

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 84 NO. 4 APRIL 2019

10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE
Support local farms
& our neighbors in need.



Contributions as of March 15 totaled 6,614 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries. To join us on our way to our dairy focused 10,000 gallon hunger relief goal, visit www.kanegives.org/10000.

See page 3 for businesses where you can make a contribution. For a form to "match" contributions from a group or club you belong to, or to challenge other groups or organizations, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

KCFB CALENDAR APRIL 2019

- 2** KCFB/FFA Chapter Acquaintance, N. IL Food Bank, Geneva, 6-8pm (all members welcome to repack food!)
- 7-13** National Library Week
- 8-19** SPROUTS 3rd grade reading program, Kane County classrooms
- 11** Touch-A-Tractor set-up, 4pm
- 106th KCFB Annual Meeting, 6:30pm
- Board of Directors, 7pm
- 12** Touch-A-Tractor, 12-4pm
- 13** Touch-A-Tractor, 10-4pm
- 4-H Foundation Pork Chop Fundraiser, 4:30-7pm, County Fairgrounds
- 14** Touch-A-Tractor, 10-3pm
- KCFB Foundation Scholarship Awards, 3pm
- 18** County Board Ag Committee, County Administration Building, 10am
- 19** Good Friday, Office Closes at Noon

(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

See you at Touch-A-Tractor!

Celebrate Spring at 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 12-14, to celebrate agriculture and the coming of spring. Volunteers will be on hand to explain modern farm machinery's technology that helps farmers to plant and harvest 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. AGCO Parts employees will have kids games and contests on the lawn and our line up of tractors will include a

1912 Port Huron Steam Engine!

Kids can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, scoop corn in the corn corrals, 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 Sunday. Admission to the event is \$5 per family or \$2 per adult (children 18 & under free). Funds will be used for college scholarships and agricultural literacy programs. A

Winner's Choice raffle ticket stub will also gain you FREE entry for your family. (see page 8).

The Elburn Lions Club will have food for purchase from 11am-2pm on Saturday and Sunday. FFA volunteers will have caramel corn and tractor shaped cookies.

Touch-A-Tractor is a farm-city event at the Kane County Farm Bureau. The fun lasts all weekend long, April 12-14. This event features antique and modern farm equipment, a grain bin safety display, farm animals, corn corrals, pedal tractor racing, and much, much more!

Inset: Volunteers from AGCO's Global Women's Network and employees from AGCO Parts, Batavia will be on hand at Touch-A-Tractor with a Cat Challenger, kids games, and face painting on Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday, April 14, at 3pm, the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will announce scholarship recipients for the 2019-20 school year and will draw one winner under 8 years of age for a FREE pedal tractor, compliments of the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Farm Toy of the Month JD 7720 Titan II Combine

Back by popular demand again this month, John Deere farm toys! Everybody loves a "Deere", right?

For April, we are featuring a 1/64th metal die-cast replica of the John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine. In the full size version, this combine came standard with a turbocharged, six cylinder diesel engine, 4-speed transmission, and weighs approximately 20,000 pounds.

In case your little one has lots of corn fields to harvest, this farm toy comes with not one, but two corn heads in addition to a grain head. Regular price is \$20.99, but Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount and when you stop by, feel free to tell us your favorite combine story!



Farm Toy of the Month
John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine

APRIL FEATURED PRODUCT Bratwurst

Your grill and tastebuds are calling! This box contains 20 delicious award winning Inboden's bratwurst. A definite crowd pleaser at any cookout!

The member price is \$22.94, 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.



April 12-14



Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service to the farm to make sure your soil is ready for spring planting. Three different tests are available and results are sent by e-mail or mail directly to you.

For a soil test form, visit www.kanecfb.com and click on benefits and services, or pick one up at the KCFB office. Deliver samples to Kane County Farm Bureau with payment. Prices listed are for Kane County Farm Bureau members, non-members, and PLUS status members. Ask us how to save even more when you upgrade your membership to a PLUS status. Call 630-584-8660 for more details.

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. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at 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.

How often should I test? Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for the best comparison.

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 and increase the fertility and productivity of their soil. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

Additional help for your lawn and garden is available through the University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Contact them at 630-584-6166 or visit their office at 535 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles.

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.

Kane County farmers meet with local legislators

In mid-March, Kane County Farm Bureau farmer-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 dinner to discuss current IFB legislative priorities to further prepare them for their office visits.

Volunteers were able to visit and sit down with local legislators and with staff members where legislators were absent due to prior obligations.

Information was shared about the agriculture industry, programs the Kane County Farm

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its 18th year, is something both volunteers and local legislators look forward to every year.

asked for in relatable terms.

Christina Nourie, Illinois Farm Bureau's Northeast Legislative Coordinator gave the legislative briefing to KCFB volunteers. Nourie provided a variety of topics to discuss with local legislators, including: the State budget, Livestock Management Facilities Act, tax reform, leading environmental issues, and prioritizing profitability and financial accountability. Volunteers in attendance were also presented with the opportunity to ask Nourie questions about any other agricultural related pieces of legislation, as well as advice on topics to present to certain elected officials.



