

# 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. 81 NO. 8 AUGUST 2016

## Educators discover importance of Agriculture

By Susie Thompson

On Tuesday morning, June 28th, 2016, ten instructors from a wide range of educational institutes gathered together for a four day long seminar, known as Summer Ag Institute II (SAI II). Summer Ag Institutes are designed for educators who are looking to expand their curriculum to include one of our nation's largest industries: agriculture. The theme for 2016 SAI II was "Hungry Planet."

Participants gathered at the Kane County Farm Bureau on Tuesday to learn about the growing world population and decreasing resources available to feed nine billion people by the year 2050. With diminishing means to produce enough food, agriculturalists have been working on innovative strategies to generate more food using fewer resources. These teachers ranged from kindergarten and college level, to librarians and high school counselors. While there may have been a diverse group of educators gathered together, all ten had one thing in common: furthering their education in agriculture to share with their students.

Tuesday included presentations from Illinois Ag in the Classroom Education Specialist Brad Banning, as well as from our very own Suzi Myers. These thought provoking lessons provided participants with the basic background knowledge on world hunger, to prepare them for the next three days of travel and discovery.

On Wednesday, we travelled to Dresden Lock and Dam, located in Morris. We toured the facility and learned the impact

waterways have on transporting goods around the country. The group learned that barges take approximately 1 1/2 miles to come to a complete halt, and it takes the crew 2-3 hours to unload the barge and send it back on the water, a very strategic and rigorous process. From Morris the group travelled to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva. Here our group attended a workshop where we learned devastating facts about hunger right here in Kane County. According to the National School Lunch Program, 69 Kane County schools have 50% or more children receiving free or reduced priced meals – that's 57% of total schools in our county. More than 129,000 meals were served to hungry children and families at 30 unique sites around Kane County during the 2015-2016 school year. As a group, we were able to discuss with the workshop presenter our personal experiences with NIFB programs and how their impact has greatly contributed to feeding our growing planet.

Thursday morning our group loaded up to head to our first site of the day: Mighty Vine. Located in Rochelle, this hydroponic tomato farm had over 100,000 plants in their 7.5 acre greenhouse – that's larger than five football fields combined! Mighty Vine Vice-President Danny Murphy gave us a grand tour of the enormous facility,

and educated our group on the hydroponic process. The greenhouse is powered by solar energy, and uses rain water as their main source to hydrate the tomato plants in the greenhouse. Mighty Vine has begun to build a second 7.5 acre greenhouse, identical to their current facility, which will be completed this fall. Mighty Vine takes great pride in exclusively stocking their product in local grocery stores. "The best food is grown closest to home," stated Murphy. From Rochelle, the group headed towards Waterman, where the Monsanto Research Plant is located. Our group visited various parts of the operation, from the entomology room (where various insects are grown and studied) to the greenhouses where crops are monitored and studied for research. Finally, our van travelled to our last destination: Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. FMSC is a non-profit organization committed to feeding malnourished children across the globe. In just two hours, we helped package over 110 boxes, which held almost 4,000 meals! In just a couple weeks, these meals will be delivered to famished children in Burkina Faso, a country located in West Africa.

To wrap up an eventful week, all ten participants gathered together with KCFB AG Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers on Friday and presented

their lesson plans to incorporate the agricultural knowledge and experiences they gained throughout the week. Sitting in

on this session and hearing the unique takeaways each educator had was truly eye opening.

(continued on page 3)

Photos, top to bottom:

Susie Thompson

Mighty Vine in Rochelle supports the fight for hunger at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The teachers in KCFB's SAI II get the opportunity to tour both as part of the "Hungry Planet" curriculum, earning graduate credits or CPDU's for their attendance. They even got the chance to see Mighty Vine donating some of their tomatoes to the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Teachers in SAI II take a closer look at the corn crop at the Monsanto Research facility in Waterman. At the research facility, the scientists test the resistance of seeds to certain diseases in corn crops.



