates elected will serve a 3 year term on the Board of Directors. Ballots will be mailed to voting members the week of March 12.

Among the issues and concerns shared by Directors in an open forum were the opportunities available to serve youth development through 4-H. The Kane County 4-H program is seeking qualified volunteers for several 4-H committees. Director Donna Lehrer shared information on training for the "prescription produce" component of the new Food Hub in cooperation with Rush Copley Hospital and announced her topic for the upcoming good food expo in Chicago.

Directors heard reports from recent meeting of the Kane County Board and the Kane County Board Agriculture Committee. FB Manager

Arnold shared the agenda from the Ag Committee and reviewed several items of interest, including proposed legislation on Ag Areas law. There was no report from the Farmland Protection Commission, Regional Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals.

B. Collins reported on the PR and Membership Committee meeting held 2/12/18. Discussions were centered on Associate and PM membership drives, volunteer drives, April 6-8 Touch-A-Tractor and possible electronic signage options. He advised that there had been 20 donations received for Scholarships and AITC from: Phyllis Thelander & Connie Porter, Batavia; Steven & Kathy Austin, Hampshire; Stanley Skirmont III, Maple Park; Betty Jessen, Aurora; Chris & Suzan Arnold, Beach Park; Shirley Wirsing, Elgin; Mary, Ronald, & Gerald Grommes, North Aurora; Janet Gramley, in memory of Elmer Gramley, Elburn; Kane County Corn Growers, Elburn; Stephen Downen, Kaneville; Amanda Thomas, Geneva; David & Carol Bateman, Oregon; Phyllis Meredith, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Marjorie Spellmeyer, Hampshire; Carol Fabrizius, Maple Park; Dunteman Ag Partners, Kaneville; Edward & Karen McCarthy, Elgin; Ronald Hartmann, Elgin; and Thomas & Janet Runtz, Maple Park.

In the Government Affairs and Public Policy report, Schneider discussed Lunches to Legislators, the attendees, the Legislators visited, and topics discussed during each visit. Several of the Legislators requested to tour Kane County

farms with their staff members or with family. The IFB Government Affairs Leadership Conference is March 14 and 15, with 6 KCFB directors attending. Arnold reported on the most recent meeting of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy planning group. An Illinois Farm Bureau grant will help construct a woodchip bio-reactor to help remove nutrients from tile water in demonstration project for farmers and the public. The group has chosen a site on farmland owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will evaluate the site on March 13.

White gave a FOUNDATION report, including an overview of the recent Chili and Cornbread Cook-Off held February 22, the upcoming Annual Meeting and Scholarship review meeting scheduled for March 23, and needs for Touch-A-Tractor. The FOUNDATION is also seeking antique trucks for T-A-T.

President White gave his report, advising that the Credentials Committee consisting of Carlson, Kettelkamp, and Long will meet prior to the Annual Meeting April 5 to count ballots. Also, the IFB Health Care Summit in Bloomington is coming up on March 13; members can use Skype to participate in the discussion.

A written Ag-in-the-Classroom report from Suzi Myers was circulated, which included an update on Ag Days. This event is scheduled for March 20 & 21 at Mooseheart and currently has 42 classes that will participate. The FB is seeking farm animals to be brought

to Ag Days.

Arnold reported for the Young Farmers. There were 16 attendees at the February 2 Euchre Tournament, 12 attendees at the Farm Safety Display work night held at the Biddle Farm Shop, and the 2018 Ag Industry Tour will be attended by Michael Long and David Marshall, held this year in Washington State.

In the Manager's Report, Arnold announced that KCFB is working on a farm visit for the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator, distributed an IFB produced water quality report and reminded Directors of a March 12 meeting sponsored by the Nutrient Research

and Education Council.

Correspondence was circulated from the Elburn Food Pantry (thanks for Shopping Spree & 2 individual Harvest for ALL contributions); Ellen Kamps, thanks for Scholarship to attend a regional conference (Foundation); Northern Illinois Food Bank (thanks for Harvest for ALL contribution at Mid-America Dairy Council meeting); Christopher Kennedy, on his candidacy for Illinois Governor and asking for suggestions to improve Illinois agriculture; and Jeff Keicher, announcing his candidacy for State Rep., 70th District.

The next scheduled Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5 at 7pm.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
JANUARY 2018 THRU DECEMBER 2018												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X									
F. CARLSON	X	X	X									
B. COLLINS	X	X	X									
C. COLLINS	X	X	X									
J. ENGEL		X	X									
G. GAITSCH		X										
B. GEHRKE	X		X									
W. KECK		X	X									
M. KENYON	X	X	X									
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X									
D. LEHRER	X	X	X									
N. LONG	X	X	X									
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X									
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X									
J. WHITE	X	X	X									

# Kane County farmers meet with local legislators

In late February, Kane County Farm Bureau voting members and staff members volunteered to visit the offices of local legislators during this year's "Lunches to Legislators" program. This program, organized by the KCFB Governmental Affairs committee, gives local farmers the opportunity to get acquainted with local legislators and speak with them on behalf of the local agricultural community. Prior to sitting down with the legislators, volunteers were invited to attend a breakfast to discuss current IFB legislative priorities to further prepare them for their office visits.



(L-R) Ellen Kamps, local organic vegetable farmer, Joanne Annerino, Kristen Beutow, Carol Berger (all Constituent Services Representatives for Congressman Randy Hultgren), and Michael Kenyon, local dairy and commodity farmer, gather for a photo opportunity while visiting the offices of Congressman Hultgren in Campton Hills.

Volunteers were able to visit and sit down with 4 local legislators, several of their staff members, and with staff members representing 3 other legislators absent due to prior obligations. Information was shared about the agriculture industry, programs the Kane County Farm Bureau provides for community members, local and state publications, as well as the IFB 2018 Policy Resolutions, voted on by

Illinois farmers at the December 2017 IAA Annual Meeting. The program, now in its 17th year, is something both voting members and local legislators look forward to every year.

