

# 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. 85 NO. 8 AUGUST 2020

## KCFB FOUNDATION awards college scholarships

A global pandemic was not enough to prevent nine recipients of 2020 Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION scholarships from receiving their awards at an outdoor ceremony on the parking lot at the KCFB on Sunday, July 19. The socially distanced ceremony preceded the drawing of the Grand Prize in the Foundation's Vintage Truck Raffle, a fundraiser that helped pay for the scholarship awards.

In all, 15 students shared in \$18,000 in tuition assistance for the 2020-21 school year. Those present for the awards ceremony received their award certifi-

cates from a masked KCFB Foundation Vice-President Wayne Schneider while KCFB President Joe White recognized them from a car trailer used as a makeshift stage for the ceremony. Following the awards presentation the scholars gathered for a group photo around the 1969 Chevy C/10 that was being raffled to provide for their scholarships.

Since its inception in 1989 the Foundation has provided over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to deserving students. The Kane County Farm Bureau established the FOUNDATION in 1989 to carry out charitable

work in the advancement of agricultural literacy and prepare students for careers in the agriculture industry.

*KCFB Foundation scholars gather around the Foundation 2020 Raffle Grand Prize following an outdoor awards ceremony at the Kane County Farm Bureau on July 19. Pictured are: (standing, L-R) Jackson Kettelkamp, Maria Rios, Kathleen White and Willem Vandermeij; (seated, L-R) Catherine Austin (seated in cab) Kyla Baldrige, Anastasia Kurth, Jacob Larkin and Austin Brockmann. See page 8 for another photo.*



## Volunteers plant pollinator/rain garden

On a sweltering Saturday in July over two dozen volunteers turned out to help the Kane County Farm Bureau install a pollinator/rain garden along Randall Road on the Farm Bureau property in St Charles. While they were rewarded with t-shirts, lunch and cold drinks, it's no secret that all who showed up did so to help make the world a little better place. The volunteers, much like our farmer-members, understand

and live the concept of leaving the land in better shape than they found it. We at the Farm Bureau appreciate that very much.

Originally the Farm Bureau sought to undertake this project in April during the Touch-A-



*Prior to planting, volunteers set plants in place in pots according to a design provided by Rob Linke, P.E., CFM, the Senior Water Resources Engineer & Wetland Specialist from the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources. The depression area was excavated, then filled with a mixture of topsoil, sand and compost to prepare it for planting.*

Tractor spring open house, when over a thousand visitors converge on the lawn to see antique and modern farm machines. COVID-19 forced cancellation of that event, and postponement of the garden planting. And while mid-July may not be the best time for such plantings, it was determined that companion events at the Farm Bureau for the July weekend chosen offered the best chance of attracting a

crowd and getting the job of planting accomplished.

While pollinator gardens have become popular in recent years with the decline in pollinators and the potential effects on the environment, especially food production, the KCFB chose to install a "hybrid" pollinator/rain garden. It is intended to combine the benefits of attracting pollinators with the addition of stormwater management and water quality benefits.

Farm Bureau will use the garden to help educate visitors to our future Touch-A-Tractor events, participants in Teacher Institutes, Summer Ag Institutes as well as to show farmers how to meet the best management practices requirements for the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance.

The garden owes its origin to two local entities, the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water  
*(continued on page 2)*

## 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle winners announced!

This year the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION'S 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle concluded at a scholarship awards ceremony on the KCFB parking lot on July 19. The grand prize was a 1969 Chevy C/10 (OR \$3,500 cash); 2nd prize, \$500 in groceries; and 3rd prize, \$500 in fuel.

Ticket sales kicked off in February, but with the COVID-19 caused cancellation of the Foundation's April Touch-A-Tractor event, alternative means of selling tickets had to be found. A raffle ticket "drive-thru" on the parking lot provided the solution and the excitement and anticipation continued to build. There were many last minute ticket sales – right up until the moment of the drawing – and with so many buyers eager to drive away with the vintage Chevy pick-up, competition was strong amongst those waiting for the drawing.

*KCFB Foundation President Joe White on stage before the Raffle Drawing with the Grand Prize 1969 Chevy C/10 in the foreground.*

With Joe White, President of the Kane County Farm Bureau supervising, the designated raffle manager Steve Arnold drew the winners on-stage at the Farm Bureau. The following were named winners:

**Grand Prize Winner –  
1969 Chevrolet C/10 Pick-Up  
Truck (or \$3,500 cash)**

**Carolyn Gehrke, Elgin, IL**

**2nd Prize Winner –  
\$500 in Groceries**

**John Wright, Denver, CO**

**3rd Prize Winner –  
\$500 in Fuel**

**Ed Reardon, St. Charles, IL**

Thanks to all who bought tickets to support the Foundation's Scholarship and Ag-in-the-Classroom programs and Congratulations to all the winners! Keep reading the *Kane County Farmer* for information on our next Foundation fundraiser and information on the 2021 Vintage Truck Raffle prize options.



### KCFB CALENDAR AUGUST 2020

**5** IFB Region 2 Meeting

**10** IAITC Golf Outing, Pontiac

**13** Board of Directors, 7:00pm

**20** Kane County Ag Cmte.,  
10 am, County Bldg.

*(All meetings/events are at KCFB  
unless otherwise indicated)*

*Sweet summer  
peaches are  
coming soon!  
See page 8 to order.*





# Garden

(continued from page 1)

Conservation District and the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources. Farm Bureau was first approached by the SWCD over five years ago about the possibility of installing a rain garden to filter run-off from the parking lot and as a demonstration project for local farmers and the public. But at that time no suitable (visible) public space could be found.

When the County of Kane embarked on a project to revisit the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance in 2016, an agricultural task force was assembled to investigate ways to improve

water quality through application of stormwater provisions on agricultural lands undergoing development. The result was an improved ordinance, with water-quality benefit measures (or best management practices) in lieu of stormwater detention on agricultural lands.

Then in the fall of 2018, the Farm Bureau reconstructed its parking lot and changed elevations to concentrate runoff and direct it toward the existing storm sewer system. The resulting improvement created an ideal environment for demonstration of the benefits of one of these water-quality benefits, or best management practices, in a very public space along heavily traveled Randall Road in St. Charles.