L-R: Kane County Farm Bureau Board Vice President Wayne Schneider of West Dundee, KCFB Director Beth Gehrke of Elgin, 33rd District Senator Don DeWitte and KCFB Director Craig Bradley of Elgin. FB Directors and other volunteers delivered lunches and visited with State and Federal legislators during the 18th annual Lunches to Legislators program, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee. Meeting with the representative, they discussed topics ranging from solar farms to property taxes to technology.

Bureau provides for community members, local and state publi-

the December 2018 IAA Annual Meeting. The program, now in

on these topics and many more, presenting the information

Welcome new members

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

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

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

DeWitte & Keicher pile up groceries for food pantries

It was a cold, but an ideal day for Senator Donald DeWitte and Representative Jeff Keicher to participate in the Kane County Farm Bureau's 18th annual Shopping Spree for food pantries. They braved the cold, raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel-Osco, and helped to benefit local food pantries. During their 6-minute dash around the store, the pair collected \$2,229.95 in groceries, purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to the Tri-Cities Salvation Army Food Pantry in St. Charles and the Hinckley Area Food Pantry.

Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager, and Wayne Schneider, Chairman of the Kane County Farm Bureau's Government Affairs & Public Policy, began the pre-event announcements. They explained the concept of the Food Check-Out Week and why KCFB sponsors this celebration of food and farming.

"The event is traditionally held during February and is devoted to hunger relief, while teaching consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food," said Schneider.

"U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world," said Schneider, "but, while food is affordable in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, the shopping spree recog-

nizes the fact that for many people, their resources are stretched to the limit." Each year, the "Challenge" allows two food pantries to stock their shelves with much needed items. Two dozen local food pantries have benefitted since the event's inception.

Arnold thanked Jewel-Osco Store Director Gus Eliopoulos and Assistant Store Manager Amanda Battistella for the store's 18 years of support and for hosting the event.

Arnold told the crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Sprees have raised over \$35,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort had contributed the equivalent of 2 million meals to local food pantries since 2009.

KCFB President Joe White of Kaneville introduced the contestants, who were provided with decorated and themed shopping carts. Northern Illinois Food Bank's Tom Hong

took over the store's loud speakers, announced the start of the race, added play-by-plays, and counted-down the minutes.



And they're off! (l-r, foreground) Nan Long, Director of Operations at Hinckley Area Food Pantry watches as State Representative Jeff Keicher of Sycamore and State Senator Donald DeWitte of St. Charles leave the starting line in a February 25 Shopping Spree at the Jewel food store in Batavia. At right is John Arthur Anderson, representing Tri-Cities Salvation Army in St. Charles.

Both contestants were winded after piling up cart after cart of food from the shelves. Dry goods, canned goods, soups, baking ingredients, cereals and sauces were among the items their "helpers" pointed out to each to collect. DeWitte and Keicher then started the "check out" process at opposing registers that began the race for dollars. With each scan of each food item, the tension mounted and when it was all said and done, both contestants were winners as

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X									
B. COLLINS	X	X	X									
C. COLLINS	X	X	X									
J. ENGEL	X	X	X									
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X									
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK		X	X									
M. KENYON	X	X	X									
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X									
D. LEHRER	X	X	X									
A. LENKAITIS		X	X									
N. LONG	X	X	X									
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X									
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X									
J. WHITE	X	X	X									

Beef store is now open!
By appointment only

farmdirectBLACKANGUS.com

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

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

Sample Packs make great gifts!

All TRACTORS & TRUCKS Welcome!

Touch-A-Tractor will be held April 12-14 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. New 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 bringing a farm tractor or truck to this family-friendly event, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660 and ask for Steve or Suzi.

Help us make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

Kane County Farmer

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KCFB 'toasts' hunger relief, 10K CHALLENGE, with milk

Those present at the KCFB's 18th annual Shopping Spree for hunger relief experienced something new, a milk "toast" to the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's 10,000 Gallon

CHALLENGE hunger relief campaign, and to local dairy farmers. Steve Arnold, Kane County Farm Bureau Manager, introduced the toast by explaining how the hunger relief cam-

paigned was conceived. "Those who saw opportunity in low commodity prices, including milk," he said, "decided to spur local action to improve the health and welfare of less-fortunate others by providing high-quality dairy proteins to local food pantries, building demand and promoting milk at the same time."

Dairy farmers and American consumers have witnessed similar conditions, production exceeding consumption in the case of the former and empty cupboards in the case of the latter, in the 1930's. At that time, what we now know as "June Dairy Month" was conceived to promote and stabilize demand for dairy products. The Farm Bureau and its not-for-profit Foundation hope that initiatives like the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE can help stabilize demand while promoting a worthy community need in restocking local food pantries with protein rich dairy foods.

