

Kane County Farmer



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

VOL. 89 NO. 4 APRIL 2024

Gathering groceries for a good cause—

State's Attorney Mosser, Undersheriff Johnson race thru 23rd Shopping Spree

The Farm Bureau's 23rd annual Shopping Spree was held Monday, February 26th at the Batavia Jewel-Osco on Randall Road, our host for all 23 Shopping Sprees. The two "contestants" had a great time shopping and scrambling to restock two local food pantries.

Undersheriff Amy Johnson and State's Attorney Jamie Mosser exuded energy as they participated in the 23rd annual Shopping Spree for food pantries. The two raced through the aisles in an 8-minute dash around the store, collecting \$4,859.38 in groceries, purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau, which then donated \$2,838.96 in groceries to Support Over Stigma of St. Charles and \$2,020.42 to Elgin's Community Crisis Center food pantry.

State's Attorney Jamie Mosser shopped for Community Crisis Center of Elgin, and was assisted by Maureen Manning, Executive Director of the Center, and Judy Cornelius, coordinator of the Center's Economic Crisis Program.

Undersheriff Amy Johnson shopped for Strength Over Stigma and was advised and assisted by Zoeie Kreiner, CEO of the veteran's support organization.

Both teams were assisted by volunteers from Kane County Farm Bureau, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Support Over Stigma and the Community Crisis Center.

"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 Joe White.

"U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world, but,

while food is affordable in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, the shopping spree recognizes 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 benefited since the event's inception.

Dale Pitstick, Kane County Farm Bureau Vice President, welcomed contestants. Joe White, KCFB President, then took over with opening remarks and an explanation of the concept of the Food Check-Out Week and why KCFB sponsors this celebration of food and

farming. Northern Illinois Food Bank liaison Tom Hong was the emcee for the spree, counting the minutes and offering encouragement to the teams as the contestants leapt into shopping!

Joe White and KCFB Manager Steve Arnold thanked Jewel-Osco Assistant Store Manager Craig Avila for the store's 20 plus years of support and for hosting the event. Arnold told the crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Sprees have raised over \$45,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort has contributed the equivalent of more than 2 million meals to local food pantries since 2009.

Special thanks to Jewel-Osco and the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their partnership in this Food Check-Out Week activity, sponsored by the KCFB Government Affairs Committee.



Farm toy of the Month

Savvy young carpet farmers know spring fields don't plow themselves. They can take control with the toy for April – this 1:16 scale Case Maxxum 150 radio controlled tractor. This sturdy red beast zips forward, turns left and right, and backs up with realistic sound and lights. It is recommended for ages 8 & up.

The tractor price is \$65.53, but during April, KCFB members save 10% off the Case Maxxum 150. Supplies are limited, so stop by soon!



April Featured Special – Bratwurst/Hotdog Combo

The special for April is a Bratwurst and Hotdog combo. This combo box contains 10 delicious award-winning Inboden's bratwurst and 10 Red Hot Chicago all beef hotdogs and is priced at \$32.00. If you prefer a 20 qty. all Brat Box, we have you covered for your spring grilling needs – all brat boxes are priced at \$31.00! Price per box reflects member price and of course PLUS members always receive a 5% discount! Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau – Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles – during the month of April or while supply lasts.

Top photos L-R: And they're off! State's Attorney Jamie Mosser and Undersheriff Amy Johnson raced down the aisles at a furious pace, plucking food products off the shelves and into shopping carts.

Right, top to bottom: Undersheriff Johnson smiles as she rings up carts full of groceries.

State's Attorney Mosser cheerfully calculates a belt full of crackers and canned goods.

Center: Wow! The shopping teams, Batavia Jewel personnel and KCFB team pose with their checks after a successful 23rd annual Shopping Spree.

ASA honors Steve Pitstick with award

The American Soybean Association recognized Steve Pitstick of Maple Park with its Distinguished Leadership Award during an awards ceremony at the Commodity Classic trade show and educational event in Houston.

The ASA Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes a soybean grower or association staff leader who has shown a

high level of dedication and successfully led others to meet goals and achieve successes to benefit soybean farmers.

Pitstick is recognized by his peers for his ability to foster collaboration, a sense of community, and collective action among farmers. He is committed to education and engagement to strengthen his state organization
(continued on page 2)

KCFB CALENDAR APRIL 2024

- 1 April Fool's Day
 - 11 Board of Directors, 7 pm
 - 11 Young Farmer Meeting at 6pm at KCFB
 - 11-12 Set up for Touch-A-Tractor
 - 12-14 Touch-A-Tractor, KCFB lawn
 - 13 4-H Foundation Pork Chop Fundraiser, Fairgrounds, 4:30 – 7:00
 - 18 KC Board Ag Committee, 10:30 am, County Administration Bldg, Geneva
 - 22 Earth Day
- All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted



April 12-14 at KCFB – see you soon!

KCFB works to advance legislative priorities at GALC

More than 400 Illinois Farm Bureau members gathered in Springfield for IFB's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) on Feb. 20. Local, state and national political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including four members of Kane CFB, to discuss IFB's 2024 legislative priorities.

The event culminated in a legislative reception, with nearly 80 elected officials in attendance to meet with IFB members.

"As an organization, the most powerful thing we can do is connect our members with lawmakers," said IFB President Brian Duncan. "Our members consistently make an impact on policy by giving legislators

a true, boots-on-the-ground expert in agriculture."