The pollinator rain garden

was designed by Rob Linke, P.E., CFM, the Senior Water Resources Engineer & Wetland Specialist from the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources. That Department also provided the plants, obtained from Midwest Groundcovers. Scott Jesseman from Prairie Fence and Landscape did the dirt work and Bill Collins from C & C Mulch provided the mulch.

A consumer education grant for the Illinois Farm Bureau helped defray additional costs of the pollinator/rain garden planting.



While some volunteers had other obligations, those remaining at the end saw the finished "product" and gathered under the Farm Bureau sign beside the garden for a group picture. Story starts on page 1 and more photos are on page 8.

## Benefits of a pollinator/rain garden

Planting a pollinator garden is a great way to provide habitat for important bee species, but saving the bees isn't the only benefit of a pollinator garden. Here are five other perks you'll enjoy!

### 1. It Will Improve Vegetable Gardens

If you have a garden, you could enjoy a big boost to fruit and vegetable yields when you add a pollinator garden. When bees visit blooming plants, they're doing more than having a bite to eat. They're transferring pollen from flower to flower so plants can grow delicious fruit. Some fruits and vegetables, including cucumbers and squash, can't produce a crop unless pollinated by an insect. Self-pollinating plants like peppers, tomatoes, and okra can produce fruit without the help of pollinators, but a visit from a foraging bee increases the bounty.

### 2. It's a Great Educational Tool

Building a bee-friendly garden is a fun project for adults, and it's also a wonderful way to promote an early love of science and bond with kids. Parents and children can discuss flower structure, plant reproduction, and insect behavior while watching bees forage in the garden. Children can implement experiments to discover bees' favorite flower color or help construct houses for different types of bees.

## Farm Toy of the Month

This John Deere 20-piece playset is the August toy that will help your little ones manage the farm herds. They'll have a pick-up truck, gator, tractor and wagon to haul livestock and feed from pasture to corral and cattle to horses.

Regular price is \$45.88, but Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount in August. Stop by to lasso your playset, say hi and visit our Farm Bureau store for toys and edibles.



### 3. It Cleans Your Air

All plants consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen during photosynthesis. And while plants consume oxygen and produce carbon dioxide at night, they create about ten times more oxygen than they use.

Plants absorb harmful pollutants through their leaves and roots, removing them from the air, soil, and water around them.

### 4. It Controls Unwanted Insects

If you're having trouble with nuisance insects, a pollinator garden might be the solution you're looking for. Gardens designed to attract pollinators are incredibly diverse, as they must have plants of different colors, shapes, and sizes flowering three seasons out of the year. The birds, bugs, and even bats that your garden attracts will eat problem bugs while the diverse assortment of plant life will help ensure that no single pest takes over.

### 5. It Makes You Happier

Gardening is more than a fun pastime; it can even be good for your mental health. Gardening can relieve your stress and reduce the risk of depression and anxiety, thanks to the benefits of moderate exercise and the restorative nature of natural settings. While any sort of garden can improve your mood, a pollinator garden is a great entry point for beginning gardeners who don't quite have a green thumb. Pollinator gardens typically use native plants, which are adapted to the specific climate they're grown in and require little care to thrive.

### RAIN GARDEN

Rain gardens are an inexpensive, simple to implement and environmentally sound solution to residential and urban storm water runoff. Increased imperviousness – the increased build up of towns and cities with buildings, roads, parking lots and

other hard surfaces – alters the local water cycle and inundates storm sewers and runoff with large quantities of storm water and associated contaminants.

By mimicking the natural absorption and pollutant removal abilities of a forest or meadow, rain gardens can absorb runoff more efficiently – as much as 30%-40% more than a standard lawn. By capturing rainwater in a rain garden, holding it, and then slowly releasing it into the soil, the rush of runoff from a large storm can be slowed and cleaned – quickly, neatly and naturally.

Rain gardens are a very good option to help lower the impact of impervious surfaces and polluted runoff because they are low-tech, inexpensive, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.

### A Rain Garden will:

- Filter pollutants from runoff
- Recharge groundwater
- Conserve water
- Reduce erosion
- Remove standing water
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pests
- Reduce potential of flooding
- Create habitat for birds & butterflies
- Survive drought seasons
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Enhance property value.



*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.

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

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

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

## Kane County Farmer

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# Farm Bureau is a family affair

By Ashley Rice, FarmWeek  
Wayne Gehrke of Kane County is no stranger to Farm Bureau. In fact, he jumped at the chance to be involved on the county level after college, and eventually the state level.

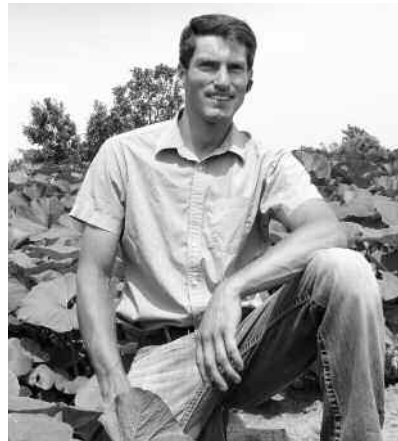
"I was involved with Young Leaders as soon as I graduated college in 2012," explained Gehrke. "I got involved with Young Leaders on the county level. My parents have been involved with Farm Bureau. Both of them have sat on the county board. So, it was a little bit of a family affair there, too. They were involved, so it was easy for me to get involved. I started to get involved on the state level by going to the agri-quizz bowl at the state fair and going on a couple of the agriculture industry tours. And as I got involved on the state level, I was asked to be on the Young Leader committee. It just kind of built on itself."

After attending college, Gehrke and his twin sister, Carolyn, both returned home to farm with their parents in the Maple Park area. "We farm on the urban edge," Gehrke noted.

Expanding the farming oper-

ation to include hay and pumpkins in addition to corn and soybeans, allowed both Wayne and Carolyn to return to the farm.

Their roadside pumpkin stand, known as The Pumpkin Wagon, is located on U.S.



Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Vice Chair Wayne Gehrke of Kane County kneels among his growing pumpkin plants. The pumpkins will be harvested and sold at The Pumpkin Wagon in Elgin this fall. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Gehrke)

Highway 20 in Elgin. At just 11 years old, Wayne and Carolyn started growing and selling pumpkins, and haven't stopped since.

"We are grateful to all the

customers who supported us then, and continue to do so almost 20 years later," shared Carolyn.

"Fall is one of our favorite times of the year, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to our stand," added Wayne.

As 2020 vice chair of the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders executive committee, Gehrke said the year has not been without challenges.

"It's certainly not what I expected as vice chair," noted Gehrke. "I think how we (the young leaders) adapt is kind of ongoing. We've all realized this isn't going away anytime soon, so what do we as a Young Leader committee want to be able to accomplish? I think that we as a committee will have to look and re-evaluate, and talk about ways that we can keep the membership involved and make sure that everyone is doing OK."

In closing, Gehrke noted how Farm Bureau and experienced agricultural professionals have been beneficial to him as young farmer.

"For those who aren't involved in Farm Bureau, I'd recommend it. It's played a big part in my life these last 10 years. Also, I would recommend seeking out advice from people who have been in the business – not being afraid to ask questions or to try new things."

# 'Much-needed' work underway on locks and dams along Illinois River

By Daniel Grant, FarmWeek  
If you think the transition from spring floods to low water levels and drought at some locations occurred quickly, you should check out the action at locks and dams along the Illinois River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District and contract workers sprang into action this month to work on much-needed and long-awaited repairs and upgrades at the LaGrange Lock and Dam in Versailles, Peoria (Creve Coeur), Starved Rock (Utica), Dresden Island (Morris) and Marseilles.

After days of preparatory work, such as setting bulkheads, the lock chamber at Peoria was drained in about 20 hours.

"We had some high water earlier this spring, but that hasn't really affected any of the sites," Mike Walsh, chief of lock and dams on the Illinois Waterway for the Corps' Rock Island District, said during a visit to the Peoria Lock and Dam. "Now the biggest concern is dealing with excessive heat. The goal is to keep everybody safe and cool."

The Peoria lock chamber was

dewatered for maintenance and inspection. Work at other sites includes major rehabilitation and lock machinery replacement at LaGrange, installation of upper and lower miter gates at Starved Rock, upper bulkhead recess installation at Dresden Island and upper miter gate installation at Marseilles.

"There's a lot of much-needed work going on," Walsh said. "Things are going pretty well so far. There's been no major issues yet."

The projects are scheduled to be completed between Sept. 30 and Oct. 29 to reopen river navigation during peak harvest time. And workers are putting in 12-hour shifts (in rotations of 11 days on and three days off) to make that happen.

"There's work going on here every day until we get it done," said Doug Morgan, lockmaster at the Peoria Lock and Dam. "The project is going well so far."

The Illinois Waterway System averages 13.3 million tons of cargo that passes through the lock system each year. It would take about 533,000 trucks or 121,000 rail cars to move the same material.

## Farmer's Markets

### Aurora Farmer's Markets

630 264-INFO(4636) • [www.aurorasfarmersmarket.com](http://www.aurorasfarmersmarket.com)

Downtown - 233 N Broadway

### Aurora Transportation Center

Saturdays, June 9 - October 20, 8am-Noon

Market West - 1901 W. Galena Blvd

### West Aurora Shopping Center

Wednesday, July 11 - September 26, noon-5

### Batavia Farmer's Market

North River Street (between Wilson & State)

Saturdays, June 2-Oct 27, 8am-Noon • 630-761-3528

[www.downtownbatavia.com](http://www.downtownbatavia.com)

### Geneva French Market

Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St.

Sundays, April 27 - November 16, 9am-2pm

[www.bensidoun-usa.com](http://www.bensidoun-usa.com) • 724-800-0102

### Geneva Green Market, NFP

75 N. River Lane, Geneva

<http://www.genevagreenmarket.org> • (630) 313-9632

June, July, August, September, October - Thursday 7 am to 1 pm

### Elgin Farmer's Market

Grove Ave, Between DuPage Crt & Fulton St

Fridays, June 1 - Oct. 5, 3pm-7pm

[www.downtownelgin.com](http://www.downtownelgin.com)

### Old Dundee Farmers' Market

East Dundee, Illinois

(847) 742-3432

319 N River St., East Dundee, Illinois 60118

May-October - Saturday, 7a.m. - 2p.m.)

### East Dundee Farmer's Market

319 N. River St., East Dundee

Saturdays/Sundays, May 12 - October 27, 8am-2pm

847-426-4307 - [www.dundeedepot.com](http://www.dundeedepot.com)

### Huntley Farmers Market

11704 Coral Street, Huntley

<http://www.huntley.il.us>

(847) 669-9600

June, July, August, October - Saturday 8am - 1pm)

### St. Charles Farmer's Market

630-584-6680

[www.bakermemorialchurch.org](http://www.bakermemorialchurch.org)

### Outdoor Market

Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64

Fridays, June 1 - October 26, 8am-1pm

### Sugar Grove Farmers Market

Sugar Grove Village Hall, Rt. 30 & Municipal Drive

Saturdays, June 2 - September 29, 8am-12pm

## Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their memorial contributions to the FOUNDATION in honor of Ken Bartels. These contributions help contribute to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from June 16-July 16, 2020.



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for the future of farms & food

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## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



### Online Summer Teacher Training

With schools closed and large gatherings on hold, maybe you're wondering what Ag in the Classroom has been up to. With no Ag Days, Touch-a-Tractor, reading to kids in classrooms or Summer Ag Institutes for teachers, how can we best reach teachers, kids and the community? Our wonderful partners at Illinois Ag in the Classroom have been holding teacher trainings on Tuesdays and virtual field trips on Thursdays throughout June and July. (They are all archived at [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) in case you missed it!) This month I'll cover Teacher Trainings and next month we'll review virtual field trips you can take.

**Overview of resources.** All of the remote learning resources created from March to June – Everyday Ag, Eggs in the Classroom, Scrambled States – are all still available online at [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org). They are combinations of videos, recom-

mended reading and hands-on activities that teach everything from technology to biology to geography. New Ag Mags on Horses and Poultry are now available in both print versions and interactive online versions. In the works are updated versions of Apple, Pollinator, Water and Pumpkin Ag Mags.