Several common themes in conversations emerged this year during the scheduled visits: international trade and tariffs, NAFTA, statistics related to Kane County Farms, technology being used on farms, and solar

farms. The volunteers were able to connect with the legislators and staff members present on these topics and many more, presenting the information asked for in relatable terms.

KCFB Vice President and local farmer, Wayne Schneider, accompanied by Christina

Nourie, Illinois Farm Bureau's Northeast Legislative Coordinator, visited Representative Allen Skillicorn's office. Over lunch, they had really good and open discussions involving

(continued on page 7)



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 Farmer

### KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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# Winner's Choice Raffle grand prize – a 1965 F100 Ford Pickup truck

Available now! Whether you're a Farm Bureau member or not, you can be the lucky winner of one or more of six great prizes in Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION'S Winner's Choice Raffle. All proceeds from the annual raffle benefit KCFB FOUNDATION College Scholarships and Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy programs.

Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25, or 5 for \$50 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles) or from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2. Payments can be made with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

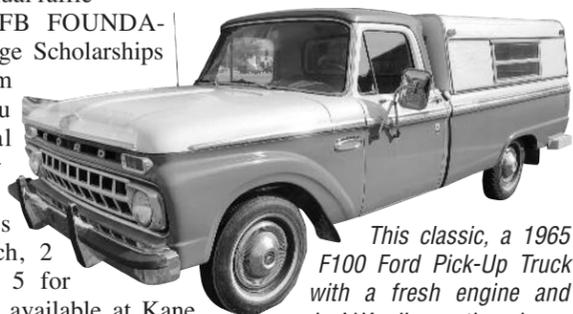
In 2017, the FOUNDATION awarded over \$20,000 in tuition assistance through scholarships, internships and grants. These are the young people studying to keep our food system the best in the world. Show your support for their educational goals and get in on the fun of this annual raffle.

The grand prize for the annual raffle will be drawn at the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale at the Kane

County Fair Grounds on Sunday, July 22, 2018, at 3 pm. The Grand Prize winner can choose between a 1965 F100 Ford

## WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION



*This classic, a 1965 F100 Ford Pick-Up Truck with a fresh engine and only 41K miles on the odometer, is our featured Grand Prize for this year's Winner's Choice Raffle.*

Pickup Truck, a John Deere X350 riding lawn mower, or \$3,500 cash. There is a great lineup of food, fuel, and Farm Bureau prizes that include a second prize of \$500 in groceries, a third prize of \$500 in fuel, and a fourth prize of \$250 in Kane County Farm Bureau Bucks.

Tickets are available at the Farm Bureau office in St. Charles or by calling 630-584-8660.



### KCFB FOUNDATION Winner's Choice Raffle

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 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## Soil test

(continued from page 1)  
least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

Why does Farm Bureau provide

this service?

Kane County Farm Bureau was founded in 1912 as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, to help farmers improve their production practices. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

*"The Kane County Farm Bureau is always there to help us out when we want to buy a new vehicle. Our family has purchased two Ford vehicles now using the \$500 bonus cash available as a member benefit."*



— Lesa Lemcke, of Elgin with her new Ford Fusion.

**Are you taking advantage of your FB member benefit?**

**Call 630-584-8660 to learn more!**

## A WEEK OF WINTER RANCH LIFE

By Marty Keltner



It's that time of year when some people fly to tropical destinations, take cruises, or generally "go on vacation" during the coldest months of the year, I choose to embrace the cold, colder, and coldest and return home to Eastern Montana to spend time on my family's ranch. This year has been particularly cold, snowy, and overall blustery, much like our earlier weather here in Illinois. It is winter after all, but sometimes it's nice to be spoiled with temperatures above zero and just a skiff of snow.

We all know the drill, getting dressed to brave the cold takes time, you can't just run out the door. Same goes for life on the ranch, the routine cannot be taken lightly and one must be properly outfitted in long underwear and jeans (or coveralls depending on the temperature), a down-filled vest, wool socks, a heavy Carhartt jacket, scarf, and earflap cap. Sometimes I feel as though I have so many layers on there is no way I could possibly move, let alone get anything done!

I spend most of each day with my Dad, a real American cowboy, taking care of animals and tasks on our expansive ranch. Even though day-to-day life on a ranch varies, there is a "loose" schedule set for each season. Winter happens to be more about giving our livestock additional feed, making sure water tanks are de-iced, keeping some of the roads plowed from the constant blowing snow, and catching up on "indoor projects" rather than building or maintaining fences, calving, branding, or moving cows on horseback, as those are better suited to the spring and summer months.

Each morning starts with chores in the barnyard: feeding and watering the steers we are keeping for consumption, making sure our barn cat, Tinkerbell, has

plenty of food and pets, and then letting the saddle horses in for ground grain and hay before they return to the pasture to graze.

Next on the agenda is to feed the yearling heifers a combination of corn silage, ground grain, and ground alfalfa hay. These young cows will have their first baby calf after turning two, then at age three, will be added into the rest of the herd. Heifers that haven't ever



*Being sure to keep a safe distance, these Hereford cows are curious but cautious. Some we call "pet cows" and they will eat cake out of our hands. Most, however, will keep a safe distance from any person, food in hand or not!*

calved are kept at close-proximity so that if they have trouble calving, they can be assisted quickly to assure a healthy baby calf is born! This means riding around the pasture several times a day to check on their well-being during calving season.