Featured speakers included former Arizona U.S. Sen. Martha McSally, who was the first woman in U.S. Air Force history to fly a fighter jet in combat and command a fighter squadron, and Kirk Bado, editor of the National Journal Hotline. Breakout sessions featured experts on topics including the active state legislative term, stabilizing the ag workforce, livestock, soil productivity and more.

GALC is the annual central event around IFB's longstanding efforts to connect members and legislators. IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program, which is more than 20 years old now, fosters long-term personal relationships between urban leg-

islators and farmers across the state. IFB's annual Leaders to Washington trip connects farmers with national legislators.

This year's conference, themed "Building for Success," identified obstacles agriculture may face in the coming years and how to build relationships with governmental leaders. Many breakout sessions focused on IFB's legislative priorities for the upcoming year, including a new bipartisan estate tax reform bill, stabilized labor wages, California's Proposition 12 and more. During the sessions, members had opportunities to share their perspectives with Farm Bureau leadership and staff.

"Every year, our members demonstrate both depth of knowledge on key ag topics and a desire to grow and absorb the latest information on

emerging issues," said Duncan. "That's what makes GALC successful, and that's why so many

key legislators go out of their way to meet and partner with our members."

Distinguished Leadership Award

(continued from page 1)

and the soybean industry.

Pitstick was an active participant in the recent development and implementation of an updated strategic plan for the Illinois Soybean Association, which helped create a clearer direction for the organization's future.

Over the last two years, his leadership was instrumental in driving significant organizational growth at ISA. These efforts resulted in a fourfold expansion of staff, providing the farm group expanded reach and impact.

Pitstick is a former chairman of ISA and current chairman of the ISA government relations committee. He is an active policy advocate, supporting issues like biodiesel legislation, soy-based policies, sustainability

actions, and various others.

Those close to Pitstick describe him as proactive in fostering increased engagement with state and federal policy-makers. He works at establishing and maintaining strong connections not only with key state decision-makers, but also other commodity groups.

Pitstick is known for his consistent willingness to have conversations with staff, farmers, and industry partners to provide his insight, guidance, and support.

His ability to convey a vision and provide strong leadership has positioned the Illinois Soybean Association to deliver unparalleled services to Illinois soybean farmers, now, and well into the future.

ASA and Kane County Farm Bureau congratulate Steve Pitstick, winner of the 2024 Distinguished Leadership Award!



Steve Pitstick



Left: KCFB Leaders and State Legislators had the chance to mingle at the annual Statewide Legislative Reception that is a part of the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference.

L-R: KCFB Manager Steve Arnold, State Reps Stephanie Kifowit and Matt Hanson, KCFB Vice-President Dale Pitstick and President Joe White, KCFB Director Beth Gehrke and State Senator Donald DeWitte.

Right, L-R: Gehrke, Pitstick and White visit with State Representative Jeff Keicher as part of the Legislative Reception on February 20 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.



Cover crop news from Kane SWCD

KDSWCD can provide technical assistance and possibly also funding for your next project!

Our MISSION = Reduce Soil Loss and Improve Water Quality. Conservation Practices can significantly impact conditions on a variety of properties from residential land to agricultural acres.

KDSWCD provides technical assistance, as well as cost share funds to support conservation practices designed exclusively to support projects which address water quality or soil erosion concerns such as: pollinator habitat, reduced tillage, cover crops, well decommissioning, grassed waterways, rain gardens, constructed wetlands and more!

We are especially seeking operations that are poised to implement cover crops and/or reduced tillage in 2024.

Cover crops are a long-term investment used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests/diseases and increase biodiversity, while enhancing a host of other benefits. Over time, they are shown to increase crop yields, break through a plow pan, add organic matter to the soil and attract pollinators, as well as increasing resilience to help combat the increasingly erratic, intense rainfall/drought conditions that we are experiencing.

Reduced tillage creates significantly less soil disturbance and leaves soil structure more intact. This results in a healthier microbiome, less erosion plus

improved moisture infiltration and retention capacity. Crop residue is left standing to help protect the soil surface while adding organic matter. Additional economic advantages include reductions in crop establishment time and energy use.

Funds are currently available in partnership with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. This first round of 2024 funding closes April 8. Contact us to explore your options - email contact@kanedupageswcd.org or call 630-584-7960 ext. 3



Partners for Conservation - opportunities available for landowners ready for conservation practices to improve their land's soil and water health...

A February 26 flyover of the Dave Campbell farm near Elburn shows not only the conservation benefit of winter cover crops but also signs of the unusually mild winter we experienced and the unseasonably warm temperatures in February.

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KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

	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									
K. ENGEL	X	X	*									
B. DIENST	X											
M. DUMOULIN	*	X	*									
G. GAITSCH			*	X								
B. GEHRKE	X			X								
M. KENYON	X	X	X									
A. LENKAITIS	X											
M. LONG				X								
K. KETTELKAMP	X	X	X									
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X									
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X									
J. WHITE	X	X	X									

Kane County Farmer

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Steven J. Arnold, Editor

Audre Pack, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Polovin, Office Manager

Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator

Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator

Jenna Rowe, Office Assistant

Mike Andresen, Building & Grounds

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38

Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles

PHONE: 630-584-8660

info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday

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Joe White President 47W727 Main St. Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-878-1726	Brett Dienst 815-693-6888 6N077 McGough Rd Maple Park, IL 60151-9367	Mike Kenyon 1250 E. Main St. South Elgin, IL 60177 847-741-1818
Dale Pitstick Vice President 2N118 Pouley Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-816-0223	Michelle Dumoulin 847-778-1418 16N393 Walker Rd Hampshire, IL 60140-8228	Karl Kettelkamp 47W407 Main Street Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-365-2713
Chris Collins Secretary/Treasurer 1143 Anderson Elburn, IL 60119 630-934-4642	Keith Engel 15N587 Walker Rd. Hampshire, IL 60140 630-640-3665	Andrew Lenkaitis 6N707 Corron Rd. St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-9980
Craig Bradley 37W791 Orchard Lane Elgin, IL 60124 847-888-2380	Gerald Gaitsch 10613 Brittany Ave. Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-2003	Michael Long 11461 County Line Rd. Big Rock, IL 60511 815-508-7119
Bill Collins 1125 Lewis Rd. Geneva, IL 60134 630-484-6852	Beth Gehrke 12N860 US Hwy. 20 Elgin, IL 60124 847-697-2538	Wayne Schneider 721 Lindsay Lane West Dundee, IL 60118 847-428-0488

Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service 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 & 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 – \$25 per sample for members, \$35 non-members, \$22 Plus members

This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test – \$35 per sample for members, \$45 non-members, \$32 Plus members

This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

U of I Extension rainscaping program

As gardening and “natural gardens” become an increasingly hot topic with gardeners and homeowners, the University of Illinois Extension of DuPage, Kane and Kendall counties is offering a Purdue University Rainscaping Education Program that is tailored to professionals within the gardening and landscape industry. The Purdue Rainscaping Education Program will teach bioretention/rain garden planning, installation and maintenance on May 2-3, 2024, 9am-5 pm at the Extension office in St. Charles at 535 S. Randall Rd.

The goal of the seminar is to increase rainscaping in residential and small-scale pub-

lic spaces. The workshop will teach professionals, agency staff and consultants how to promote community awareness and education for bioretention/rain garden planning, installation and maintenance. Attendees are encouraged to participate as a community team and build their local public education program and technical assistance network for homeowners.

Cost for the two-day seminar is \$135 per person, and includes cost of materials and lunch on both days. The sessions may include experiential training activities, field techniques, and field trips to view rainscaping projects.

Note: Participants must attend

all sessions to receive the certificate of completion. Participants will spend some time outdoors, so wear comfortable clothes and closed toed footwear.

Registration is required. For questions, contact Horticulture Educator Jamie Viebach at 630-955-1123 or jviebach@illinois.edu. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact Jamie Viebach.



Scan the QR code for more info or to register for the seminar.

Kane 4-H Foundation 15th Annual Dinner & Auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 15th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Sat., April 13 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Prairie Events Center of the Kane Co. Fairgrounds in St. Charles.

“This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it helps support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension services,” said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson. “Prior to 2020, the annual event raised about \$20,000, and the goal this year is to match that.”

Tickets are on sale now, with the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$15, a 1-chop dinner for \$13, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$10. The pork

will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club and served by 4-H Foundation, clubs, families, and other Extension volunteers and supporters.

Tickets may be purchased through your local 4-H club or 4-H Foundation volunteer, or by contacting the dinner co-chairs Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Katherine Thompson at 630-940-8880. Tickets will be available at the Kane County Farm Bureau until April 1. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an additional \$1 per meal.

The event also features a silent auction of popular items and themed baskets donated by supporters. Silent auction bidding ends at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction.



Save the date for the April 13 fundraising event

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*.

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2024 EVENTS SPONSORSHIP

We have planned a year full of fun events to help fund the Kane County Farm Bureau's FOUNDATION – Your support and sponsorship helps us reach our community!

All sponsors will be featured on banners for all 2024 events, in social media posts and on our events website. All who respond by the 15th of the month preceding any event/activity will also be recognized in the monthly *Kane County Farmer* publication sent to the mailboxes of our association's 14,000 member families.

MAJOR EVENTS: (Reach/Expected Attendance/Exposure)

• Touch-A-Tractor (1,500+)

– KCFB hosts hundreds of local families for a weekend of affordable family fun – playing in the spring sunshine, climbing into massive farm machines, sitting in the driver's seat of antique tractors, petting farm animals and experiencing Kane County agriculture and the local farming community.
– April 12-14

• Gala (300)

– Farmers, ag professionals and supporters gather at The Venue at Goebbert's in Pingree Grove for a night of good food, drinks, festivities and fun.
– September 15

• Scholarship Awards & Donor Recognition (100)

– Scholarship recipients and their families gather with local farmers and ag professionals at a Kane County Cougars ballgame to enjoy food and fellowship at Northwestern Memorial Field in Geneva.
– July 12

• Vintage Truck Raffle (100+)

– a 1947 Dodge half-ton pickup to be raffled at our last BBQ drive-thru on October 10, at KCFB.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

• Drive-Thru BBQs: Bi-weekly at Kane CFB, May – October, 14 total (8,000)

• Kane County Fair: July 17-21 (10,000)

• Summer Ag Institute (June, ~75 people)

• Little Lending Library

• Ag Themed Literature and Materials for the Community

• Ag Education Tools for Classrooms – Lesson in a Bucket

• Teacher Institute Day

• Harvest Sales: September – October (1,000)

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Platinum (\$3,000)

- 8 Gala Tickets (1 table) - \$1,000 value
- Verbal Recognition in Events Programs
- Dedicated Gala Signage throughout 2024
- 4 Tickets to the Scholarship Awards

Gold (\$2,000)

- 4 Gala Tickets - \$500 value
- Shared Events Signage
- Logo/Name on Gala Website & Program Book
- 2 Tickets to the Scholarship Awards

Silver (\$1,000)

- 2 Gala Tickets - \$250 value
- Shared Events Signage
- Logo/Name on Gala Website & Program Book
- Recognition in KCFB Post-Event Publication & Social Media

Bronze (\$500)

- Shared Events Signage
- Logo/Name on Gala Website & Program Book
- Recognition in KCFB Post-Event Publication & Social Media

Friend of the KCFB Foundation (\$250) – Recognition in KCFB Post-Event Publication

Sponsor up to 8 events on 30 different dates for JUST one price!