Unlike the shy, timid charac-

ter of Caspar Milquetoast of the 1930's cartoons, the Farm Bureau's "milk toast" was a bold invitation to the larger community to help spread the word about the hunger relief need and dairy focused solutions, like the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE.

The "toast" itself was to good

health, to the 160,000 servings of milk that will be provided by the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE, and to local dairy farmers – the originators of the farm to table movement, and lastly improve the health to those who benefit from it. Cheers!

Prizes galore – Touch-A-Tractor bucket raffle

Touch a Tractor is fun for the whole family, whether you are climbing on an antique tractor, pretending you are plowing the fields, or in the cab of a brand new, ultra-tech combine harvesting corn, you are sure to be surrounded with excitement.

With there being so much "fun" outside on the lawn during Touch-A-Tractor, we wanted to make sure we had an equal amount of "fun" inside the Kane County Farm Bureau building.

This year Kane County Farm Bureau will host a bucket raffle

where a table will be set up, full of exciting prizes you can win. Prizes will range in price from \$5 to \$150 and will be items like Pillow Pets, Die-Cast Replica ERTL Combines, a Pedal Tractor, a John Deere kitchen accessory set, Tractor Mac Puzzles, and much, much more! You won't be disappointed and your donations will support our non-profit Foundation.

*KCFB Foundation provides funding Ag-in-the-Classroom learning and scholarships to Kane County students interested in agriculture.



Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are pledges received from February 16–March 15.



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

Donor	Beneficiary
Deborah Allan, Elgin	KCFB Foundation

10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE

Kiwanis Club of St. Charles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Hill's Country Store Patrons, Kaneville	Countryside Food Pantry, Elburn
Batavia Jewel-Osco Patrons	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Friends of Matt Hanson	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
Kiwanis Club of Geneva	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Randall's Pancake House Patrons	South Elgin Food Pantry
Kane County Farm Bureau	Tri-Cities Salvation Army Food Pantry, Hinckley Area Food Pantry
Steve & Gladys Arnold, Aurora	Northern Illinois Food Bank, Countryside Food Pantry, Elburn Food for Greater Elgin

10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE update

While we no longer need empty milk jugs donated for collection points, we still welcome community minded volunteers to distribute milk jugs and signs to promote donations to our 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE. Having these milk jugs near cash registers and in check-out lines is an important part of our campaign as they raise awareness of our hunger relief effort with those who aren't Farm Bureau members, but are willing to help the less fortunate in their com-

munities get protein and essential nutrients through dairy products at local food pantries.

Please contact us via phone, 630-584-8660, or via e-mail,

steve@kanecfb.com, or better yet, stop by our office located at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles @ Oak Street to pick up milk jugs for distribution.

Locations you can contribute to 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE collection milk jugs include:

- Calamity Jane's • 9S593 IL-47, Sugar Grove
- House of Hair • 313 N 5th St, St. Charles
- Dave's Slow Food Truck • 1745 Kaneville Rd, Geneva
- Hill's Country Store • 2S133 Harter Rd, Elburn
- Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center 2010 East Main Street, St. Charles

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 106th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, April 11th, 2018, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2018, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

Defensive Driving class

The Kane County Farm Bureau has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14 & 15. The class runs from 9am to 1pm each day at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

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

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

Win a Pedal Tractor at T-A-T



Give your child or grandchild the chance to win a pedal tractor! In 2018, 5-year old Liam Sickafoose of St. Charles was the winner of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Pedal Tractor Drawing 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 14. Return the form below to KCFB by April 14 or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 12, 13, and 14. 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 be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.

FREE PEDAL TRACTOR DRAWING

(For children 8 & 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 14 to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174



Recycle Scrap for CASH

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



This past weekend my son came up for a meeting in the city. He brought his 15 year old son along so he could spend some time with my other grandson of the same age and myself. During the visit, my son and I decided to teach the boys how to play Euchre. We played a few rounds with cards showing, so they could get the idea and then began to play. Such fun ... we laughed so hard at and with each other and our methods of playing the game.

The problems were based on the fact that the boys had no idea of what "trump" was and then we added the terms right and left bower ... mind blowing. Eventually, they caught on enough so that we could have some good hands and hopefully, they will remember when we want to play again.

I began thinking about how things have changed since I was

young. My mom didn't play cards, Dad had his poker group. My Dad and I played simple card games together when I was young. I played Canasta and War all the time with the kids in the neighborhood until I learned how to play bridge. How did I learn how to play bridge? Crazy, but we played as part of PE in junior high and high school. Memory fails me as to why we learned, was it part of the curriculum or did we just play on rainy cold days when we couldn't go outside? No matter, fact is, that's when I got bitten by the bridge bug. I played in college and from then until now. It seemed that everyone knew how to play in "the old days."

Pinochle and Euchre became a part of my game playing skills when I met my future husband's family. They played cards from a young age and the games became quite rowdy at times.

We had many good times around the card table with young and old playing together.

Gone are the days of everyone learning how to play bridge, pinochle, or Euchre at home or in high school or college.