After the heifers are fed, then it's time to attend to our bull herd, consisting of Polled Herefords, Black Angus, and Long Horns. They, of course, are in a separate pasture from any of the cows to prevent accidental breeding; calving is also a scheduled event in which each rancher determines when they want to have their calves born, weaned, and sold. Everyone is different, but most calves in our area are born in early to mid-spring, when it's warmer and there is less risk of loss. The bulls are fed "cake", which is a

large pellet form of compressed feed. Our cake is greener in color because of the added alfalfa, but also contains corn and grain. The bulls are also given hay as a supplement to the grass they graze in the pasture.

Our Hereford and Black Baldy cows are the last to be fed the pellet supplements we call "cake". Because they are kept in three to four very large pastures, my Dad and I spend several hours driving around in search of them, trying to make sure they all get the cake supplement. Carrying a half ton of cake on the back of the pick-up means it's important to have 4 wheel drive so we don't get stuck in the pasture. Sometimes that's inevitable and you had better have a couple of good aluminum scoop shovels! Weather and terrain make finding the cows a difficult task sometimes, but most of the time they hear us coming and run to meet us. It is the most fun watching the cows gallop, jump, and show their personalities on their way to meet us because there is no way they are missing what we call "the cake wagon"! Our black baldy cows are by far the most rambunctious, inquisitive, and pushy when it comes to getting these treats. Since our cows are kept in large pastures and have infrequent human contact throughout the year, only a few are tame enough to eat out of our hands. Those we call "pet cows." While in each pasture, we make sure the water tanks are full and take the ice out as well as leaving salt and minerals in small troughs for them to consume at their leisure.

Afternoons are spent on projects such as equipment repair, clearing snow from roads, preparing feed for the next day, and anything else that might need to be done. Evenings include barnyard chores and family time around the dinner table.

By the time my vacation home is all but over, I'm back in the swing of ranch-life. The cold doesn't seem so cold and the work so demanding and I miss the feeling of accomplishment that comes after you leave a trail of happy cows behind you.



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## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



*"The oldest task in human history is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."*

—Aldo Leopold.

In honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day, I was looking (searching, actually) for a quote that would spark me into writing my column this month. Many years ago, I traveled to Aldo Leopold's Wisconsin home (The Shack, pictured at right) in Sand County, Wisconsin. In those days, you had to obtain permission to visit The Shack, which was very dif-

ficult to do. In fact, the location of The Shack was extremely guarded. I remember being so excited that I was able to go, that I jumped up and down for joy during my student's computer lab. They understood my glee, but others looked at me wondering if I'd lost it.

When I visited the shack that first time, *Sand County Almanac*, written by Aldo Leopold came to life. I saw the stump of "The Good Oak," the restored prairie, hundreds of planted pines, and the Sandhill

### KANE COUNTY FARMER

Cranes down by the river.

The tour of The Shack with the minimalistic furnishings found me wondering how Aldo, his wife and five children ever fit in such a small space. Yet, the entire family ventured each weekend from Milwaukee, spending most hours outside, working to improve their land while learning to understand and appreciate nature.



Since my first visit, the Leopold Center has been built, using many of the pine trees Aldo planted, which after all

these years needed to be thinned out. Now visitors are able to learn about his "land ethic," which calls for an ethical, caring relationship between people and nature. The Center is built close to The Shack, so going there now isn't a problem. You are free to walk the grounds when the Center is open and there are some guided tours of The Shack's interior.

The referenced Aldo Leopold quote remains on my fridge. It was purchased on one of my many visits to the

Leopold Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Aldo Leopold Foundation was founded in 1982. Leopold's legacy continues to inform and inspire us to see the natural world "as a community to which we belong."

What better thought for this month, as well as the rest of the year, than to keep our little bit of this earth healthy. This idea is also stated so well in the quote often attributed to Chief Seattle, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children"

*Happy Earth Day and Arbor Day to you all, enjoy the wonders of our natural world.*



Teachers Lynn Ogden and Ann Mann from Kaneland John Stewart Elementary discuss Illinois agriculture during the March 2 Teacher's Institute Day held at Kane

County Farm Bureau. The Institute Day and other KCFB programs for teachers help them integrate agriculture themes and concepts into their classroom curriculum.

## Book of the month

*John Deere, That's Who!* By Tracy Nelson Maurer is the American Farm Bureau's Book of the Year.

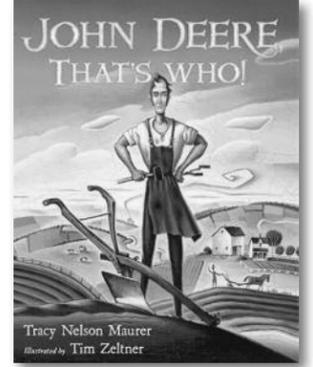
"Back in the 1830s, who was a young blacksmith from Vermont, about to make his mark on American history? John Deere, that's who!

Who moved to Illinois, where farmers were struggling to plow through the thick, rich soil they called gumbo? Who tinkered and tweaked and tested until he invented a steel plow that sliced into the prairie easy as you please?

Long before the first tractor, who changed farming forever? John Deere, that's who!"

The story John Deere who wasn't a farmer, did so much to change farming is well illustrated and is a great read for any child.

*John Deere, That's Who!* is available for loan from our library, which was the idea of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. Through the generous donations of Alyce Konen in memory of Bob, our library continues to grow. Stop by and browse anytime.



*John Deere, That's Who!* by Tracy Nelson Maurer

### Kane County Master Gardener Help Desk opens for spring

It might seem hard to believe with today's weather, but spring is right around the corner, which means it is time for the Kane County Master Gardener Help Desk to open for the 2018 season. Trained volunteers can field questions on trees, shrubs, lawns, flowers, vegetables and more.

The Kane County Master Gardeners are available Monday - Friday from 10 am to 2 pm. They can be reached by phone at 630-584-6166, or in the Master Gardener office at the University of Illinois Extension office at 535 S. Randall Road in St. Charles. Questions also may be sent via email to [uiemg-kane@illinois.edu](mailto:uiemg-kane@illinois.edu).