Teacher trainings have also discussed the food system, as there have been reports – or fears – of food shortages. Kevin Daugherty, IFB Education Director, made the point that there is not necessarily a shortage of food but a blockage in the distribution system. 54% of food spending occurs in restaurants and school cafeterias, and when they closed or reduced service, food producers needed to dramatically alter how their product was processed and packaged. Take milk or eggs, for instance: what restaurants, hotels and school want is very different from what consumers want. Consumers don't want half pints of milk (as is served in schools) and they want one

dozen eggs, not two-and-a-half dozen, as a restaurant or hotel might purchase.

**STEMs and Leaves.** STEM is all about connecting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math lessons to real world problems. It is project and inquiry based. IFB Education Coordinator Stephanie Hospelhorn found that when she was teaching, sports, cars, fashion, and culinary arts were can't miss topics for both boys and girls. Other popular topics are animals, gardening, and sustainability. She recommends having kids work independently or with a group to build and design something. For instance, read about a native bird species and the food they eat, then design and build a bird feeder appropriate to the area they live in. Other ideas:

- **Sports & Recreation:** Design a park in your community. Use Google maps to find a location, choose plants, features like benches or fountains, and decide what materials are best for the ground surface. Design a golf course or mini-golf course. Have kids choose location, maintenance, and layout. Design a sports arena. Take into consideration the audience capacity, location, entrances, concessions, and locker rooms.

Upper level students could consider how to reduce food waste.

- **Fashion:** Design your own clothing line. Where do different materials come from? How and where does cotton grow? What is the cost of materials; how do you take measurements? Create a marketplace, learn how to barter and how to sell. Consider what other uses clothing provides, such as uniforms and protective gear.

- **Culinary Arts:** Create your own bread recipe: where do the ingredients come from? Why are the ratios the way they are? What will happen if you use two teaspoons of baking soda instead of one? Invite a baker to come in or meet virtually. Create a solar oven. Research windmills – how they work and why certain locations are chosen.

- **Ag History.** Check out [Growinganation.org](http://Growinganation.org), a project of the National Center for Agricultural Literacy, which traces the history of the nation through agriculture from the 1600s to the present. Teachers and students can learn about individuals who made important contributions to agriculture such as Eli Whitney, Cyrus McCormick and Booker T. Washington, study topics such as science and technology, eco-

nomics and trade, environmental and sustainable practices, and social policies such as food stamps and school lunch programs. Discussion questions are provided to prompt conversation.

Back at [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org), you'll find lesson plans for Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Lincoln and other founding fathers and their relationship with agriculture. Look for teacher resources/lesson booklets/history/"Change for a dollar" lessons.

You never know when you'll come across an "aha" moment among these resources: I learned where the term "flailing" or "flailing about" comes from. Maybe our farming-savvy readers already know this but a "flail" is an agricultural tool that was used for threshing grain, which is the removal of the husks from the grain. It consisted of two pieces of wood, one longer and one shorter, and was attached by a piece of rope, leather, or small chain. The grain would be beaten or threshed with the flail, which allowed a person to thresh about seven bushels of grain a day. As a comparison, with today's high tech farm equipment, combines can harvest 900 bushels of corn per hour.

## Book of the month

*The Life and Times of Corn* is a 32-page beautifully illustrated, chock-full-of-facts book that will appeal to kids K-5. There are sections covering it all – from its early American history to how it is grown, harvested and used.

The author points out that when the early European explorers came to the Americas, they were looking for riches like gold and didn't pay much attention to corn. That was their mistake – today, the annual

value of the corn crop in the United States is ten times larger than the gold mined in the country, with corn at 50 billion dollars and gold at 5 billion dollars. The book describes parts of a corn plant and notes that it can grow taller than 20 feet and its roots extend more than six feet. Corn leaves absorb 97% of the plant's nutrition from the air. Corn yields more seeds per plant than any other grain. Wheat averages 60 seeds per plant, oats 100 seeds, and corn 800 seeds.

Did you know there are a rainbow of colors and patterns on different types of corn? There are pink, red, blue-black, green, blue, purple and even painted. Patterns can include starburst, striped, half and half, speckled and spotted.

People have been enjoying popcorn for more than 4,000 years. When dampened, kernels

older than 1,000 years have still popped. In the year 500, Peruvians popped corn in clay poppers and in 1945 Percy Spencer invented microwave popcorn while experimenting with microwave energy.

Corn grows to maturity in about four months. Corn grows so fast that some farmers claim to hear it growing! Sweet corn is harvested when the plant is still green and the kernels are juicy and have a high sugar content.

Dent corn is harvested when the plant is straw colored, the kernels are dry, and the sugar has turned to starch, which fattens cattle and pigs.

Corn is grown in every state. The United States produces about 13 billion bushels of corn; each bushel weighs 56 pounds and contains kernels from about 91 cobs. Corn has so many useful purposes that about one quarter of all supermarket items contain some form of corn.

As you drive by all those cornfields across the Midwest this summer, you may think about Peruvians popping corn 1,500 years ago or the 4,000-some products that are made from corn.

Come check out *The Life and Times of Corn* in the KCFB library, made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen family.



*The Life and Times of Corn* by Charles Micucci

## Helping you protect what matters most



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



**Todd Wilcox**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1326



**Bobbi Boston**  
St. Charles  
630-485-5155



**Keith Eakins**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1324



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



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



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



**Ashraf Gerdes**  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



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



**Deb Stob**  
Geneva  
630-208-0890



**Michael O'Brien**  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



**Jeff Jones**  
Geneva  
847-989-9989



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



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



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



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



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



**Gary Bolger**  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



**Sherri Schramer**  
Elburn  
630-365-9500



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



**Chuck 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



Like us on Facebook for a weekly recipe and helping of humor:  
**kanecountyfarmbureau**







# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## Did you know?

In Illinois, we grow several different types of corn: **Sweet corn** is the kind of corn that is grown in gardens and is sold on the cob in grocery stores, farmers markets and roadside stands. This is also the type of corn in the canned and frozen veggie aisle at the store.