YES! Sign me up as a 2024 Events Sponsor!

Platinum - \$3,000
 Silver - \$1,000
 Friend of KCFB Foundation - \$250
 Gold - \$2,000
 Bronze - \$500

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Organization _____

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Mail Checks to: KCFB Foundation, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174
To pay with CC: Call (630) 584-8660

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

My column this month is inspired by some recent conversations and interactions that I've had with high school students, and current and retired teachers. We often ask students what do they want to be when they grow up? What things would they like to study if higher education is a path they want to pursue after high school?

I hear a wide range of answers to these questions – everything from, “I don't know” to the students who have their entire college career mapped out before they even step foot on campus to begin taking classes! Have no fear though, I am here to tell you it doesn't necessarily matter where they fall on the spectrum of higher education and/or a job right out of high school. What matters is that they have the courage to put themselves in learning opportunities, whether it is part-time work,

internships, job shadowing, or volunteering, developing time management skills, and learning some life skills along the way.

I think we all get so caught up in needing to have the perfect plan from A to B and have a series of sequential steps to take to get from where we are now to the “final” destination. In a perfect world, that's great in theory! However, I'm here to offer a new perspective.

Whether it comes to school, career, or life in general it is not necessarily about having it all mapped out with the perfect plan. It's about learning applicable skills that you can develop and implement in your life and career wherever you may go. It's about becoming the best version of yourself along the way. Plans change and life often throws you a curve ball or two and/or can completely knock you right off your tracks. Being able to adjust, adapt, and utilize the talents in your tool box will be a lifelong

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skill that will serve you well.

Now if you've been reading my columns for the last few years and/or know me personally you know my degrees are in the field of agriculture. Nope, none of them. Like many, life threw me a big life-changing curveball when I graduated in the spring of 2020 with my Master's. I had my “plan” mapped out with my career and living situation, but a global pandemic threw a wrench in my “plan.” Amid the uncertainty, I had the opportunity to move back home and create a new plan. And it wasn't necessarily a plan from scratch because I had resources in my life toolbox, and I was able to apply those skills towards a new journey.

All of this to say, it's okay to not have it all planned out. My words of advice to students are to explore things they are passionate about, get a part-time job/internship and learn new – be a sponge! Soak it all in. Be a life learner and open-minded. Be willing to be coachable, put in the extra reps, always treat others with respect, and have the confidence to take risks and know you'll learn something new along the way.

Happy April!

There's still time to volunteer time, talents or resources to help us make Touch-A-Tractor a success, help us refresh our Prairie Pollinator Rain garden for 2024, or read agriculture-friendly books to local classrooms through SPROUTS. We succeed based on the commitment of volunteers, and we very much appreciate all the efforts!

Thanks!

Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman
Agency Manager
St. Charles
630-584-0001



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Chris Regula
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Edward Sluehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847 742 0002



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Elgin
847 742 0003



Miryam Cabrera
Elgin
630 762 1329



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West Dundee
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Elburn
630 365 9500



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630 365 3737



Charles Quick
Hampshire
847 683 2100



David Berreles
Hampshire
847 683 2100



Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630 466 9600



Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630 466 9600

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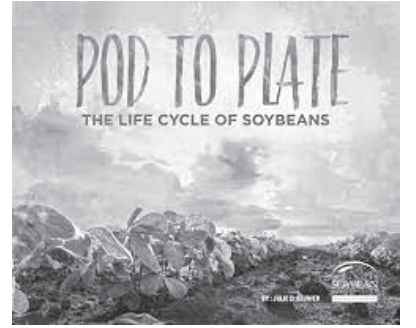
Book of the month

As the days grow longer and temperatures begin to rise, farmers are eager to head to the fields to begin their spring planting season. Every spring, farmers plant seeds of opportunity and potential. The seeds they sow will soon blossom and transform into something we will eventually consume, wear, or utilize in some fashion.

The book of the month for April is *Pod to Plate: The Life Cycle of Soybeans* written by Julie Blunier. This real-life and informative story guides readers along the journey soybeans take to be transformed from pod to our very own plates and products we use daily. Blunier captures the life-cycle of soybeans from a behind the scenes look from the tractors and equipment used to plant, keep the crops healthy, harvest, and transport the crops. Readers will also see how soybeans are broken down and processed into things like soybean meal (food)

for farm animals, chocolate we consume, crayons we color with and even biodiesel used to fuel school buses!

To view soybeans' cycle of life for yourself, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and visit our FREE KCFB Library. Check out *Pod to Plate: The Life Cycle of Soybeans*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.



Pod to Plate: the Life Cycle of Soybeans by Julie Blunier

Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute beginning June 10th.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days, Monday, June 10th through Thursday, June 13th from 8 am to 4 pm each day. Teachers in Kane County will have an opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers, and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer! Teachers will be able to see how local farms run, agri-businesses and manufacturers work, and how agriculture affects our daily lives and how agriculture can be easily integrated into the classroom setting.