## FB volunteers to read farm-themed book to 1,500 students

In April, Kane County Farm Bureau volunteers will use a well-written book about agriculture and their knowledge of rural life to teach area third graders about the work farmers do. The Spring Program of Reading to Urban Teachers and Students (SPROUTS) is a popular program with students and teachers and reaches dozens of classrooms.

SPROUTS volunteers will read the book *The Heartland* by Diane Siebert and relate the story to farms right here in Kane County. Colorful illustrations in the book are the work of Wendell Minor, who is from Aurora, IL.

If you're interested in reading this book to a classroom during the week of April 16-20, please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to sign up.

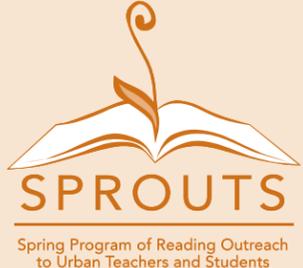
A memorial fund established in memory of long-time Farm Bureau volunteer and former

KCFB Director Bob Konen, and funded by family and friends, has been designated to fund SPROUTS.

*Now showing at an elementary school near you ...*



Read to a 3rd grade class through the SPROUTS reading program, April 16-20. Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 for details.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FARMERS!  
Text FARM to 52886

## Helping you protect what matters most



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# Farm Facts & Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



**Arbor Day** is a national holiday created to recognize the importance of trees. It is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April. The most common way people celebrate Arbor Day is to get together in groups to plant trees.

The day was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraskan journalist who later became the U.S. Agriculture Secretary under President Grover Cleveland. Morton was an enthusiastic promoter of tree planting who had long championed the idea of a day dedicated to planting trees.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1874, following a proclamation by Gov. Robert W. Furnas. In less than a decade, the idea for the holiday caught on in other states until, by 1882, its observance had become a national event.

Mr. Morton felt that Arbor Day differed from other holidays because "Each of those reposes upon the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future. It contemplates, not the good and the beautiful of past generations, but it sketches, outlines, establishes the useful and the beautiful for the ages yet to come."

## Earth Day is celebrated globally on April 22nd

The first Earth Day celebrations took place in 2,000 colleges and universities, roughly 10,000 primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it "brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform." It now is observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, chaired by the first Earth Day 1970 organizer Denis Hayes, according to whom Earth Day is now "the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year."



Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behavior about plastics.

## America in Bloom

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.

Founded in 2001, America in Bloom is modeled after proven, successful programs around the world, particularly in Europe and Canada.

The city of St. Charles St. Charles joined the Circle of Champions this year. They won the Outstanding Achievement Town Award for Overall impression in the population of 25,000-50,000.



### Trivia:

Office workers with a view of trees report significantly less stress and more satisfaction.

One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people.

Trees lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade. Shaded surfaces may be 20-45°F

cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials.

Trees remove pollution from the atmosphere, improving air quality and human health.

In Chicago, trees remove more than 18,000 tons of air pollution each year.

Arbor means tree in Latin.

J. Sterling Morton's birthday was April 22nd. Arbor Day is usu-

ally celebrated on the last Friday in April in most states so that it ties in with Morton's birthday.

The National Arbor Day Foundation held a vote for America's favorite tree in 2004. The mighty oak won by a landslide, earning 101,000 votes. America's National Tree is now the oak.

## Explorer play kit perfect for summer backyards

Idea from Amy Mascott of Teach Mama

### Materials:

- empty coffee cans and lids
- ribbon or yarn
- stickers
- 4-8 playing cards (from an old, incomplete deck)
- paper
- 2-6 Popsicle sticks, large and small
- small pen or pencil
- small box, mint tin, and/or film container
- 1-2 tiny paper bags or Ziploc bags
- Small magnifying glass

### Instructions

1. Create the playkit. Clean and dry the coffee can. Cut a piece of ribbon or yarn long enough that a child can wear it across his chest or on his shoulder, about 24". Poke two small holes, about 2 inches apart, through the plastic lid of the can. Thread the ribbon through and tie the ends together on the

underside of the lid. Grab some stickers and have your little explorer personalize the can with markers or stickers.



2. Assemble the exploring tools.

3. Explorer Notebook: Two playing cards are the front and back cover for each tiny Explorer Notebook. We recycled old tablets by cutting the unused sheets to the size of the playing cards, stacking about 10 sheets between the cards, and stapling everything together at the top of the cards. The playing cards make the notebook just a little sturdier, and the size is perfect for a Park Explorer Playkit.

4. Pencil or Pens: Any writing implement works, so whatever is close by and fits into the playkit is fair game. Explorers will only need these for note-taking, so no need to include a whole pack.

5. Pokers: Add two or three large and small Popsicle sticks to the playkit. These "pokors" will help explorers examine and navigate around dirt, grass, plants, or mulch while investigating.

6. Specimen Containers: Place

one or two small boxes, mint tins, or film containers inside the playkit. These pieces will be the Specimen Containers, keeping unusual plants, insects, or objects safe until explorers return to the "lab." Your child can personalize the containers, adding stickers or labels if they'd like.

7. Waste Caddy: The small bags (or an extra small container) can be used as a Waste Caddy. Most explorers will run into some trash along their route, so it's wise to have something to put it in until they reach a trash can.

8. Sometimes, all kids need is a simple reason to go out, even into their own backyard or local park to explore. These Park Explorer Playkits are easy to assemble and give kids extra incentive to take a closer look at the world around them. Encourage explorers to lift rocks, look under bushes or just sit still, observing their everyday play area or park from a different point of view.