I'm an avid bridge player and to find someone under 40 that plays, is virtually impossible. What happened? In my mind, computers and phones. Even very young children know how to "swipe" a phone to get to the next screen, how to find things on YouTube, stream and play games on the phones. Adults, at least older ones, seem to struggle with even having an

email account, let alone how to navigate through Google. A huge disconnect has been created between the age groups due to these skills.

The standard come back to a computer question is, "Ask a 10 year old." I know my students periodically helped me with my computer skills - thanks to all of you.

My grandson and I read an article on how things have changed due to the purchasing power of the Millennials. Some of the items it included were things like less cans of tuna and bottles of mayo are sold, less cow's milk is sold, I believe you

could add decks of playing cards to this list also.

After the Euchre games, the boys tried their hand at building card houses ... another one of the "old time" past times of my youth. They did extremely well at this and of course, enjoyed blowing each other's masterpiece down with a huge huff. Some things need not be taught, nor do they change.

I learned something too this weekend ... I can play Euchre on my phone ... who would have thought? Enjoy your time with your family, both generations can learn from each other the many ways to have fun in 2019.

Book of the month

Cynthia Clampitt is a food historian. She spoke at the Wheaton Historical Society on the impact of corn in our area. Her interesting presentation lead to my purchasing the book for our library. In this book, she explains how corn helped shape the Midwest. If you ever get a chance to see Cynthia speak, it is well worth your time.

From the book description: "Blending history with expert reportage, she traces

the disparate threads that have woven corn into the fabric of our diet, politics, economy, science, and cuisine. At the same time, she explores its future as a source of energy and the foundation of seemingly limitless green technologies. The result is a *Midwest Maize How Corn Shaped the U.S. Heartland* by Cynthia Clampitt



bourbon-to-biofuels portrait of the astonishing plant that built a

nation - and sustains the world."

If you have an interest in hogs, you might be interested in her newest book just released in October of 2018: *Pigs, Pork, and Heartland Hogs: From Wild Boar to Baconfest* (Rowman & Littlefield Studies in Food and Gastronomy).

Midwest Maize-How Corn Shaped the U.S. Heartland is a must read for anyone interested in corn. It is available at our library, which was the concept of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn and later supported by the Bob Konen family.

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 Outreach 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. Additionally, the book *John Deere, That's Who*, written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, will be given to each teacher for his/her classroom library.

If you're interested in reading this book to a classroom during the weeks of April 8-19, please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to sign up.

Funds for SPROUTS and library book donations are provided to the KCFB Foundation by the Konen Family Foundation, in memory of long-time Farm Bureau volunteers Bob & Alyce Konen of Aurora.

Bob was a former KCFB Director and Alyce a member of the organization's Women's Committee. Both were tireless promoters of Farm Bureau and agricultural literacy.

Now showing at an elementary school near you ...

YOU

Read to a 3rd grade class through the SPROUTS reading program, April 8-19.

Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 for details.

Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students

Shopping Spree action

Bumper carts! Representative Keicher (front) and Senator DeWitte (middle) grab groceries to fill their grocery carts as John Arthur Anderson (rear) stands ready with an additional cart. All groceries collected were purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau. In addition to the groceries collected by the legislators, both Tri-Cities Salvation Army and Hinckley Area Food Pantry received an additional \$300 in dairy products from the Kane County Farm Bureau in recognition of the dairy focused 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE hunger relief initiative.

See full story on page 1



Even the biggest goals start with simple steps

Bob Effner , CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles - Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434
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Contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative today!

0119-513HO



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Dandelions

The hearty dandelion grows all over the world and does not care about soil conditions...

... If you have ever tried to dig a dandelion plant out of your sidewalk slabs you will attest to this. It is one of the few plants that can regenerate foliage, even if all of it is cut off. Again, look at your lawn the morning after mowing and count the number of new dandelion flowers. Then just shake your head in wonder. Seeds travel remarkable distances on the wind, and regenerate in just a bit of soil and sunlight. Ever spot a bit of yellow on a rocky ledge? The dandelion flower opens during the day and closes at night. Folklore has it that if the dandelion flower closes during the day, rain is on the way, or if a seeds fall off the head without any wind, cancel your picnic.

Dandelions were brought to the United States from Europe due to their variety of uses.

Dandelion Playdough Recipe

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 5-10 dandelion flowers with petals pulled out



Instructions:

1. Add ingredients into a big pot on medium heat.
2. Stir constantly until the playdough becomes a big ball and does not stick to the sides of the pot.
3. Place on a plate and flatten out to cool.
4. You could add a scent (or color) to this playdough during the "stirring" process, I chose not to for this go-around to keep the focus on the beautiful yellow flowers.

Let the dandelion flourish in your garden and the birds, bees and butterflies will thank you. It is the pollinator's best friend and will provide a valuable source of food, particularly in the early part of spring when bees emerge from hibernation. Each flower is made up of dozens of individual florets, each one packed with juicy pollen and nectar. And when they go to seed, birds such as house sparrows and goldfinches will also enjoy feasting on them.