**Popcorn** is another type of corn that we eat. Illinois ranks 3rd in the nation for popcorn production. Popcorn is also the official Illinois snack food. There is a little bit of water in every kernel of popcorn. When the kernel is heated, the water heats and builds pressure. The pressure makes the water take up all the available space. When enough pressure builds up, the kernel pops and turns inside out.

**Field corn**, or dent corn (when it dries, a small dent is formed in each kernel), is a special type of corn that has a hard outer-shell and is full of starch. 94% of the corn grown in the United States is field corn. There are over 4,000 uses for corn products and more are being found every day. Corn is used in everything from livestock feed to cereal, wall paper, skateboards, cosmetics and even plastic. Today, some brands of carpet, as well as the stuffing in pillows and bed comforters are made from corn plastic that has been spun like cotton.

### Corn by the Numbers

#### Corn use in Illinois:

- 39% Exports – domestic (to other U.S. states) and international
- 26% Ethanol
- 20% Processing
- 9% Livestock Feed
- 9% Other on-farm uses

#### One bushel of field corn can produce:

- 2.8 gallons of fuel ethanol
- 17.5 pounds of distillers dried grains
- 13.5 pounds of gluten feed
- 2.6 pounds of gluten meal
- 1.5 pounds of corn oil

## Zucchini corn muffins

Recipe from Amy Cook

I needed to do something with the bounty of zucchini my CSA provided, so I put some in my favorite corn muffin recipe. It added a nice, moist texture. Eggs, honey, milk, cornmeal, flour and zucchini can all be sourced locally – check out the Bounty of Kane on our website and [BuyFreshBuyLocalIllinois.org](http://BuyFreshBuyLocalIllinois.org) to find local producers.

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cup shredded zucchini

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Whisk eggs, milk, oil, honey and sugar in bowl. In a separate bowl, mix together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet, mix until incorporated and let sit for 10 minutes. Add shredded zucchini and mix together. Put muffin liners in 12-cup muf-

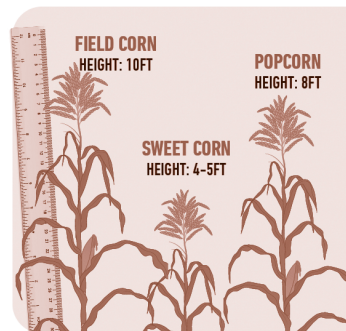
fin tin or use cooking spray. Fill each muffin cup 3/4 of the way full and bake for 20-24 minutes, until tester inserted in middle comes out clean (mine were ready at 22 minutes).



## Make your own corn putty

1. Place 1 cup of cornstarch in a bowl.
2. Add 1/4 cup plus 1 table-spoon water to the cornstarch.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to the bowl.
4. Blend mixture with a fork. It should flow when the bowl is tipped but feel solid when you touch it. If it is too thick, add a little water. If it is too runny, add a little cornstarch.
5. Play with it like clay, then watch it become liquid again.

FIELD CORN. SWEET CORN. POPCORN. CAN YOU SPOT DIFFERENCE?



THE EASIEST WAY TO SPOT THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE KERNEL THE SIZE, SHAPE, AND COLOR

**FIELD CORN**

- DENTED
- STARCHY
- HARD-KERNELED
- MATURE
- ACCOUNTS FOR 98% OF CORN GROWN IN IL
- YELLOW COLOR

**SWEET CORN**

- SMOOTH & GLOSSY
- FULLY FORMED BUT NOT MATURE
- ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST 2% OF CORN GROWN IN IL
- YELLOW & WHITE COLOR

**POPCORN**

- WATER IS INSIDE EACH KERNEL
- HARD-KERNELED
- MATURE
- ACCOUNTS FOR LESS THAN 1% OF CORN GROWN IN IL
- GOLDEN COLOR



## A corny puzzle

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

- BUSHEL
- CEREAL
- COMBINE
- CROP
- EAR
- ETHANOL
- EXPORT
- FRUIT
- GERM
- GRAIN
- HARVEST
- HULL
- MAIZE
- PERICARP
- POPCORN
- PROCESS
- SILKS
- STALK
- STARCH
- TASSEL
- TECHNOLOGY
- TIPCAP
- TRANSPORT
- VEGETABLE



### August ...

#### Month & Day holidays

- Family Fun Month
- Catfish Month
- Golf Month
- Peach Month
- Water Quality Month
- Picnic Month
- August 1** Campfire Day
- August 2** Friendship Day
- August 3** Watermelon Day
- August 8** Sneak some zucchini onto your neighbor's porch day
- August 12** Middle child day
- August 15** Honey bee awareness day
- August 19** Potato day
- August 27** Forgiveness day
- August 31** Eat outside day

## Jokes

- How much does a pirate pay for corn?  
*A buccaneer.*
- What does corn say when it receives a compliment?  
*Aw, shucks!*
- Why are all the corn stalks afraid of Jimmy?  
*Because Jimmy cracks corn and he doesn't care!*
- How is an ear of corn like an army?  
*They both have a lot of kernels.*

## Congratulations

**Tammy Lloyd** of Elburn is this month's word search winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a garden themed prize bag to be picked up at the Farm Bureau with the next 30 days. (Prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Tammy, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by August 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a corn themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within 30 days.





**Corn engrained in lifestyle**

We named our puppy Maizey, playing on the corn

phrase “maize.” The name seemed fitting for a yellow-colored Labrador and a tribute to the crop at the root of our livelihoods. We also thought the name was unique until we learned the farmer two miles south calls his dog the same.

Farmers throughout Illinois share a connection to corn. We grow it, talk about it, and drive around just to look at it. We monitor its stages of development, the rain it receives, and its

health in our own fields, as well as around the county, state, and Midwest. We invest in the technology to plant it at consistent depths and precise distances to resemble picket fences at emergence. Tech-driven applications of fertilizer and herbicides help achieve the overall industry goal of more grain with less environmental impact. By mid-summer, farmers marvel at tassels and worry when forecasted storms with high winds could

tattle the crop under their care before harvesting it.