## April is the month to celebrate:

- Keep America Beautiful
- Lawn and Garden
- National Garden
- National Landscape Architecture
- National Inventor's
- National Soft Pretzel
- National Soy Foods
- National Volunteer

## Special Days in April:

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 Easter Sunday
- 1 International Tatting Day
- 6 National Walk to Work Day 1st Friday
- 13 Friday the 13th
- 15 Income taxes due (most years it is due on the 15th)
- 16 Patriot's Day Third Monday
- 22 Earth Day (U.S.)
- 25 Administrative Professionals Day formerly "Secretaries Day" - date varies
- 26 Take Your Daughter to Work Day 4th Thursday
- 27 Arbor Day always the last Friday in April

## Congratulations

**Jeanette Jorgensen** of Elburn! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives safety themed items! Thank you, Jeanette, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

## Spring celebrations

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

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by April 15, 2018 to be entered in our drawing for an Arbor Day themed prize.

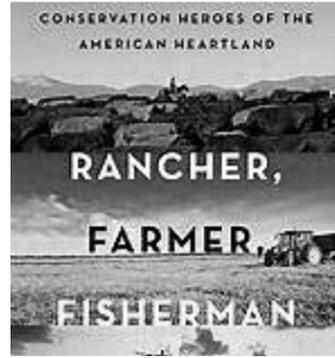
# Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman documentary

A film review by Marty Keltner

Waubensee College in Downtown Aurora was the location chosen by One Earth Film Festival to host a screening of the new documentary Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman. The screening took place on Monday night, March 5, at 7 pm and guests were encouraged to visit the tables set up by organizations participating in the Sustainability Resource Fair like Kane-DuPage Water and Soil Conservation, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, DuPage Farm Bureau, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, The Conservation Foundation, Campton Township Open Space, Kane County Environmental & Water Resources Division, Fox River Study Group, Sierra Club, and the Friends of the Fox River.

Gary Cuneen of Seven Generations Ahead was the facilitator and after a short introduction of various representatives of the organizations present, the film began with Tom Brokaw, narrator, introducing the first "hero" of the movie, a Montana rancher by the name of Dusty Cray. This film, featuring the story of heartland conversations by people feeding the world while stewarding the land and water, began with Cray's story. He and fellow ranchers, along with concerned citizens, were able to forge

alliances to protect the Rocky Mountain Front, an ecosystem area where the eastern slopes of the Rockies meet the plains. Wanting to preserve The Front for posterity and protect it from companies wanting to develop the land into oil drilling sites or tracts for homes, Cray and the coal-



tion, united in their common goal, were able to successfully influence lawmakers to pass the Heritage Act, giving Montana its first new wilderness in 31 years.

The second segment of the film was focused in Kansas where Justin Knopf, a fifth generation farmer took us through his journey of using the no-till practice for over 20 years on his wheat fields. A man of agriculture and science, Knopf is of the new generation more into biology than machines. Keith Thompson, also a Kansas farmer coined the term "regenerative"

farming and aspires to grow crops of diversity, showcasing a field where he grew sunflowers, mung beans, and buckwheat. The mung bean roots reduce the nitrogen in the soil and the buckwheat roots absorb the excess phosphorus created. These three plants growing together create a symbiotic relationship in the field and along with 20% of US farmers now adapting the no-till philosophy, have made significant efforts in the reduction of soil erosion, a far cry from the dirty 30's which plagued the Kansas heartland with endless dust storms.

The third and final segment of the film took place in the Gulf of Mexico, where it focused on Louisiana fisherman Wayne Werner, who, in his early years, got his start in the fishing industry on sport fishing boats. Now a commercial fisherman, Werner has been a key figure in keeping the Gulf of Mexico fish numbers healthy, especially after the 1980's when red snapper numbers had nearly been depleted and the derby system was in full effect. He did not set out to become an advocate for smart fishing regulations, but he had to act after seeing how mismanagement was decimating various fish populations and bringing economic despair to

fishing communities, including his own. He and several other commercial fishermen are seen pushing to protect the quota system set for the commercial fishermen, which has worked to reduce the impact on the Gulf, saving over 100 fish species. On the other side of debate are the sport fishermen, part of a multi-billion dollar industry, who are frustrated their days allotted to fish are being reduced dramatically each year.

At the conclusion of the film, Cuneen opened up the discussion to any questions, comments, or concerns from the audience. Many attendees had positive feedback and commented how it was nice to see that

being an "environmentalist" didn't necessarily mean you were a radical.

Some commented that the commonality between the rancher, farmer, and fisherman was their spiritual connection to the land and sea as well as their love for their work, family, and feeding America. Cuneen also spoke on the recent work by the Illinois Farm Bureau to reduce nutrient run-off and discussion within the audience included the NLRs Grant recently provided by the IFB as well as contributions from the Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane County Forest Preserve to build a wood chip bio-reactor for public education and exploration.

## IT'S TIME TO PLAN YOUR GARDEN

By Valerie Johnson



### Welcome Spring

By Val Johnson

Growing your own vegetable garden can do more than provide tasty produce – gardening can improve health, save money, is an agricultural educational experience, and can even boost mood.

Community gardens, backyard plots, and even window boxes are recently gaining in popularity and the time to start planning your garden is now.

I'm a beginner, what do I need to know to begin?

Here are some helpful tips to help you plan your garden and to improve your whole gardening experience.

1. Choose a sunny place for your plants.
2. Research what plants grow well together. If your plants are to be planted near other plants they must complement each other. For example potatoes next to corn "get

along" and cucumbers near potatoes do not.

3. Plan when to plant each veggie – some prefer cooler weather and some do not.

4. Plan how many. Research how many can fit in your container.

5. Plan to have flowers that attract bees or other pollinators nearby.

Here are some resources to help you with your garden plans:

The Illinois Extension Office offers a Master Gardener on staff to help answer gardening questions. They are available M-F 8:30 - 2:00. Call 630 584-6166 for more info.