## Opportunity for Farm Bureau travel

**Tournament of Roses Parade – December 30-January 3, 2017**

This FUN travel experience includes many highlights! You will have the chance to visit to the float barns and see select floats as they are being constructed. On Rose Parade day, watch the parade with top category grandstand seats on West Colorado, while enjoying a boxed lunch! Other highlights include a wonderful tour of greater Los Angeles encompassing: Santa Monica, Bel-Air/Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive,

Sunset Strip, Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Farmers Market and much more.

The tour includes round trip airfare, round trip airport transfers, four nights accommodations at the Double Tree Hotel Torrance! The cost is \$2,299.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

**Romantic Rhine and Mosel River Cruise – departure date is September 21, 2017**

There is no better way to experience the Rhine and Mosel Rivers than by cruising through

the heart of central Europe aboard the exclusively chartered river ship the MV Emerald Belle.

Enjoy a complete itinerary with this 11 day trip! Destinations include: the

Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland, including 2 nights in Lucerne. Price varies per cabin selection.

Please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau for more information @ 630-584-8660.

## Pokémon Go craze brings visitors to KCFB lawn

By now we're sure everyone in the world has heard in some way about the new Pokémon Go, which has gone viral to say the least. The game, produced by Nintendo, was released in the United States on Wednesday, July 6th. The smartphone game allows players to use their phone's GPS to find and catch Pokémon (monster-like mythical creatures), and digitally battle with other "trainers." The game itself is widely popular with all age groups, as you have probably noticed groups of children, teens, and young adults, wandering around downtown areas, parks, museums, and other public places with their eyes glued to their phones.

(continued on page 3)



Screenshot from Tech Insider

**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
*August*

**August 4**  
Board of Directors, 7:30pm

**August 6**  
Summer Nights at Brookfield Zoo

**August 5-6**  
Young Farmers Kane-Champaign County Exchange

**August 11-21**  
Illinois State Fair, Springfield

**August 16**  
Ag Day & Young Farmers Quiz Bowl at State Fair

Last day to order Peaches

**August 25**  
Peach Pick Up, 2-6

The Northern Illinois Farm Bureaus present 2 fun travel options!

### August Featured Product Pork Back Ribs

The special for August is Meaty Pork Back Ribs. These are meaty ribs and have been described as a "pork chop on a stick." Each 5.5 pound box contains a 2.75 lb. slab and 2 slabs per package of uncooked, unseasoned ribs. We are selling each delicious box \$25.00 for members and \$23.50 for PLUS members and \$28.00 for non-members. Available for the month of August at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.

*It's Peach Order time! Order yours on page 8.*

# KCFB Board Review

July 7

The July meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:30 pm. Michael Long of Big Rock made a presentation on his participation in the AFA (Agriculture Future of America) program visit to Bolivia, December 27-January 1. The trip was the capstone to Michael's four years of leadership development training with AFA, and provided the opportunity to see agricultural practices and challenges in the land locked South American country. Michael spoke of the opportunity AFA gave him to travel to Bolivia, where farmers pay interest rates exceeding 22% and quinoa is a major cash crop. Michael is past KCFB

Foundation scholarship recipient and member of the Young Farmers Committee. He is employed as a Grain Originator for CHS Elburn.

Directors delivered their monthly reports and discussed past activities including the Dairy Breakfast at Drendel Farm on June 18, the Young Farmers participation at Summer Nights at Brookfield Zoo June 18, ACTIVATOR Trustee Reports, and an upcoming the CFB Board Development Program, August 23 at the Illinois Farm Bureau.

In local issues, Directors

heard reports from Kane County Board, Forest Preserve District, County Ag Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

President Joe White reported on the pilot "direct-mail appeals" program of the KCFB Foundation, trial memberships for KCFB Foundation scholarship recipients to qualify them for Collegiate Farm Bureau activities and a variety of proposals for "fun & fundraising." The Board approved a proposal for acceptance of online membership application and payment of new and renewal dues.



Michael Long

## 4-H Foundation scholarship recipients

The Kane County 4-H Foundation recently selected its scholarship recipients for 2016, awarding a total of \$4,000 to six Kane County 4-H youth. Scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of 4-H Youth Development program involvement, 4-H achievements, community service, school involvement and future plans. High school seniors, and post-high school students enrolled full-time in an educational program, were encouraged to apply.