Corn helps pay the bills for Illinois’ more than 72,000 farms, most of which grow field corn, a grain used for food, feed, and fuel. The Illinois Corn Growers Association reports that the crop adds \$17.5 billion annually to the state’s economy. Illinois’ top crop also impacts every American who buys fuel, eats food, or uses everyday items that contain corn, like batteries, toothpaste, and diapers.

Our household enjoys all types of corn, which includes eating popcorn and sweet corn, planted in time to harvest for my husband’s August birthday. Even beyond the growing season, corn maintains a presence in our home. At Christmas, I decorate a farm-themed tree

with a string of corn lights. A space atop our kitchen cabinets holds ears of corn for display, and the custom-made handrails that flank our porch steps feature steel silhouettes of young corn plants. The blacksmith even added ears of corn at the mounting plates.

Our daughter last fall made some extra income weighing trucks of corn during harvest at the family grain storage facility. For a computer science class last year, our son illustrated a combine harvesting corn for his animated transition slides. We’re a little crazy about corn, and Maizey provides some evidence.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers’ family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.*

**Welcome to the next level!**

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

**Regular Members**

**Keith Engel Hampshire Morton Zwick Henderson, NV**

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.*

**USMCA in effect: Good news for farmers**

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is in effect, at a crucial time for farmers and ranchers struggling to recover from COVID-19 losses and a depressed agricultural economy. The expected \$2 billion annual increase in U.S. agricultural exports and overall increase of \$65 billion in gross domestic product will provide a welcome boost.

USDA estimates COVID-19 contributed to a \$50 billion decline in commodity value alone for 2019, 2020 and 2021 production totals. This does not include all of agriculture’s losses, which would be billions more.

“The launch of the USMCA brings optimism to the country’s

farmers and ranchers at a time they need it the most,” said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. “We’re grateful for the opportunity to build on the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and we’re eager to see the results on America’s farms. It’s important that our neighbors uphold their end of the deal, so the agreement provides a stabilizing force amid the unpredictability of a pandemic in all three countries.”

Under USMCA, Canada will increase quotas on U.S. dairy products, benefitting American dairy farmers by \$242 million. Canada will also treat wheat imports the same as domestic

wheat for grading purposes. Mexico has also agreed that all grading standards for ag products will be non-discriminatory. The agreement also enhances science-based trading standards among the three nations.

USMCA is not a magic bullet for all the challenges facing agriculture, however. A University of Florida study shows Mexico gaining ground in imports of produce like tomatoes, strawberries and bell peppers. USMCA does not alter the rules for imports of produce from Mexico. Farm Bureau supports the United States Trade Representative and USDA field hearings to receive grower input on the issue.

**IDOA Announces Dates for Junior Livestock and Horse Shows**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will host junior livestock and horse shows providing Illinois’ youth with an opportunity to show their animals during an unprecedented show season.

The Junior Livestock Expo will take place in Springfield over the course of two weekends in September. Beef, sheep, dairy goats, pygmy goats and rabbits will all show September 11th-13th. Swine, dairy cattle and meat goats will have their turn in the show ring on September 18th-20th.

A Junior Horse Show will take place on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. The show will run for two weekends on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, with English showing August 29th-30th and Western September 5th-6th.

“After the cancellations of

the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairs we knew there was a need to recognize our junior exhibitors who work year round preparing for the fairs,” said Jerry Costello II, Acting IDOA Director. “We are excited to provide modified shows that will provide an opportunity for young adults to exhibit their animals safely following the Restore Illinois plan.”

Shows are limited to Illinois residents between the ages of 8-21. The entry fee for those participating in the Junior Horse Show is \$10. Junior Livestock Entry Fees are as follows:

- Beef .....\$20
- Dairy Cattle .....\$15
- Swine .....\$15
- Sheep .....\$15
- Goats.....\$15
- Rabbits .....\$1
- Poultry .....\$1

**2020 YOUNG LEADER**

**DISCUSSION MEET**

**Topics for District Discussion Meets:**

**International trade is important to agriculture. We must continue working to build strong relations with existing customers while seeking out new trade partners to strengthen market stability. How can we enhance existing, and establish new and diverse foreign trading partners?**

**The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?**

**Additional Topics for State Competition:**

Connectivity underpins the modern economy. What mix of investment and policy initiatives can provide reliable broadband access to farmers, ranchers and rural America?

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters creates additional risk for farmers and ranchers. What tools and production practices can be engaged to reduce climate and weather risks?

Is big data a big solution or big exposure? Technology tools are often cited as a method of increasing productivity and profitability, but there are liabilities that go along with technology. As young farmers and ranchers we are often first adopters. How do we ensure clear understanding of the risks and rewards of big data and smart farming?

Entries due to your county Farm Bureau 7 days before your district competition.

Walk-in competitors who are not registered will NOT be allowed this year due to social distancing guidelines and preparation.

Contact your county Farm Bureau\* for eligibility and contest information.

Districts	Date	Location	Orientation Time	Contest Starting Time
1	Mon. Aug. 10	DeKalb County FB, Sycamore	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
2	Tues. Aug. 25	Stephenson County FB, Freeport	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
3	Wed. Aug. 5	Henry County FB, Cambridge	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
4	Tues. Aug. 11	Bureau County FB, Princeton (previous location at 535 Elm Place)	5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
5 & 6	Wed. Aug. 5	Schaefer Pioneer, Mazon	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
7 & 8	Wed. Aug. 19	Peoria County FB, Peoria	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
9	Tues. Aug. 25	Hancock County FB, Carthage	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
10	Thurs. July 30	Sangamon County FB, Springfield	6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
11 & 12	Wed. Aug. 26	Macon County FB, Decatur	6:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
13 & 17	Tues. Aug. 4	Edwards County FB, Albion	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
14	Wed. Aug. 12	Effingham County FB, Effingham	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
15 & 16	Wed. Aug. 19	St. Clair County FB, Belleville	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
18	Fri. Aug. 14	Saline County FB, Harrisburg	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

For more details - <https://bit.ly/ILFBYLDN> or [facebook.com/ilfbyl](https://facebook.com/ilfbyl)

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## A SUMMER SHOW IN OUR BACKYARD

By Alice Macha



Ahh – summer. Even with a pandemic in place, my husband and I are having a great time with all the visitors to our suburban yard. It’s a busy, busy summer at our place with only scant attention to social distancing.