The Kane County Farm Bureau offers Soil testing for lawn or garden. Farm Bureau members receive discounted prices. Stop in or call 630 584-8660 for more info.

Happy gardening!

## 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, along with local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education through grants to local FFA Chapters and 4-H.

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions in response to our December Agriculture in the Classroom fundraising appeal. Names shown are pledges received from February 16th through March 15th.

### KCFB FOUNDATION Donors

Robert Jr. & Julie White, White Farms, Batavia  
David & Lynette Werdin, Werdalyn Farms, Elburn  
Glenn & Lorraine Lenschow, Hampshire  
Roger & Margaret Wesemann, Hampshire



### HARVEST FOR ALL

Through Harvest for ALL, KCFB members have contributed the equivalent of nearly 1.75 million meals to local food pantries.

Donor: Craig & Angela Bradley  
Beneficiary: Food for Greater Elgin



We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.

We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana  
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Growing To Serve You Better

## JOHN DEERE PLATINUM 2 SAVINGS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

John Deere GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards is happy to announce that all Farm Bureau Members\* will automatically receive Platinum 2 status. That means instant savings on a wide range of John Deere products: from lawn tractors to skid steers, zero-turn mowers to utility vehicles, and more! Plus you'll save money on Home & Workshop products and at [JohnDeereStore.com](http://JohnDeereStore.com). To find out more on how GreenFleet can turn your loyalty into savings, go to [www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau](http://www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau). Sign up today.

\*Must be a member of a participating State Farm Bureau and have a valid e-mail address.

### GreenFleet LOYALTY REWARDS

Members save up to \$3,200! From big to small, farm to front yard, as a Farm Bureau® member, you're eligible to save.\*



As an Illinois Farm Bureau member, you are eligible to enter the Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes\* for a chance to win a 2-year lease on a brand new 2018 F-150! To enter, visit [fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps](http://fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps) or text the word SWEEPS to 46786.\*\*

\*This promotion is available to members of the Illinois Farm Bureau who are active members as of the date of the sweepstakes. Sweepstakes ends 12/31/2018. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the United States who are at least 18 years old at the time of registration. Sweepstakes is open to members of the Illinois Farm Bureau who are active members as of the date of the sweepstakes. Sweepstakes ends 12/31/2018. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the United States who are at least 18 years old at the time of registration. Sweepstakes is open to members of the Illinois Farm Bureau who are active members as of the date of the sweepstakes. Sweepstakes ends 12/31/2018. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the United States who are at least 18 years old at the time of registration.

**\$500 BONUS CASH** Don't forget about your \$500 BONUS CASH!\*\*\* Get more info at [fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/IL](http://fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/IL)

# Farmers meet

(continued from page 2)

current state legislative priorities and Skillicorn expressed interest in visiting local farms and having lunch with the farmers.

While visiting Randy Hultgren's office, Mike Kenyon, dairy farmer and Director on the KCFB Board, had the opportunity to chat with Beth Goncher, U.S. House of Representatives Deputy District Director, and Carol Berger, Constituent Services for Hultgren. "It's always a pleasure to talk to longtime friends", said Kenyon.

Ellen Kamps, owner of Foxtrot Organic Farms, was also present to meet with staff at Hultgren's office. Side by side with Kenyon, they shared the history of their unique farming operations.

Kenyon coming from a multi-generational dairy paired with a commodity crop operation and Kamps with her small organic, direct-to-consumer, vegetable farm. "Although our paths in agriculture are vastly different, one of the many things we have in common is our valuable Farm Bureau membership," said Kamps.

Louise Johnson, former chairman of the Women's Committee, visited Representative Stephanie Kifowit's office in Aurora. Due to a prior commitment, Kifowit was unable to attend the lunch, but staff member, Karen Novy graciously met with Johnson. When presented with a question about the number of family farms vs. commercial farms in Kane County from Novy, Johnson stated, "94% of Illinois farms are family owned". Being a 3rd generation farm co-owner, Johnson shared "It's best for local farm decisions

to be made by someone in close proximity to the actual farm. Having decisions made, affecting a farm in Illinois, by an out-of-state relative, makes it really difficult." Novy also expressed interest in the wood chip bio-reactor project in which KCFB has received an Illinois Farm Bureau grant as well as contributing funding, which will be located on a local Kane County Forest Preserve that will be open to the public.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's office was another destination for our volunteers to visit. Frank Carlson and Craig Bradley, both KCFB Directors and owners of farms in adjacent states, met with 5 Congressional Staffers at the Congressman's Schaumburg office. The staff members were very receptive and asked many questions of the volunteers, including what, in their opinion, were important issues currently

affecting local farmers. This was the perfect opportunity for Carlson and Bradley to bring awareness to several important issues like trade, tariffs, and technology. To keep further contact and bring more awareness to the

Congressman, a local farm visit will be provided for he and his family in the near future. Carlson relayed "The staff at Congressman Krishnamoorthi's office will long remember the Farm Bureau."

# FFA-NIFB

(continued from page 1)

four over-sized cardboard bins of donated sweet potatoes into 5 pound mesh bags. Four assembly line areas were set up with Step 1 - fill and pull bins of potatoes from the large containers; Step 2 - transfer them to volunteer packers designated to fill mesh bags with 13-16 potatoes, depending on size; Step 3 - bags were weighed, tied, recorded, and transferred back to empty cardboard holding bins for distribution.

By the end of the shift, 3,865 pounds of sweet potatoes had been bagged, which equals 3,200 meals for hungry neigh-

bors. After posing for a group picture, attendees returned to the orientation classroom for pizza and a presentation given by Carolyn Gehrke, Chairman of the Kane County Young Farmers. Carolyn's presentation shared information about the Farm Bureau and brought awareness to FFA members about opportunities for involvement in Young Leader programs state and nationwide as well as what's available on a local level. Their attendance in the volunteer night was specific to hunger relief programs like Harvest for ALL and is a great opportunity for FFA members and Young Farmers to come together to work as a team.