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

Topics will include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today. Registration will begin in May and space is limited.

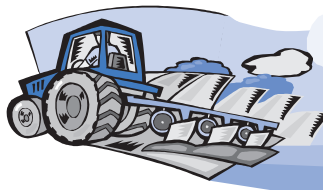
Teacher Institute Day 2024



On Friday, March 1st teachers from across Kane County gathered at the Kane County Farm Bureau to attend Teacher Institute Day to listen and learn to Get the Scoop on Soil & Soil Health Activities. The



morning consisted of hands on activities and lessons from Chris Wyant, Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Education Manager and afternoon presentations from a variety of experts in Kane County to help dig deeper into all things soil!



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Illinois is: #1 Soybeans



SOYBEANS SURROUND US

When you look around at the soybeans growing this spring, you may wonder where they all go. Take a look at the soybean's journey from pod to plate. **Pod to Plate: The journey of Illinois soybeans.**

All of those soybeans are more than meets the eye. Check out five amazing uses for soybeans from Illinois Farm Families. **Magic beans: Five amazing uses for soybeans.**

Find soybean info and more at watchusgrow.org

JOKES

How excited was the gardener about spring?
So excited he wet his plants!

What did the alien say to the garden?
Take me to your weeder!

What do you call a gardener that has a beard?
A Hairy Potter!

What do you get when you cross a garden worm and young goat?
A dirty kid!

What kind of beans grow in the Easter Bunny's garden?
Jelly beans!

Craft a beanie baby ...

Supplies

- Jewelry size re-sealable baggies
- Crystal Soil
- Hole punch
- Water
- Measuring spoons
- Soybeans
- Yarn

Instructions

Take the hole puncher and pierce a hole above the seal. Measure and pour 1/4 teaspoon of Crystal Soil into the baggie.

Add 2-3 soybeans into the baggie with the Crystal Soil, add 1-2 tablespoons of water into their baggie and seal the

baggie firmly so that they won't leak.

Then have them insert one end of yarn through the hole of the baggie and tie the ends of the yarn in a knot to make a necklace.

Wear the beanie baby around your neck, tucked under your shirt (a warm, dark place). Check the beanie babies several times a day to observe germination and growth!

This craft & more ideas are found at: <https://www.agintheclassroom.org/media/srzbv010/beanie-baby.pdf>



... and a savory soybean snack

Roasted Edamame Three ways

A nutritious & tasty snack with 3 different variations, which one is your favorite?

Ingredients

Parmesan & Garlic

- 1/4 cup edamame
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon powdered parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

Pepper & Sea Salt

- 1/4 cup edamame
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

Smoky & Spicy:

- 1/4 cup edamame
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

Directions

Mix each of the above combos in individual bowls

Spread out on a tinfoil lined baking sheet

Roast in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes, or until crispy

This recipe & other snack ideas may be found at: <https://beautyandbeard.blogspot.com/2014/05/the-most-addicting-healthy-snack.html>



April is ...

April Fool's Day	1	Animal Crackers Day	18
Sourdough Bread Day	1	Chickpea Day	21
Peanut Butter & Jelly Day	2	Tea Day	21
Chocolate Mousse Day	3	Earth Day	22
International Carrot Day	4	Cherry Cheesecake Day	23
Cordon Bleu Day	4	English Muffin Day	23
Burrito Day	4	Pigs in a Blanket Day	24
Caramel Day	5	Zucchini Bread Day	25
Deep Dish Pizza Day	5	Pretzel Day	26
Fresh Tomato Day	6	Prime Rib Day	27
Caramel Popcorn Day	6	Blueberry Pie Day	28
Library Week	7-13	Shrimp Scampi Day	29
Coffee Cake Day	7	Oatmeal Cookie Day	30
World Health Day	7-13		
Empanada Day	8	Distracted Driving Awareness Month	
Farm Animals Day	10	Fresh Celery Month	
Cheese Fondue Day	11	Garlic Month	
Pet Day	11	BLT Sandwich Month	
Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day	12	Grilled Cheese Month	
Peach Cobbler Day	13	Pecan Month	
Gardening Day	14	Soft Pretzel Month	
Pecan Day	14	Soy Foods Month	
Glazed Spiral Ham Day	15	Stress Awareness Month	
Eggs Benedict Day	16	Volunteer Month	
Banana Day	17		
Cheese Ball Day	17		

Soy surrounds us

U A F X L V E B S O Y T K E U S M Q F C	Animal Feed
Y X L I S R Z I T B I P M C N S N O D U	Beneficial
F L C Y C M P O O J K L H A R D O W N O	Biofuel
N C P T M V L F L E I O E S E D L B K R	Chocolates
A Y T P O D A U C O C B I X I V S E K X	Crayons
F Z O A U Y N E J O Y O H A F Q R Y U J	Domestic Supply
N A C S A S T L L O N C K R I F A O F F	Emulsifier
P C R Y M A C A S I S J P H S O B M P N	Export
T U N M J R T I L P V Q G L L U A P H H	Energy
B O B R E E M L T Y B L F W U B L W N U	Farmers
L C Y W S R I J W S G E L P M M O Z T E	Feed
O H A K T T S A N J E U N W E K N Y K P	Food
F K Z Z R E N E R G Y M Z E Q G A W N G	Food Labels
W D K O S O Y M I L K D O Y F I R R I P	Fuel
C F P S L E B A L D O O F D O I G R Y W	Granola Bars
J X M A R K E T S F F C K P P S C I O N	Illinois
E B N Z U H J O K D E O X G A S U I S H	Markets
A N I M A L F E E D E G K L M R U H A K	Oil
T Z T R I V E P K N D F V A A O J V M L	Plant
S N O Y A R C H C I R N I E T O R P I V	Protein-rich Soy
	Soy ink
	Soybeans
	Soymilk

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by April 15, 2024 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.