This year, 6 individuals were scholarship recipients. Bram Borger-Johnson of Batavia received \$1,000; Chloe Daufenbach of Elgin received \$1,000; Jaide Panek of Batavia received \$750; Claude Lenz of Maple Park received \$500; and Susie Thompson of Maple Park

received \$250. One winner, Emma Rutherford of St. Charles, was selected for the \$500 Bob Konen Memorial Scholarship. Monies for these scholarships are made available through fundraising efforts and private donations to the Kane County 4-H Foundation. The Bob Konen Memorial Scholarship was first available in 2010 and is made possible through memorial donations from family and friends. Mr. Konen was a 50 year supporter serving as a member, club leader, and a volunteer.

Donations and monies raised by the Kane County 4-H Foundation support many countywide events and activities including volunteer support, training, and recognition; government day; fair activities and fair awards; clean barn awards;

educational scholarships; and general 4-H and University of Illinois Extension office support.

## Agri-Quiz bowl to be held at IL State Fair

The 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Agri-Quiz Bowl will take place Tuesday, August 16th at the Illinois State Fair. The Agri-Quiz Bowl is for IFB members, ages 18 to 35.

The contest tests the knowledge of young farmers in subject areas like agriculture and Farm Bureau, while encouraging teamwork and involvement by these future leaders. The questions are multiple choices. The team that is first to the buzzer gets to give their answer, and hopefully it's correct!

Kane County will be represented by two teams made up of members of our Young Farmers group. For more information on the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders program, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau office.



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 other 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 resource, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

PR/Membership Chair Bill Collins announced the Committee's August 6 promotion at the Brookfield Zoo's "Summer Nights" and took names of volunteers attending. He also reported on the Harvest for ALL promotion to benefit local food pantries.

Government Affairs Chair Wayne Schneider discussed County Fair promotions, ideas for replacement of the organizations' Harvest Picnic, Nutrient Loss Reduction Standards and Best Management Practices promotion and reminded directors of the upcoming IFB Farm Income and Innovations Conference.

Joe White gave the Foundation report. The Farmall Super Ai & Super C tractors, prize options from past tractor raffles, are for sale. Finishing off the Foundation report was a discussion about purchasing a 50's-70's vintage pick-up truck for the 2017 raffle.

A written report for June AITC activities was distributed, including information on Summer Ag Institute (SAI) II evaluations, the SPROUTS program, and a review of the National AITC Conference held

June 21-24 in Arizona.

A Young Farmers update was provided, including their upcoming meeting on July 18th, the Agri-Quiz Bowl at the Illinois State Fair, the County exchange (Champaign) and County Fair activities.

Steve Arnold gave a report on the County Fair to be held on July 20-24 and circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Mike Kenyon gave the Treasurer's report, including distribution of a 5-year County Farm Bureau financial study. Joe White gave the President's report, updating the Board on his participation in the IFB Resolutions Committee. White will serve as Chair of the Agricultural Production and National Issues subcommittee for 2016.

The meeting concluded with the Manager's Report, including distribution of updates for COUNTRY Financial representatives, a Calendar of Events, and information on FB member travel opportunities including a Tournament of Roses Parade (Dec 30-Jan 3) and a Sept. 2017 Rhine & Mosel River Cruise (Netherlands, Germany, France & Switzerland).

## Resolutions Committee focuses on keeping policy relevant

Illinois Farm Bureau policy received attention last week when the Resolutions Committee spent a day and a half discussing policy proposals and reviewing recommendations from the Policy Review Committee (PRC).

The Committee discussed topics ranging from gun laws and 911 fees to dairy marketing and government farm policies.

In all, the committee reviewed 39 proposed changes submitted by county Farm Bureaus and the PRC, which recommends ways to streamline

and reorganize the policy book.

Delegates will debate approved resolutions during December's IFB annual meeting in Chicago.



Joe White

Joe White, President of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board and chairman of the Agricultural Policy and National Issues Subcommittee, says "The policy process is vital because it

sets the direction the organization is going to take year to year and into the future. It's updated every year, so it remains current. It's a pretty thorough process."