Dandelions

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

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

Did you know?

The botanical name for the dandelion is "Taraxacum officinalis" but it is often called "blow-ball" because of its efficient round seed head which it holds aloft.

The French named the plant *dent de lion*, lion's tooth, because of the shape of the leaf.

The blossom of the dandelion is actually a bouquet of about 150-200 flowers set in a solid head.

The sculpturing and ridges on the seed are like the thread of a screw and help drill the seed down into the ground.

Hollow flower stem provides flexibility which enables the flower to bow to adverse conditions rather than break, even when the lawn mowers pass by, the plant can spring right up again.

Heavy tap root and fact that

plant is perennial are parts of success story.

Ends of stems can be split open and swished in water to make curls. Bracelets can be made by slipping the narrow end of one into another.

Children think if you hold a dandelion under your chin, and if it shows yellow under your chin, that means you like butter.

Dandelions were once an important food source in other cultures.

The flower of the dandelion has more antioxidants than a carrot and more potassium than broccoli or spinach

Minerals: Dandelions contain potassium, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus.

A 2003 study at the University of Regensburg in Germany found that 99.5 percent of dandelion seeds land within 10

metres of their parent. (about one in 7,000, would travel more than a kilometer)

The dandelion roots can extend from four to five feet deep into the ground,

Dandelions produce a milky juice in its plants which supplies latex or natural rubber.

Dandelion seeds can soak in the ocean for 28 days, be carried a thousand miles along the coast, and still germinate.

Dandelion leaves are used to add flavor to salads, sandwiches, and teas. The roots are used in some coffee substitutes, and the flowers are used to make wines.

Dandelions resembles sun, moon and stars during the certain parts of its life cycle. Yellow flower looks like sun, spherical head with seeds looks like moon while dispersing seeds look like stars.

Sautéed dandelion

When choosing your dandelion leaves, please remember to pick up the young, soft, light green leaves.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound dandelion greens
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced



1 whole small cayenne pepper, seeds removed, finely cut.

- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- salt and pepper
- Parmesan cheese

Preparation:

Discard dandelion roots; wash greens well in salted water.

Cut leaves into 2-inch pieces. Sauté onion, garlic, and cayenne pepper in oil. Drain greens; add to onion garlic mixture. Taste dandelion greens and season with salt and pepper. Serve dandelion greens with grated Parmesan cheese.

Dandelion olympics

from *The Pleasantest Thing*

DANDELION TORCH

Kick off your Dandelion Games with a procession, each holding a dandelion torch high above your head!

DANDELION DISCUS

Mark a start line in chalk on the driveway, and see who can throw the farthest using one of these methods:

* Throw the dandelion head in discus form

* Line the dandelions up on the start line and flick them (or, in the case of my toddler, throw

them!). Farthest wins
* Grab as many as you can at a time and THROW! This was definitely the most fun!

DANDELION RELAY

Make a small bouquet of dandelions, and use that as your baton, to pass back and forth between team members in a relay race.

DANDELION TOSS

* Toss or flick dandelions into a bucket.

DANDELION TUG OF WAR

Make a dandelion chain, and have a tug of war with the chain – the winner is the one holding the longer piece of the chain after the chain breaks.

CROWNING THE VICTOR(S)

Everyone who played our Dandelion Games was a winner – and everyone wore a "dandelion wreath" (Knot dandelions together to form a chain, and place it on top of each child's head.)

April ...

Month-long celebrations:

- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Kite Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month

Weekly Celebrations:

- Week 1 Library Week
- Week 2 Garden Week

Daily Celebrations:

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
- 5 National Dandelion Day
- 7 World Health Day
- 9 Winston Churchill Day
- 10 National Siblings Day
- 12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- 14 National Pecan Day
- 19 Good Friday
- 19 National Garlic Day
- 20 Volunteer Recognition Day
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 Take Your Daughter to Work
- 26 Arbor Day

Congratulations

Gretel Wesolowski from Batavia – this month's winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a meat item of her choice. Thank you, Gretel, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

FB volunteer event at NIFB–April 2nd

Farm Bureau members are invited to join Kane County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers group and local FFA Chapters at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on April 2 from 6-8pm to repack food for redistribution to local food pantries. We welcome all who'd like to volunteer, especially those interested in connecting with 18-35 year olds looking to get involved in community service or agriculture related events.

You'll help in the fight against hunger, make some new friends and learn about the good things



the Farm Bureau and its Young Farmers are doing in Kane County. We'll also discuss the KCFB Foundation's 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE and how individuals and groups can get involved. Last year, over 3,865 pounds of sweet potatoes were packed, translating to 3,220 meals for our hungry neighbors.