See You at TOUCH-A-TRACTOR!

Congratulations

Tim Sullivan from Aurora is this month's winner! His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he receives a fun prize. Thank you, Tim, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Cool Beans: Soy surrounds us

From the cooking oil in the cupboard and the feed in the hen house to the soles of the shoes at the back door, soy surrounds me. Every morning, soy hits me in the face with my makeup and the gut with my protein shake. We fuel our tractors and diesel-engine trucks with renewable, American-made soy-based biodiesel. And for a few weeks this spring, I will see the bean more than my family, when I plant more than 350 million soybean seeds on our farm.

Measuring smaller than my pinky nail, the mighty, protein-rich bean's highly versatile characteristics accommodate global demands for food, feed and fuel. Illinois legislation currently attempts to identify the soybean as the Illinois state bean. After all, Illinois farmers grow more soybeans than anyone, with the reigning title of No. 1 soybean state in the nation.

Soybeans cover about one-fourth of Illinois' land mass and about 45% of my family's farmable land. We grow ultra-high-protein beans for niche markets that produce protein shakes and plant-based meats. We contract with companies to grow seed soybeans that farmers will buy and grow the following year. And we serve the traditional markets for Illinois soybeans: A domestic supply of high-protein animal feed and a significant export market thanks to our state's valuable river transportation system. In fact, 60%

of Illinois soybeans are exported, credited to the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers bordering or flowing through our state.

Beans from our small-town farm often head to China, the top soybean importer by a wide margin. The country buys four times the American soybeans of No. 2 Mexico for oil and animal feed. Meanwhile, animals represent our nation's top soybean consumer. Chickens, turkeys, pigs, cattle and farm-raised fish thrive on the protein content in soybean meal that makes up 80% of the bean.

In the kitchen, soymilk and margarine (plant butter) serve as dairy alternatives. People treat tofu, a soybean product, like meat. Newspapers print with soy ink, kids color with soy-filled crayons, and soy frequently makes food labels in the grocery aisles. Serving as an emulsifier for some foods, soy lecithin allows oil and water to mix in favorite snacks like granola bars and chocolates.

On the farm, soybeans collaborate well with conservation-minded practices of no-till and cover crops. They add benefits to the soil in a corn-soybean planting rotation and provide our farm a double-cropping option after July-harvested wheat within a single growing season. They are pretty cool beans.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.

Time is ticking- Get your entries in before it's too late

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 19th, 2024 and National Agriculture Week March 17-23, 2024 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee is sponsoring a coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received is April 8th, 2024. All entries need to be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 8th.

To receive a coloring sheet, check your March Kane County Farmer, email Kelcee Miller, aitic@kanecfb.com, or attend Touch-A-Tractor April 12-14, where coloring sheets and

crayons will be available. The contest is open to all children ages 3 through 11. Categories are as follows: Ages 3-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each category.

The entries will be judged on originality, neatness and trueness-to-life. The picture should be the sole work of the child with no parental help or assistance. No pictures will be returned to the children unless requested. Parents/teachers please have the children fill out the address form completely with their home addresses.

Entries collected prior to

April 8th will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's April 12-14 Touch-A-Tractor event. No child's address or phone number will be exhibited at the display...only their names and ages. Play a part in helping the Young Farmers committee in saluting the agricultural community. Get a child, grandchild or a student to participate in the contest.

Mail all entries to:

Young Farmers Coloring Contest 2024 Kane County Farm Bureau 2N710 Randall Road St. Charles, IL 60174

Young Farmers meeting recap

KCFB's Young Farmers group gathered for pizza and conversation on March 11 at KifCure in Maple Park to hear about Farm Bureau updates and upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

The group learned about Kane County Farm Bureau updates including details for their upcoming events this spring and summer.

The group will assist with Touch-A-Tractor setup as well

as working the concessions stands at the Kane County Farm Bureau on April 13-14 at the Kane County Farm Bureau, displaying the winner of their 4th Annual Coloring Contest as well as hosting their annual Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day with local FFA Chapters in Kane County on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:30pm at St. Charles Bowl where the group will have a brief meeting learning about Young Farmers/Young Leaders as well as scholarship opportu-

nities and then enjoy a fun evening socializing and bowling.

Our next gathering will be Thursday, April 13th 6:00pm at the Kane County Farm Bureau in St. Charles. Dinner will be provided. Farm Bureau members from 18-35 are welcome and encouraged to attend and get acquainted. If you are interested in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agriculture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet stop on by the office to become a member today!



Young Farmers from Kane and surrounding counties gathered on Friday, March 8th at the KCFB office for the 19th annual Euchre Tourney. Eight different teams competed in a round robin competition at 6:30pm with a \$5 buy-in for pizza, snacks, and free lessons. The 2024 Euchre champs were Ethan (DeKalb) & Rachel (DeKalb) and the winners of the Trophy of Dubious Distinction (T.O.D.D.) were Michael Bernhard (Kendall Grundy) & Katrina Milton (Cook).