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KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE											
OCTOBER 2015 THRU SEPTEMBER 2016											
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG. SEP.
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
F. CARLSON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. KECK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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# Report conclusive on GMO safety question

By John Block  
Knox County Illinois Farmer  
John Block is a former secretary of USDA and Director of Friends of the World Food Program. Reprinted from FarmWeek.

Hopefully, we are beginning to set the record straight. We have heard so much misleading information criticizing biotechnology that we could go down to the European road. In Europe, genetically engineered (GE) food is not on the plate.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine with more than 60 experts has released a landmark study, which confirms that GE

crops are safe for humans and animals to eat. The approach they took to make the case is interesting.

The Committee compared disease reports from the U.S. and Canada with Western Europe and the United Kingdom. The difference is, in the U.S. and Canada, we have been eating GE foods for more than 20 years. But in Europe and the U.K., genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not on the table.

The review found no long-term pattern of increases in health problems in the U.S. and Canada. So, we are not poisoning ourselves. In fact, no

increase in cancer, obesity, kidney disease, autism, or allergies, according to the National Academies of Science.

This is an opportunity to take the offensive on this issue.

More than 50 percent of Americans think GE foods are a possible health hazard. Not true.

Unfortunately, I don't expect everyone to buy into this new research. You can expect the producers and marketers of GMO-free products to continue to infer that there just might be some risk. "We better not take a chance."

We have already eaten our weight in GMO food, and we didn't get sick.

The Grocery Manufacturers

Association reports that 70 percent of packaged food in the U.S. contains GMO's, as does 92 percent of our corn, 94 percent of cotton, 94 percent of soybeans, and 99 percent of sugar beets.

In spite of the science of safety, GMO critics are able to successfully pass state legislation to label GMO foods.

Look at Vermont's law. The

label is clearly designed to infer there is some risk. But there is more.

GE crops are less expensive to grow and give the consumer a better bargain. They require less labor, resist pests, and require less chemicals to kill the weeds.

Hopefully, this new research can help to reassure the doubters.

## Take me out to the ball game: KCFB Foundation FUNdraisers

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation extends a special invitation for you to enjoy a Cougars and/or Cubs game, all while supporting the future of farms and food!

Join your fellow Farm Bureau members for a Kane County Cougars game at Fifth Third Ballpark in Geneva on Wednesday, August 17, as the Cougars take on the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. The game starts at 6:30pm. Tickets are being sold for a discounted price of \$12. Wednesdays at the ball park is half priced night, including regular-size sodas, burgers, pizza, nachos, popcorn and select souvenir items. Two

Brothers will be handing out free travel mugs to 1500 fans that night too.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is also sell-

Tickets are \$50, including transportation to and from the game. Transportation is through Rockford Charter Coach. The bus will be leaving from the Kane County Farm Bureau office at 3:30.

All funds raised through these fundraisers go to our Foundation, in support of agricultural scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom activities, and Agricultural literacy programs. Call 630-584-8660 to reserve your seats. Reservation are on a first come, first served basis and Cougars ticket reservations are required at least one week in advance. Advance payment required, VISA and MasterCard accepted.



2 ways to support Scholarships and Ag Literacy

ing tickets to watch the Chicago Cubs take on Cincinnati Reds on September 20th at 7:05 pm at Wrigley Field. See Wrigley from the bleachers, ivy and all!

## Thanks to our donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions in response to our April scholarship fundraising appeal. These donations will allow the Foundation to provide funding to more students wishing to pursue higher education for careers in agriculture. As part of our direct-mail fundraising pilot program, a second appeal for resources to improve classroom education about food and farm-



ing will follow in the fall. We hope you can continue to give

through June 16, and not previously recognized.

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

**Donor**  
Kathleen Elder  
Ronald Hartman  
Scott & Michelle Horton  
Beverley Jackson

generously. Names shown are pledges received from May 16

Our FOUNDATION is dedicated to providing agriculture based education for the next generation, and to meeting the challenge of providing food for a hungry planet. We look forward to continuing support for these scholarships, along with local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education through grants to local FFA Chapters and 4-H.