Kane County Farm Bureau Board Vice President Wayne Schneider (left) is pictured with Representative Allen Skillicorn. Schneider and Christina Nourie, Illinois Farm Bureau's Northeast Legislative Coordinator, visited Skillicorn's Crystal Lake office and while meeting with the representative, they discussed topics ranging from solar farms to property taxes to technology.

# What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

DONNA TONOVITZ has been named the Agent of the Month for FEBRUARY 2018 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Donna 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 Donna's expertise help you! You may reach Donna at 630-549-7694, or donna.tonovitz@countryfinancial.com. Congratulations, Donna!

## Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for February 2018. Ryan began his

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

Tree Pruning & Removal BEFORE Spring Rush - www.ArborJoe.com - Call ISA Certified Arborist Joe: 224-789-8773

### WANTED

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

Excavating contractor seeks heavy equipment operator, mechanic & CDL driver. Call: 630 232 6223

Good, used fork lift - 4,000 lbs lift capacity. Call: 847 436 2538

CUSTOMER SERVICE Position, 30-35 hours weekly, applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. Perfect for the parent with child in school or evening college student. All applicants must be self-starters and able to work as part of a team. Our office is locat-

ed on east side of St. Charles. We do not work Sundays. We offer paid vacation, a Self-Directed Saving Plan, and Partial Tuition Reimbursement. Call: Bob: 630 377 5807

### FOR SALE

1952 Ford F-6 farm truck/Omaha dump grain box, V8, 2 speed axel 28,000 original miles, barn kept, engine runs great - \$7,000. JD & New Holland 8 ton hay wagons \$1,200 & \$1,000. Box wagon-\$800. Call: Victor: 630 988 5726

220V Rockwell/Delta wood lathe 42" table- \$850, Industrial drill press-\$250, Rockwell 2 wheel bench grinder \$125, 220b wood/metal buffer-\$125, Misc barn timbers, antique wine presses - 1 large, \$450 & 2 small, \$200 each. Call: Victor 630 988 5726



Kaneland and Central FFA members gather around a Northern Illinois Food Bank volunteer for directions on pulling, sorting, packing, weighing, tying, and recording bags of sweet potatoes for distribution to local food pantries.

As a Thank You to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for hosting our Volunteer Night for the 2018 FFA Acquaintance Day, Young Farmer Chairwoman, Carolyn Gehrke, presents a donation check to Becky Perez, volunteer at the NIFB, from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

# Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to LuLu Medina! LuLu has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since January of 2017. Her office is located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora. As a token of our appreciation, LuLu

receives two tickets to Charlestowne Movie Theater. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



LuLu Medina

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**CLASSIFIED AD RATES**

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**Locally Owned & Operated Feed Store where everyone is treated like family**

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"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

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(815) 756.8600

# Farming lessons for fourth graders at Ag Days

Fourth grade classes from throughout Kane County converged on Mooseheart Fieldhouse in March at Kane County Farm Bureau's 35th Annual Ag Days. Guided by

Farm Bureau volunteers and their teachers, they learned about agriculture at 24 learning stations. Topics included fiber, bees, dairy, vegetables, GPS-guided farming techniques, and poultry. Short

presentations by local farmers, representatives from Ag businesses and organizations, and local FFA and 4-H members gave the kids a memorable experience.

Joseph Coleman, "interpreter" from Garfield Farm Museum, has been attending AgDays for 7 years. In fact, the first week after he started he participated in AgDays as a presenter. Coleman, a history buff, is passionate about the 19th Century has also been a Civil War re-enactor for 15 or 16 years. His focus on history, farming, and the environment ties well into the job he plays while working at Garfield Farms where he and the other staff members definitely "wear a lot of hats".

Hinckley Big-Rock FFA Advisor, Tracey Sanderson, said the event has been a great opportunity for her high school students

to volunteer and build skills. "This is their moment to shine!" she said. "They are able to show their skills in leading a group, give polished presentations, and be pivotal in answering questions the students might have."

Ryan Robinson, in his 10th year of being FFA advisor and Ag teacher in Central High School, was excited to have his FFA chapter members present at AgDays to chaperone classes, show farm animals, speak about the farm equipment, and even assist at the stations. "FFA is a very accepting inter-curricular organization that gives all Ag students the same opportunity, regardless of their interests. It offers world experiences to students who might not have access through other organizations."

Ag Days is only possible through a generous outpouring

of time, talents and energy by dozens and dozens of volunteers. We've expressed our appreciation to as many of them as possible by name below and apologize to anyone we've overlooked.

A special thanks to these civic minded groups who provided volunteers for each day of the event. Your support of agricultural education is much appreciated!

Burlington-Central FFA  
Hinckley-Big Rock FFA  
Kaneland FFA  
American Agricultural Insurance Company  
Kane County 4-H Ambassadors

Special thanks to those who provided the animals - Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis, Karl Kettelkamp, and Mooseheart Farm. Your support of agricultural education is much appreciated!

## Thanks Mooseheart!

In addition to the hundreds of hours logged by Farm Bureau volunteers to make Ag Days possible, a dedicated core of Mooseheart staff members makes things happen behind the scenes to help this educational program run smoothly. Kane County Farm Bureau salutes Mooseheart's Gary Urweiler, John Lockbaum, Janine Silverman, John Parilla, Sara Unold, and Michael Jacobsen for making our 2018 Ag Days run smoothly.