Young Farmer Chairman and KCFB Board Member, Brett Dienst poses for a quick photo while visiting the American Farm Bureau Federation headquarters in Washington, D.C. on his most recent trip with his class in the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation program. Dienst and his classmates attended the National Study Seminar, where over the course of a week they toured different states, listened to experts in the field, learned about Illinois history, and the current and future impacts of agriculture. Dienst is anticipated to graduate the program in the Spring of 2025.

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 14th. Return the form below to KCFB by April 14th or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 12-14. 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 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 12th to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Come out & travel with fellow FB members!

Northern Illinois Farm Bureau travel opportunity

This Farm Bureau trip will take your aboard the Danube Explorer riverboat to visit five countries: The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary and enjoy a seven-night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard an Emerald Waterways Star-ship. Tour Dates: August 24-September 3, 2024. Please call for more information:630-584-8660.

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 th 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.

SERVICES

Rick Flaughter, REALTOR® - Coldwell Banker Realty, 50 S. 1st Street, Suite 400, St. Charles, IL 60174, 630-945-1676. rick.flaughter@cbrealty.com, Town or country real estate. Serving all of Kane County.

WANTED

Love to sew? Looking for a creative team member to join our St. Charles custom sewing studio. Duties would include preparing fabric for production, tracing and cutting patterns, design embellishment, and sewing. Sewing experience preferred. Flexible, part-time hours to fit your schedule. Perfect for retiree, home maker, or student. Training on our equipment is provided. Call Susan at 925-336-0934 for further information.

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

Looking for high traffic sites to park our Vintage Truck to promote raffle. Contact Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.

SEE YOU AT TOUCH-A-TRACTOR APRIL 12-14



GEARING UP!

By Alice Macha,
Communications Coordinator



Kane County farmers are gearing up for spring planting and a new cycle of tending fields full of crops and managing seasons full of work.

Kane County Farm Bureau is gearing up for our 18th annual Touch-A-Tractor, and we couldn't do it without the help and participation of local farmers, or the participation of local non-farm folks, who flock to KCFB (pun intended) to mix and mingle and get a little taste of farming.

Farmers are kind enough to fill our lawn with antique tractors and massive new combines and planters, fresh from their farms. Others drop off livestock – bucket calves, sheep and goats, chicks and chickens “populate”

the premises. Many farmers stick around for the weekend, happy to show eager kids and adults how farming equipment works and answer myriad questions about farming practices, livestock and equipment.

Volunteers from organizations including AGCO, Bayer Crop Sciences and the University of Illinois Extension offer information and crafts to visiting kids. Young FFA representatives tend the animals, help with chores and chat with visitors.

It's a big party for Kane County – a spring mixer for the farming community and non-farmers. It's a chance to get out of your stall, kick up your heels, and greet spring with gusto. See you soon!

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 contributions received February 16–March 15, 2024.



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

Donor	Beneficiary	Program
Chris & Suzan Arnold	KCFB Foundation	Friend of KCFB Foundation
Prairie View Farm Market, Inc.	KCFB Foundation	Bronze Events Sponsor
DeKalb Implement Company	KCFB Foundation	Friend of KCFB Foundation
Dave Bateman	KCFB Foundation	Friend of KCFB Foundation
Citizens For Dan Ugaste	KCFB Foundation	Silver Events Sponsor
A&P Grain Systems, Inc.	KCFB Foundation	Silver Events Sponsor
Gould Farms	KCFB Foundation	Platinum Events Sponsor
Theodore Phelps	KCFB Foundation	KCFB Foundation Scholarships
Dunteman Ag Partners	KCFB Foundation	Silver Events Sponsor
Thomas & Janet Runty	KCFB Foundation	KCFB Foundation Scholarships
Gehrke Farms	KCFB Foundation	Gold Events Sponsor
Ashton Animal Clinic	KCFB Foundation	Bronze Events Sponsor
Woodman's Markets	KCFB Foundation	Platinum Events Sponsor
James E. O'Connell Farm	KCFB Foundation	Bronze Events Sponsor
Biggers Auto Group	KCFB Foundation	Bronze Events Sponsor
George D. Johnson	KCFB Foundation	KCFB Foundation Scholarships
Christine Baldrige	KCFB Foundation	KCFB Foundation Scholarships
Agnew Law Office	KCFB Foundation	Bronze Events Sponsor

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to help support agricultural education, scholarships, leadership training, and community youth education. We could not do it without your support!

Welcome to the next level

This month we welcome the following KCFB members who joined our organization or reclassified their membership in August to *Regular or Professional Status:

Regular Members

Meredith Leslie Campton Hills
William Metz Burlington
Summers Family
Trust Scottsdale, AZ
William Vance Hampshire

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

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to FarmWeek, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB

delegate opportunities.

- Continuing subscription to the Kane County Farmer newspaper
- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel
- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods
**KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.*

Plus Membership winner

Congratulations this month go to **David Bierman** of Maple Park, the April winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time he stops in our office, David will receive a FREE combo box of bratwurst and hot dogs from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we offer each

month.

David and ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered each monthly in a drawing for the monthly Kane County Farmer featured food product or seasonal prize, as well as receiving discounts and premiums. For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

Little Lending Library spotlight

Every month our Little Lending Library will have a special feature, book, or resource or all of the above! This will be our way of helping connect with the community whether they are KCFB members or not. No matter who you are or where you are from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. It is our hope that through our (not so)

Little Lending Library that we can help bridge the gap between consumer and farmers and help



Little Lending Library

to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

The book spotlight for our young readers will be *Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic* by Ginnie Lo and illustrated by Beth Lo in addition we will have copies of our Soybean-AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure as well! Supplies are limited, so get them while you can!