We plant lots of annuals, perennials and a few vegetables for ourselves, but also to attract the summer show that unfolds daily. We sit on the patio on summer mornings and evenings and watch the parade of hummingbirds, monarch and swallowtail butterflies, humming-

bird clearwing moths, wasps and bumblebees and so many more critters that zigzag through the garden, visiting the monarda, phlox, joe pye weed, cucumber and tomato blooms, and zinnias. They flutter and jostle each other from bloom to bloom. We are soothed by the soft drone of bees, the wheezy trills of an earful of waxwings and the animated chatter of finches.

Because the garden is an inviting place for pollinators, it is also an inviting place for garden predators. Dragonflies,

KANE COUNTY FARMER  
garter snakes (don’t let “snake” scare you, these little guys are non-venomous, shy, and great garden assets), praying mantises, toads and cedar waxwings are occasional or frequent visitors to the yard. The dragonflies put on Blue Angel quality flying displays and land enticingly close, observing us with the cocky attitude of a fighter pilot as we observe them.

When the blooms wane, seed heads emerge and those are fodder for an additional wave of birds – goldfinches,

house finches, sparrows and others land on the stems, making them nod and dance in the late summer garden.

The yard is ever entertaining – there is always some crea-



ture doing something that invites observation, conversation and photo attempts. It all

PAGE 7  
provides endless distraction for our house cat, who pats insects on the windows and stalks birds on the patio, all from the comfort of his air conditioned home. I am excited to watch Kane County Farm Bureau’s pollinator/rain garden take root and become a place of refuge and recharging for pollinators. To paraphrase the conversation between “Shoeless” Joe Jackson and Ray Kinsella in the film “Field of Dreams,” “Is this Heaven?” No – it’s a peaceful pollinator garden. “If you build it, they will come.” I hope so because I could use more entertainment at work! Looking forward to the show.

## Raging Waves

45% savings at Illinois’ largest outdoor water park!

Head on out for some fun in the sun (and water) this summer! Grab your family and friends and check out Aussie-themed Raging Waves, located just south of Kane County in Yorkville, it’s also Illinois’ largest outdoor water park! Enjoy summer with a visit to this family-friendly water park featuring 32 water slides, 3 separate kiddie pool area, wave pool, lazy river, 26 private cabanas and more.

New for 2020! Raging Waves welcomes the Aussie Mat Dash 6 lane racer, it is just 1 of 3 in the world!

Other attractions include: Quokka-Nut Island, a new interactive play area for the Lil mates (ages 2-5) including slides and zero-depth pool. Also home to



Wonambi – The only of its kind in the Midwest, a four person tube and a slide.

Tickets purchased this year

from KCFB will be available to be used for Raging Waves 2020 & 2021 season, advance reservation will be required for ALL guests prior to each visit! Stop by Kane County Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for only \$19.00! Regularly priced tickets are \$34.99 (for over 42” tall) but with your Farm Bureau membership discount, you will save 45% off of the original price!

Learn more about the park updates for the 2020 season at <https://www.ragingwaves.com/2020updates>.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Donna Tonovitz! Donna has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since July 2004.

Her office is located at 1750 E. Main St, Unit 90, St. Charles and may be reached at: 630-549-7694. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Donna Tonovitz

## What’s new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

CHUCK QUICK has been named the Rep of the Month for June 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Chuck 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 Chuck’s expert-

ise help you! You may reach Chuck at 847-683-2100, [charles.quick@countryfinancial.com](mailto:charles.quick@countryfinancial.com), or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/charles.quick/>. Congratulations, Chuck!

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

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for

July, 2020. 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!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

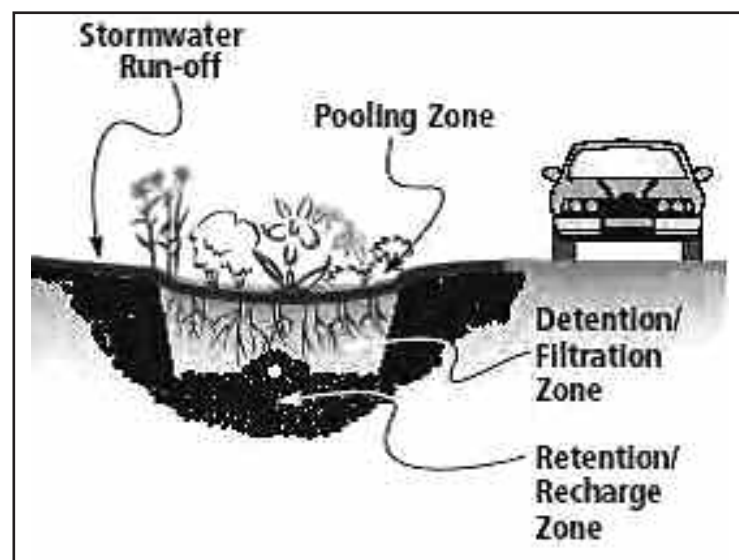
**CLASSIFIED AD RATES**  
Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$20 minimum (60 words or less). **DISCOUNTS** for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. Ads due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified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

### SERVICES

Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. – Tree removal, tree trimming, & stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured – Free Estimates – Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730.

### WANTED

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



This image depicts how a rain garden is designed to gather and filter storm water from a parking lot to remove pollutants and percolate into the water table below for groundwater recharge. See much more about the pollinator/rain garden planting on pages 1 and 8.

Sweet summer peaches are calling. See page 8 to order.