Farm Bureau and Foundation. Thompson, the immediate past Illinois Association FFA Secretary, assists with ag literacy and Foundation programs and the Kane County Fair. She will return to Illinois State University in the fall where she is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Communications.

## Educators

(continued from page 1)

Understanding not only the stance on agriculture these individuals began the week with, but also the growth each of them had after SAI II. The ten educators' shared different lesson

plans to help shine light on the value and importance of the agriculture industry with their students, which as a result, will help provide the necessary knowledge to our future leaders to help feed our growing world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Susie Thompson of Burlington is the 2016 intern for the Kane County

## Pokémon

(continued from page 1)

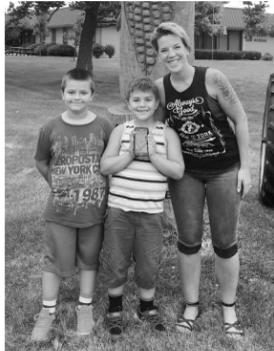
The Kane County Farm Bureau grounds seems to be a popular spot to wander and catch Pokémon. Staff were recently informed it is the home of a Pokémon Gym, and a Pokéstop. Our Centennial Grove chainsaw carved maple tree sculpture was selected as a landmark for the game, known as a Pokéstop. A Pokéstop is a place where trainers can go to receive free items to help them as they play. Items include medicine to treat their tired monsters, pokéballs to catch more monsters, and other things to help increase the skills

of their monsters.

A second well know landmark, our chainsaw carved ear of corn on the front lawn, is a Pokémon Gym. A Gym is where trainers go to battle their monsters with other monsters, the ultimate goal being to defeat the other monster. The 15' ear of corn was carved in 2012 from an ash tree on the front lawn. The tree was killed by the emerald ash borer and transformed by world class chainsaw carver Mike Bihlmaier of Marengo to commemorate Kane County Farm Bureau's centennial in 2012.

KCFB Staff has enjoyed watching the "Pokémon Go'ers" come and go throughout the day,

determined to make their team the strongest and "catch them all."



Nicole, Jack (left) and Dean (center) Woszczyna stopped by to catch some Pokémon and collect some items from our Centennial hand carved tree trunk Pokéstop.



Stevi Pondelick from Theis Farm Market is one of the many producers in Kane County who grows fruits and vegetables. Currently, she is selling her fresh produce at the Kane County Farm Bureau office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through September. 5% of all of her sales go to the KCFB Foundation, to support scholarships and ag literacy.

## Local, Fresh, Bountiful - Farmer's Markets

There is still time to visit Farmer's Markets and local roadside stands before summer is over! Kane County growers have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as other specialty products, to offer you and your family. KCFB's Bounty of Kane directory lists farmer's markets throughout the county and features a quick reference map and contact information for 38 farms that sell direct to consumers.



Visit [www.bountyofkane.org](http://www.bountyofkane.org) to view the interactive map, access web links and contact information for each of the farms and markets, and download a copy to print at home. Your support of local farmers at farm stands and farmer's markets is greatly appreciated.

- Aurora Farmer's Markets**  
630-264-INFO (4636)  
Downtown - Aurora Transportation Center  
233 N. Broadway (Route 25)  
Saturdays, June 11 - October 15, 8am-Noon  
Market West - West Aurora Shopping Ctr.  
1901 W. Galena Blvd. at Edgelawn  
Wednesdays, July 6-September 28, Noon-5pm  
Market East - Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church  
701 E. Eola Rd.  
Tuesdays, July 7 - August 25, 10am-2:00pm
- Batavia Farmer's Market**  
N. River Street (between Wilson & State Street)  
Saturdays, June 4-Oct. 22, 8am-Noon 630-761-3528
- Downtown Elgin Harvest Market**  
200 North Grove Ave. (Old Library Parking Lot)  
Thursdays, June 2 - Oct. 6, 9am-2pm 847-488-1456
- East Dundee Farmer's Market**  
319 North River Street-The Depot
- Sundays, May 8 - Sept. 25, 9am-1pm 224-293-7101
- Geneva French Market**  
Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St.  
Sundays, April 17 - Nov. 13, 9am-2pm 724-800-0102
- Geneva Farmers Market**  
Exchange Street Parking Lot  
Thursdays, June 9 - Oct. 20, 7:30am-1pm 847-501-0430
- Community Winter Market**  
327 Hamilton Street  
Saturdays, Nov. 1-May 15, 9am-1pm 847-501-0430
- Dundee Depot Market**  
319 N. River St., East Dundee  
Saturdays, May 7 - Oct. 29, 8am-2pm 847-426-4307
- St. Charles Farmer's Market**  
Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64 (outdoor)  
Fridays, June 3 - Oct. 28, 7am-1pm 630-584-6680
- Sugar Grove Farmers Market**  
Sugar Grove Village Hall, 923 Spruce St.  
Saturdays, June 4 - Sept. 24, 8am-12pm 630-466-1014