Help the hungry with your T-A-T admission—Food donations welcomed & rewarded

Our 17th annual Touch-A-Tractor on the weekend of April 14-16 welcomes your donation of non-perishable food items with your entry to the event. While you are clambering on combines and admiring antique tractors, your food donation will be stockpiled for delivery to a local food pantry. Your food donation will get you one additional ticket for our Pedal Tractor Drawing and our thanks for your generosity. See you at Touch-A-Tractor!

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **Sherri Schramer**, who has been named the February Agent of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial St. Charles Agency, as announced by the Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Sherri is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long-term insurances needs of her clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, and Life Business and services. Let Sherri's expertise help you! You may reach Sherri at (630) 365-9500 or Sherri.Schramer@CountryFinancial.com or <https://representative.CountryFinancial.com/Sherri.Schramer.com/>.

Congratulations, Sherri!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Alicia Giglione, Insurance Agent with the Aurora Agency, is our Property & Casualty Representative of the Month for February 2024. Alicia began her career with COUNTRY Financial in October of 2016 and services clients out of her office located in Aurora.

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for February 2024. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY

Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located in Barrington.

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Life Representative of the Month for February 2024. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located in Batavia.

Each of our representatives' professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make them a great person to do business with. Congratulations to you all!

Apply now for IFB Nurse Practitioner scholarships

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in

an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at dgallivan@ifb.org.

RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER

Scholarship PROGRAM

DEADLINE IS MAY 1

RIMSAP.com
Helping to meet the needs of primary care in rural Illinois.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.™

Fresh air ... fun ... Touch-A-Tractor rolls into town

Get a close-up look at farm life with a visit to Touch-A-Tractor, our annual farm-city community event, April 12-14 on the KCFB lawn.

You'll be welcomed to a lawn full of vintage and modern tractors and farm equipment, farm animals including a calf and baby chicks, and loads of activities for cooped up kids. You'll also see our 2024 raffle prize, a 1947 Dodge half-ton pickup. You can purchase raffle tickets at Touch-A-Tractor.

Kids will have a blast riding pedal tractors, playing in corn corrals, taking pictures with farm themed backdrops, sitting in the seats of tractors, and clambering into massive farm equipment. They can make crafts at sponsor booths throughout the event, and enjoy Story Time inside the KCFB building.

There will be a FREE pedal tractor drawing for kids 8 and under – one entry per child.

Hours are noon-4pm on Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 3pm Sunday. Admission to the event is a donation of \$5 per family or \$2 per adult (children 18 & under free). Funds will be used for college scholarships and agricultural literacy programs. A Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stub will also gain you FREE entry for your family.



Register at Touch-A-Tractor to win a pedal tractor!

Touch-A-Tractor

YOUR tractors, trucks, farm equipment welcome at T-A-T!

We will be hosting Touch-A-Tractor April 12-14, 2024 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau! This year we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are wel-

come – the more, the merrier! If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, have tractors or equipment to "loan", or activities/learning to share, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve.

Vintage Truck Raffle tickets available

Tickets are available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2024 Vintage Truck Raffle.

The 2024 Grand Prize is a 1947 Dodge pickup truck. As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor in April 2024 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$20 each or 3/\$50. The truck runs and drives well. Perfect to promote a farm stand or pumpkin patch, as is for car shows or a great style for a resto-mod. Ticket sales help provide college scholarships and Ag Literacy programs for Kane County students.

Return the form below, stop

by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA or MasterCard.

The winning ticket will be drawn on October 10, 2024 during our Fay's BBQ drive-thru.

We are looking for high traffic sites to park this truck to promote our Vintage Truck Raffle. Contact us – 630-584-8660.



18th Annual Touch-A-Tractor

Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of spring!

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

Bring the whole family!
Friday-Sunday, April 12-14
Friday noon-4pm Saturday 10-4 Sun. 10-3

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

- Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- See technology that makes America's farmers the most productive and efficient in the world, side-by-side with machines of days gone by
- Learn about America's most essential industry ... Agriculture!
- Free IFB zip sandwich bag with grilling guide and recipes

Kids Story Time every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday.
Fun, FREE, hands-on activities including marshmallow catapults, paper origami and garden in a glove.
Bring non-perishable food items for one additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.

Continuous viewing of

View the first episode of **Fields Apart: Rooted TOGETHER**

Illinois Farm Bureau's NEW series about farmers and agriculture across Illinois. Learn how urban and rural farmers in Illinois are deeply connected.

Find out why WE ARE THE 96%

TRUCK RAFFLE

2024 Grand Prize: This 1947 Dodge half-ton pickup truck

Tickets are \$20 each / 3/\$50

Proceeds benefit college scholarships & ag literacy programs.

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

Find us on **Facebook** Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION
 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

Vintage Truck Raffle

KCFB Foundation

Your VTR ticket gets you FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor 2024!

Please send me _____ tickets (\$20 each or 3 for \$50)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (_____) _____

Return with check made payable to
 Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation

2N710 Randall Rd. St. Charles, IL 60174 **OR** charge my:

____ Visa ____ MC ____ Discover

Signature _____ Exp ____ / ____
 Date _____

PRESENTING SPONSOR

ST. CHARLES-ELGIN AGENCY

PLATINUM SPONSOR

EMPLOYEE OWNED

GOLD SPONSOR

Thank you

to these sponsors of our 2024 KCFB FOUNDATION events

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