## Savor Summer flavors! Fresh abounds at these farms and markets

### --- Farm Stands ---

#### Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch

42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire; Lloyd; 847-464-5952; [emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com](mailto:emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com)

#### Heritage Prairie Mkt & Edu. Ctr.,

2N308 Brundidge Rd., Elburn; Nate; 630-443-5989; [hpmfarm.com](http://hpmfarm.com)

#### Klein's Farm & Garden Mkt.

Rt 20, Udina/1175 Lillian St., Elgin; Matt Klein; 847-683-9647; [kleinsqualityproduce.com](http://kleinsqualityproduce.com)

#### Kuipers Family Farm

1N318 Watson Rd., Maple Park; Wade & Kim Kuipers; 815-827-5200; [kuipersfamilyfarm.com](http://kuipersfamilyfarm.com)

#### Prairie View Farm Market

48W130 Rt 72, Hampshire; 847-683-4970; Cheryl; [prairieviewfarmmarket.com](http://prairieviewfarmmarket.com)

#### Randy's Vegetables

I-90 at Randall Rd., Elgin/Sleepy Hollow; 847-428-5244; [randysvegetables@aol.com](mailto:randysvegetables@aol.com)

#### Stojan Vegetables

2N874 Howard Rd., Maple Park; Phil Stojan; 815-827-3265; [stojans.vegetables@gmail.com](mailto:stojans.vegetables@gmail.com)

#### Theis Farm Market

6N953 County Line Rd., Maple Park; 815-757-1090; [theisfarmmarket.com](http://theisfarmmarket.com)

#### Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse

10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley; 847-669-3421; [tomsfarmmarket.com](http://tomsfarmmarket.com)

#### Wiltse Farm Produce

50W379 Rt. 38, Maple Park; Joe Wiltse; 815-739-2573; [wiltsefarm.com](http://wiltsefarm.com)

#### Windy Acres Farm

37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva; Amanda Srail; 630-232-6429; [windyacresfarmstand.com](http://windyacresfarmstand.com)



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# Volunteers help make Pollinator/Rain Garden planting a success

Top row, left to right: A score of volunteers set to work with shovels, trowels, electric and gas powered augers to dig the holes for the 300+ plants to be put in the ground.

Second row, left to right: Kane County Board member Chris Kious of Algonquin packs soil around the roots of a Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) while Lily Kenyon helps mom Heidi by watering newly planted Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). (photos by Jodie Wollnik)

Third row, left to right: (l-r) Joseph White of Batavia and Dale Pitstick of Elburn kept a steady supply of mulch coming in 5 gallon buckets and wheelbarrows to fill in around the plants and suppress weeds. Volunteers used shovels, trowels, pitchforks and finally rakes to spread and level the mulch.

Bottom row, left to right: While some volunteers had other obligations, those remaining at the end enjoyed a meal hot off the grill under the shade of a Sycamore on the Farm Bureau front lawn.



## Thank You!



Kane County Farm Bureau wishes to thank the following for helping us install a demonstration Pollinator Garden that will help educate farmers and residents on the benefits of combining stormwater management and a pollinator garden. Visitors to our Touch-A-Tractor event and participants in Teacher Institutes and Summer Ag Institutes will be among the beneficiaries of this learning laboratory. It will also show farmers how to meet the Best Management Requirements for the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance. The garden can easily be seen from Randall Road and we look forward to seeing it grow!

- Kane County Water Resources Department
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- Forest Preserve District of Kane County
- Prairie Fence and Landscape
- Midwest Groundcovers
- C&C Mulch
- The Conservation Foundation
- Rob Linke
- Jessica Mino
- Jodie Wollnik
- William Keisler
- Paula Keisler
- Natasha Keisler
- Chris Kious
- Jami White
- Joseph White
- Harvey Miller

- Heidi Brightman
- Lily Kenyon
- Carol Kenyon
- Suzi Myers
- Chuck Bauer
- Brandi Timko
- Leonard Timko
- Peter Dall
- Dan Lobbes
- Joe White
- Dale Pitstick
- Randy Pauli
- Bill Collins
- Amy Cook
- Liz Polovin
- Sindhu Saveen
- Steve Arnold
- Alice Macha



## KCFB Pollinator/Rain Garden Plant Species Used

- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



## Don't miss out on fresh peaches

The Kane County Farm Bureau is now taking orders for juicy, homegrown Peaches fresh from Rendleman Orchards, a southern Illinois grower.

These delicious peaches are washed, hydro-cooled, graded to US #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, approximately 60 packaged in a 25 lb. wax coated fancy box with a lid. They are delivered to our office on Randall Road the morning of pickup in a refrigerated truck for freshness and long lasting quality.

The grower recommends the peaches, which are available in the month of August, for their sweetness and juicy flavor. If you like to make peach pie or cobbler, or you like to can or freeze peaches, now is the time to take advantage of this once a year offer.

Peaches are highly perishable. They are shipped when they are a little green so that when they arrive they are not bruised with juice running out of the box. The grower recommends that the peaches be refrigerated immediately when you get them unless you are planning to can or freeze them within the next day. Then when

you want to use them, you can take out however many you think you will use in the next day, let them sit out in a paper sack overnight, and they should be ripe and ready to eat or cook with. Peaches should not be out of the refrigerator for more than 24 hours. If they are left out too long, they are very susceptible to mold.

The price for a 25 lb. box is \$36.00 and Plus status members: \$34.20. PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER. You can

order by filling out the form and sending it in with your check, or call the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 and pay with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Pick-up will be Monday, August 17 from 11:00am - 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office, west side of the building.

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 4 PM Wednesday, August 12**

**Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Monday, August 17 from 11:00a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

### Fresh Peaches



Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$36.00 /box (members) \$34.20/box (Plus)  
 \$38.00/box (Non-members)

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660



Family and friends gathered on the parking lot of the Kane County Farm Bureau on July 19 to recognize the academic accomplishments of students who earned KCFB Foundation Scholarships for 2020-21. The brief outdoor ceremony was conducted from a car trailer used as a makeshift stage. See full story on page 1.

## She's back—

Kane County farmer Stevi Pondelick from Theis Farm Market is back at the KCFB, in the parking lot most Tuesdays, providing fresh and locally grown vegetables to Farm Bureau members. Theis Farm Market is one of dozens of local Farm Bureau member farms

that sell direct to consumers on farm, through roadside stands and at Farmers Markets.

Check them out at [www.bountyofkane.org](http://www.bountyofkane.org). Have product to sell? Give Steve Arnold a call at 630 584-8660 to discuss opportunities to market to Farm Bureau members.

### AUGUST FEATURED FOOD PRODUCT

#### Bratwurst

These delicious, awarding winning Brats are back for August! The box contains 20 award winning Bratwurst from Inboden's. This special is offered for \$26.20 to Farm Bureau Members. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Offered while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.