For your assistance in teaching Kane County youth about agriculture at Ag Days, the Kane County Farm Bureau says

### Thanks!

Joseph Coleman  
Dave Foelschow  
Sue Lloyd  
Cheryl Hackbarth  
Mindy Rossini  
Helen Snyder  
Gretchen Skaja  
Abigail DeDina  
Doris Braddock  
Pat Engel  
Beth Engel  
Joe Engel  
Linda Lood  
Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller  
Ashley Curran  
Jennifer Shroder  
Colleen Hogan  
Harry Patterson  
Staci Lockman  
Mary Hanson  
Laura Hanson-Wheeler  
Leigha Griswold  
Kaitlyn Dela Cruz  
Dan Heinrich  
Dezeri Deraedt Jr.

Dan Klein  
Maggie Klein  
Beth Gehrke  
Darin Butler  
Ted Madaj  
Anne Lawrence  
Tracey Sanderson  
Ryan Robinson  
Brooke Heinsohn  
Larry Kohsche  
Bret Juliano  
Sandy Mullin  
Dave Casteel  
Flo Dangelo  
Cheri Miller  
Julia Miller  
Karl Kettelkamp  
Erin Kettelkamp  
Jackson Kettelkamp  
Barbara Pachla  
Jean Newman  
Glenn Johnson  
Louise Johnson  
Sandy Portincaso  
Paul Diehl  
Mary Diehl  
Julia Barickman

Amanda Forrest  
Dalton Johnson  
David Oest  
Kyle Johnson  
Lynn Mitchell  
Bryan Van Bogaert  
Linda Drendel  
Helen Bauer  
Sally Gange  
Leigha Griswold  
Steve Franklin  
Allie Clarke  
Gwen Klinkey  
Bonnie Torres  
Joan Burden  
Linda Lance  
Mike Pappas  
Chris Wolale  
Lorayne Hrejsa  
Luen Khaw  
Erik Bolander  
James Reynolds  
Gordon Brand  
Lana Osipczuk  
Kelly Ramsey  
Jan Rose  
Wayne Schneider

**Your ticket to ...**

Family entry at **Touch-A-Tractor** Cash & prizes in the **WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE**  
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

and support for **AGRICULTURE in the Classroom**

**WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE**  
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION  
April 6, 7 & 8, 2018 - St Charles

Save for FREE admission  
**Touch-A-Tractor**  
April 6, 7 & 8, 2018 - St Charles

Win this **GRAND PRIZE 1965 Ford F-100**  
or a **John Deere X350 riding mower** or **\$3,500 cash**

2nd prize: \$500 in groceries  
3rd prize: \$500 in fuel  
4th prize: \$250 in Farm Bureau Bucks

Tickets: **\$15 each**  
2 / \$25  
5 / \$50

Drawing 3 p.m. Sunday, July 22, 2018, 4H Blue Ribbon Sale at Kane County Fairgrounds, Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois.  
Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all applicable local, state and federal taxes associated with prize chosen. © local FFA chapters.

Proceeds benefit KCFB Foundation college scholarships, agriculture education

**Get your ticket today.**  
**630.584.8660 or kanecfb.com**

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



1. Darin Butler of ConservFS demonstrates GPS technology to students so they can understand how farmers keep track of where soil samples are taken. By taking soil samples, farmers are able to evaluate the nutrients in the soil and adjust according to the needs. ConservFS is a partner with the Farm Bureau in providing farm supplies and technology to area farmers.

2. Students gather around FFA members explaining how this Case IH tractor uses track technology to navigate the field, reducing compaction. They also had the opportunity to see a John Deere tractor and combine, a soil finisher, and a 34-row planter.

3. Flo Dangelo helps to provide breakfast and lunch to hungry volunteers and presenters and is one of the 100+ volunteers who help make Ag Days possible.

4. Kane County 4-H Ambassadors Gretchen Skaja and Abby Kuppler teach students about the 4-H program, what it offers, and how they can participate.

5. Tomi Harrod, Hinckley-Big Rock FFA member, helps each class learn about the goats provided by Mooseheart Farms. Many of the 4th graders were excited to give each goat some scratches and pets and the goats were happy to receive all of the attention! Mooseheart Farm provided two Polish chickens and two goats for the kids to see and touch.

**Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of Spring!**

**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

**ADMISSION:**  
A donation of  
\$2 Adults,  
\$5 Families  
or  
show a  
Winner's Choice Raffle  
ticket stub for FREE  
family admission all  
weekend long.

**Touch-A-Tractor**  
**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION**

**A farm-city & community open house & fundraiser that brings a little bit of the farm to the city.**  
**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION welcomes urban & suburban neighbors to learn more about farming.**

**Bring the whole family!**  
Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors.  
Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine.  
Play on the seat of real farm tractors.

**AGCO** Your Agriculture Company presents kids games, contests and Saturday face painting.

"Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes" for FB members for a chance to win a 2 year lease on a 2018 F-150, and see new **Ford** trucks from Hawk Auto Group.

**Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor. (\*1 per child)**

*\*Bring non-perishable food items for an additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.*

**Friday - Sunday**  
**April 6-8**

**Kane County Farm Bureau Randall Road at Oak Street, St. Charles, IL**

**Friday 12 - 4**  
**Saturday 10 - 4**  
**Sunday 10 - 3**

**WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE**

**Grand Prize: (Winner's Choice)**  
**Vintage 1965 Ford F100, 41K mi or John Deere X350 lawn mower or \$3,500 cash**

2nd prize: \$500 in groceries  
3rd prize: \$500 in fuel  
4th prize: \$250 in KCFB Bucks

**Tickets: \$15 each, 2 for \$25, or 5 for \$50**

**Drawing 3pm, July 22 at Kane County Fair**

**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION Scholarship Awards**  
Join us April 8 at 3 pm as we congratulate these future agricultural industry leaders!

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

**Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION**  
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info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

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