No experience is necessary, just a genuine interest in farm and food related concerns. As this is a community service, and the fight against hunger can and should be waged by all, all Farm Bureau members, friends

and potential members are welcome! Call the Kane County Farm Bureau to RSVP at 630 584-8660.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank's award winning Milk2My Plate program has provided MANY MILLIONS of servings of milk to area families. In addition to the KCFB Foundation's 10,000 gallon CHALLENGE initiative, all KCFB member donations to hunger relief through the Harvest for ALL program that are NOT earmarked for a local food pantry, and all of Kane County Farm Bureau's donations to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, support the Milk2MyPlate program.

Tulip Time on Jewel of the Rhine!

All aboard! You're invited to join Lindstrom Travel and fellow Northern Illinois Farm Bureau members with this fantastic trip. Travel dates are April 5-15, 2020. It's a beautiful 11 day river cruise. Enjoy a relaxing and inspiring cruise on the Romantic Rhine, Europe's longest river. Travel onboard a luxurious river ship, during tulip time, visiting iconic ports of call, sampling incredible cuisine, and absorbing the local culture. PLUS ... FREE AIRFARE out of Chicago when you book by May 30th, 2019! This is the perfect

time to plan ahead.

Other Farm Bureau travel destinations for 2019 include!

- **Pacific Coast Journey** – featuring Oregon's Coast and San Francisco Coast (June 22-30, 2019)
 - **California Gold & Wine Country** (July 22-27, 2019)
- Please call Liz at the KCFB for more information, 630-584-8660.

A Tour Pre-View is scheduled for May, 13th at 6:00 pm at the Kane County Farm Bureau. Call Liz to RSVP: 630-584-8660.

Tour Preview

May 13th at 6:00PM

Ag Days Farming lessons for 4th graders

Fourth grade classes from throughout Kane County converged on Mooseheart Fieldhouse in March for Kane County Farm Bureau's 36th 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.

This learning experience is only possible through a generous outpouring of time, talents and energy by dozens and dozens of volunteers. A full report of 2019's AgDays Expo for 4th graders, and acknowl-

edgement of all the volunteers and contributors will be carried in the May Kane County Farmer.

For now, 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
American Agricultural Insurance Company
Kane County 4-H Ambassadors

And a 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!

And to our hosts, Mooseheart Child City and

School!

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 Urwiler, John Lochbaum, Janine Silverman, Sara Unold, Randy Busby, Jon Lundell, Larry Bower and Will Tracy for making our 2019 Ag Days run smoothly.

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

Thanks!

Kane County Stormwater Management

The Kane County Stormwater Management Planning Committee released the revisions to the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance for a 30-day public review and comment. The revisions aim to incorporate Ordinance language from the Technical Manual, address conflicting language within the Ordinance, make the Ordinance more user friendly, add requirements for water quality/best management practices, standardize detention triggers, promote redevelopment and provide watershed benefit options that encourage farmland preservation.

Following the Public Hearing, the Stormwater Management Planning Committee will make a recommendation to

the County Board at their April 9, 2019, 4:00 PM meeting. If approved by the County Board at their May meeting, the Ordinance would become effective June 1, 2019, and will be the countywide minimum standard. Developments seeking exemption from the revisions should contact their permitting authority prior to the effective date to determine if they are eligible for an exemption.

Over 300 copies of the Ordinance revisions have been distributed for public review to County Board Members, municipal and village offices, township offices, consulting engineering firms, and interested organizations for review and comment. We encourage you to review these Ordinance

revisions and provide your comments.

The Ordinance can be viewed and downloaded on the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance website:

<https://www.kanecountystormwaterupdate.org/updated-ordinance.html>.

Written public comments can be submitted directly on the website or may be mailed to: Kane County Department of Environment & Water Resources, 719 Batavia Ave. Geneva, IL. 60134, Attn: Jodie Wollnik, Director.

A Public Hearing was held on March 21, 2019. Public comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Ordinance as deemed appropriate.



2019 Ag Industry Tour

Each year the Illinois Farm Bureau's State Young Leaders Committee plans an Ag Industry Tour to farms and farm related businesses destinations in the Northern Hemisphere. This year, 35 Young Leaders from across Illinois attended a 5-day trip which included tours of Texas and New Mexico farms, research centers, and national monuments.

Wayne Gehrke, District 1 IFB Young Leaders Committee representative from Elgin attended on behalf of Kane County and thoroughly enjoyed the tours. Farms the group visited ranged from vegetable farms growing onions, lettuce, and pecans to cotton, wine grapes, and chili peppers. Several research stations were on the schedule, including New Mexico State

University's Fabian Garcia Research Facility and Texas A&M's AgriLife Research Center, where the attendees learned about local agriculture.

Besides visiting farms and research facilities, the group had the opportunity to visit the US/Mexico border to listen and learn more about how livestock is brought into the US, specifically at cattle crossings. Good, local food was also a highlight each day and fun at the White Sands National Monument was had by all.



Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag Industry Tour of Texas and New Mexico included a stop at Chaffhaye Farms, Dell City, TX. The Young Farmer participants, including Wayne Gehrke of Elgin (far right) learned more about the fermentation and packaging process of their small batch premium alfalfa operation.

Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference

Joliet Junior College is hosting a regional "Women Changing the Face of Agriculture" event on Thursday, April 11th at the main campus, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet. This FREE conference offers opportunity for high school students to learn about agriculture careers, network with industry leaders, and gain college insights. It is open to all female freshman-senior students at any area high school. The event is free but pre-registration is required by April 5.

Registration information is available at <https://goo.gl/forms/VXAPgyxDCz7955pw1> or by contacting Tammy Miller, tmiller@jjc.edu. Stipends up to \$100 may be available to schools to cover bus transportation/sub costs associated with attending the event.

The conference, sponsored by Illinois Agri-Women, will be held in the U Building Auditorium from 10-1:30 pm, with check in from 9:30-10. For more information, contact Tami Miller at 815-280-2424.

Farm toy auction?

A farm toy collectors dream! A gift from Rodney Oxe, formerly of Batavia, ALL of these highly collectible farm toys are now at the Kane County Farm Bureau. Our not-for-profit Foundation hopes to host an online auction of these toys to raise funds for Ag-in-the-Classroom learning and agriculture scholarships for local Kane County students. Stop by and see them at Touch-A-Tractor, April 12-14. Stay tuned for details in the upcoming months!



Support local farms
Text FARM to 52886

Chili Day boasts repeat winners in Chili/Cornbread competition

For the third year in a row, Kane County Farm Bureau's Foundation celebrated National Chili Day by featuring 10 participants who exhibited very different chilis and several cornbreads, the evening of Thursday,

February 28.

"Celebrity" judges for the competition included Kane County Board Members Matt Hanson, Deborah Allan, and Mike Kenyon. Chilis and cornbreads were thoughtfully judged

based on taste, consistency, aroma, color, and "bite" (spice). When the dust settled, there was a decided winner in each of the five categories.

Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager, announced the winners while Joe White, President of the KCFB, awarded each person with a trophy for their respective category. Bonnie White took the Homestyle Chili category for the second year in a row; the Non-Traditional chili category was awarded to Ben Spoerl for his spicy jerk chicken chili; the Wildlife chili was won by Beth Gehrke for her Canada Goose chili; and the Vegetarian chili winner, also for the second year in a row, was Dave Spoerl, owner and operator of Dave's Slow Food Truck. In the Best Cornbread category, Dave was

again the winner for his cornbread pudding with sweet sorghum honey butter, now a crowd favorite!

Guests mingled, chatting and enjoying tastings of the chilis featured and many took bowls home to enjoy later. The competition and fellowship contributed to the Farm Bureau Foundations coffers for agricultural literacy and Scholarship programs.

In addition to the winners, a special thanks to the fol-

lowing competitors for participating in the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Cornbread Competition: Kim Valentine, Sam Valentine, Suzi Myers, Marty Keltner, Ellen Kamps, Gladys Arnold, and Craig Bradley.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

JOSH AUSTIN has been named the Rep of the Month for FEBRUARY 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Josh has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Josh's expertise help you! You may reach Josh at 847-683-2100, josh.austin@countryfinancial.com .

Congratulations, Josh!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for February 2019. 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!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Kelly Landorf! Kelly has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December of 2016. Her



Kelly Landorf

office is located at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles and she may be reached at: 630-762-1328.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.

1. Local "celebrity" judges were invited to pick the winners in each category for this year's 3rd Annual Chili Cook Off and Cornbread Competition. (L-R) Matt Hanson, Kane County Board Member, 6th District; Deborah Allan, Kane County Board Member, 17th District; and Michael Kenyon, Kane County Board Member, 16th District; enjoyed tasting 10 different chilis.



2. Mastering the "Best Homestyle Chili" category two years in a row, winner Bonnie White smiles as she accepts a trophy from KCFB President (and husband) Joe White.



3. The Dave's Slow Food "team" cleaned-up at the Chili Cook-off. Dave Spoerl, (l) owner and operator of accepted trophies for "Best Vegetarian Chili", "People's Choice" (2nd year in a row) and also won the Cornbread Competition (again for the 2nd consecutive year). Son Ben Spoerl (r) a first time competitor, won "Best Non-Traditional Chili" for his spicy jerk chicken chili.



4. Joe White presents Beth Gehrke with a trophy for her "Best Wildlife Chili". Beth used Canadian Goose meat as her protein and combined it with spices to give the chili a delicious kick.



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.

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ner. Applicant must be self-starter and able to work as part of a team. We are located in Saint Charles. Entry level employment offering paid vacation, self-directed savings plan, partial tuition reimbursement. Call Bob to discuss position. Call: 630-377-5807

OFFICE HELP part-time – professional, courteous and detail oriented. Proficiency in Microsoft Office required. Send resume or apply in person at Kane County Farm Bureau.