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## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



The National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference was held in Litchfield, Arizona (a suburb of Phoenix) in June. This conference is a “meeting of the minds” from throughout the nation. The bounty of agricultural learning is overwhelming at times. Even though the conference was held during record breaking temperatures, the learning went on. (No, it is not true that “dry heat” is not hot – it felt like an oven outside, in fact, steaks were cooked on the sidewalk and cookies baked inside a parked car. 124 degrees is just plain hot, dry or not.)

My pre-conference tour was to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The beauty of this national gem is breathtaking from whatever vantage point. The crowds were down, due to heat warnings. As we traveled from the hotel to the canyon, we passed through different growing zones. We started in desert and ascended to the higher levels with trees and more greenery. It was a very interesting day, not only in the canyon, but the

varied agriculture in each zone.

I learned that Arizona is known for its 5 C’s: copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate.

My traveling workshop was to three different American Indian Reservation farms. Each of these farms had a different way of management by the tribe; however, none of them were worked by the tribe. Their actual management was either done by an overseeing manager or by various farmers who contracted individually with the tribe. The crops grown ranged from hay to cotton, pecans, and oranges. Irrigation was used daily, as these farms were in a desert area and the crops are highly water dependent. I never realized that cotton and citrus were such huge crops in Arizona.

The breakout sessions I attended were all so enlightening. I learned about feeding our world in 2050, the transportation of crops, new ways to incorporate agriculture into the classroom, pollinators, inexpensive ways to get agriculture message

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

to the public, putting the A for art in STEM, making it STEAM, and much more. The coordinator from Livingston County and I presented a session on the importance of trees in our world, as well as in agriculture.

Many of the ideas that I learned during the breakout sessions coincided with my Hungry Planet class that I taught the week after this conference, so the impact of my learning was quickly utilized.

We had many great speakers: David Mouser from Illinois was a motivational speaker on importance of education and affects on our students; the various winners of the education in Ag award which provided great ideas and inspiration; and the Bug Chicks, who made the audience get excited about bugs.

One of the unscheduled aspects of this conference is always the networking. Seeing the faces of old conference friends, and making new acquaintances, is a highlight. This informal way of learning about how others experience and share agriculture in their states, is such a positive. The ideas shown by various vendors in the exhibition hall is always informative also.

It was a very hot week, but full of learning and sharing knowledge of agricultural prac-

tices throughout the United States both now and in the future. My thanks to the

Foundation for allowing me the privilege of attending this educational conference.

## Book of the month

Summer is a great time to see many birds of prey soaring through the sky. This book can help you understand the birds that you are seeing as well as identify them.

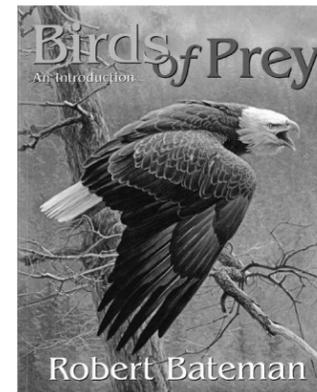
Did you know that there are two basic groups of birds of prey? The two groups are hawks and owls. Hawks are further divided into Buteos (short tails and long wings), Accipiters (“flap-flap-flap, glide” flight pattern), Eagles (largest hawks), Falcons (swift and agile), Kites (graceful and acrobatic in flight), Ospreys (eats only fish, goes completely underwater to catch their prey), Secretary Birds (Runs after prey and kills by stamping on prey with feet) and Vultures (Old World and New World types).