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

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2012 Hardi Navigator 4000 sprayer, 1200G ply, 90' eagle self-leveling boom, hyd fold and tilt 20" center 3Xnozzle bodies with tips, 1000 RPM diaphragm pump, 2" quick fill, chem inductor, 110G rinse tank, R&L fence row nozzles, foam marker, Hardi HC5500 rate controller, 6 boom valves, 320/90R46 tires, excellent condition, \$25,000 OBO. Call: 630-878-1726



Bud not such a buddy Super Bowl ad infuriates farmers

The Super Bowl beer advertisement brewed belly aches in my living room full of corn farmers. For a pain-staking 60-seconds, we watched Bud Light knights transport an oversized and unwanted barrel marked "corn syrup" in its medieval-themed advertisement. The knights traveled to the Miller Lite castle and then to the Coors Light castle to present the mistaken delivery to its rightful owner.

Their message: Bud Light doesn't brew with corn syrup. The ad directly attacked the smaller brands that do while offending the farmers who grow the grain crop.

Social media exploded with disgruntled farmer football fans. Two weeks later, bartenders in Louisville talked about it during the National Farm Machinery Show. The Commodity Classic national farm event in March served only Coors Light and

Miller Lite at a concert. And the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture even mentioned the commercial during his speech at the event. This disparaging commercial struck more nerves than tariff talk.

No doubt, Bud Light beverages would have lubricated the drain of my kitchen sink on that Super Bowl Sunday, had anyone held the beer brand in hand. I sighed and thought to myself, "What are you doing, Bud Light?" Here agriculture goes again with a misleading and irreversible fear-based marketing tactic detrimental to our industry. The one-minute skit tossed more fuel on the fear fire, insinuating that corn syrup likened its vilified step-sister, high-fructose corn syrup. Different product. Different sugar. And a topic for a different time.

Supposedly, brewing beer requires sugar for the fermenting process, and corn syrup does the job. Bud Light brews with rice, and that works just fine, too. I commend Bud Light for its recent voluntary commitment to ingredient labels, the root of the story here. However, in the beer maker's attempt to differentiate its recipe from rivals, it indicated the competitor's sugar choice as inferior. Interestingly, the parent company uses corn syrup to brew some of its other brands. I guess it

depends which label lingo tantalizes your beer-buying habits.

Fear-based marketing has increased over time, changing the way consumes shop and inadvertently the way American farms operate. Green bean cans state non-GMO, while there's no such thing as a GMO green bean. By federal law, no meat sold contains traces of antibiotic, regardless of what the label states or does not state. Orange juice contains no gluten and popcorn no genetic modification. Yet, those well-placed labels persuade the uninformed consumer to think positively of an omitted (or never present) ingredient.

During that dreadfully long 60-second commercial, the corn syrup barrel kept re-appearing, costing about a million every time it did. CNBC reports a record-high \$5.25 million price-tag per 30-second Super Bowl commercial spot this year. Months from now, the ho-hum game won't earn a mention. But farmers and their friends likely will think twice at the beer cooler before the next summer barbecue.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from west-central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.

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So much in this Kane County Farmer issue ...

Defensive Driving Class & Soil Testing (page 3)
 Touch-A-Tractor (fun for the whole family) (page 1)
 Volunteer opportunities (pages 4 & 6) • Northern Illinois Farm Bureau trips (page 6)

A popular children's activity at Touch-A-Tractor is playing in the corn corral, which features seed corn harvested by a local farmer.



Bring your child or 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.



See the full story on page 1 and ...

See you at



Kane Co. 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 2019 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.

Tim Metz, Plato Center farmer, holds up new Farm Bureau Member sign he ordered to proudly display at his farm. Tim purchased a sign for his father's upcoming 86th birthday. Lawrence Metz has been a Farm Bureau member for 54 years and has been farming in Kane County for most of that time. To order your sign, or to celebrate someone's legacy, call the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660. Price is \$35/sign.



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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.

April 12-14
Fri. 12 - 4
Sat. 10 - 4
Sun. 10 - 3



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 presents kids games and contests.

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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.

WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE

Grand Prize: (Winner's Choice) vintage 1966 Ford 100, or 1956 Massey-Harris Model 333 or \$3,500 cash
2nd prize: \$500 in groceries
3rd prize: \$500 in fuel



Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50

Drawing 3pm, July 21 at Kane County Fair

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION Scholarship Awards
Join us April 14 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
2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174
info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

Find us on Facebook

Your ticket to...

Family entry at Touch-A-Tractor and support for



Cash & prizes in the WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION



2019 GRAND PRIZE: 1966 Ford 100 pickup or 1956 Massey-Harris model 333 tractor or \$3,500 cash

2nd prize: \$500 in groceries

3rd prize: \$500 in fuel



Drawing 4 p.m. Sunday, July 21, 2019, 4H Blue Ribbon Sale Barn at Kane County Fairgrounds, Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois. 18 or older to enter. Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all local, state and federal taxes associated with prize chosen.



Proceeds benefit KCFB Foundation college scholarships, ag literacy programs & local FFA chapters.

\$20 each 3/\$50

Get your ticket today.

630.584.8660 or kanecfb.com



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