The book highlights various birds and tells detailed information of each in a simple to read text. It also has sections that tell of their senses for survival, beaks and talons, and family life.

An interesting fact mentioned in the book was that Turkey Vultures were used to find a leak in a gas pipeline. The

humans couldn’t find the source of the leak, so they added a chemical to the gas that made it smell like rotting food. Soon, a group of Turkey Vultures gathered by the leak, expecting to find a meal of rotting flesh. The leak was found.

Thanks to a request years ago by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn that Kane County Farm Bureau start a library of agriculturally themed books for public use, we have an ever growing selection of titles. Feel free to come in to browse in our library and to check out books of interest.



*Birds of Prey—An Introduction* by Robert Bateman

## Master Gardener’s Idea Gardens

By Suzi Myers

It was a beautiful sunny day when I visited the Master Gardener’s Idea Garden open house. Everything was blooming and the gardeners were excited to share ideas and information.

One garden that caught my eye right away was the bee garden grown by Carol. Since so much of our food depends upon pollination and there has been a loss in pollinators, this was a very topical garden. Not only were there colorful flowers to draw the pollinator’s attention, but semi-buried terra cotta pots were there to attract the ground living bees. Water was also available for the bees. Hanging up on a shepherd’s hook was a pollinator house made from bits of bamboo tubing, which solitary pollinators use to nest. Carol was very enthusiastic about her garden and had lots of bee information.

Eileen had a great idea for growing pumpkins in a small area. A very strong ladder/pallet like structure was set up for the pumpkins to grow upwards upon, so as not to take up as much land as usual. I was told this is completely experimental, so time will tell how it actually works.

Sue and Linda created a fun garden called “Around the World with Plants.” They based the garden on a blue tarp, looking like the oceans of the world and cut out the areas to grow the plants. Australia had a boomerang inserted amongst the plants; USA had an American flag and so on. Each of the continents was shown with plants that come from that area.

Merrill, Sue, Paula and Leah were growing tomato plants from seeds a NASA experiment., where the seeds were grown and then seeds saved



*A Master Gardener’s Idea Garden plot designed to attract bees. Notice the upturned pots and water sources.*

from the plants for 5 generations. They found that the plants grown from the “earth seeds” were no different than those from the “space seeds.”

There were also some examples of the “victory gardens” of the war years in the U.S. Also some examples of “cutting gardens,” plants grown to provide beauty when cut for your home. There is also a nice prairie plot to give ideas for incorporating prairie plants into your landscape. Also, some plants and plant-related materials are for sale.

The next open house of the idea gardens is going to be held on August 16th from 9-11 at the corner of Peck Road and Route 38. I’m hoping to see some of you there to join me in getting ideas for my garden.

## Helping you protect what matters most



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
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# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



**John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, is credited with inventing the sandwich. Legend says that he was unwilling to stop to eat during a gambling event, so asked his servant to put meat between two slices of bread so he could hold it in one hand while gambling with the other.**

- The most popular sandwich in America is the ham sandwich, followed by peanut butter and jelly.
- The peanut butter and jelly sandwich helped keep Americans fed during the Great Depression. This is because the PB&J offered a lot of nutrition for a low cost.
- The average American will have eaten 1,500 PB&Js by the time they graduate high school.
- The term "sub" dates back to WWII. A U.S. Navy submarine base placed an order for 500 hero sandwiches from a nearby deli. After that, whenever a customer ordered a hero sandwich, the deli referred to the sandwich as a "sub." This nickname then spread throughout the country.
- National Sandwich Day is November 3rd.
- Sandwiches are the 2nd most common menu item in U.S. restaurants, after burgers.

## Sandwiches Around the World

Even though it seems like the USA has an endless variety of sandwiches, there are many other diverse sandwiches all around the world. Have you ever had one of these?

- **Döner Kebab**, Turkey – A döner is meat (beef, chicken, lamb, or veal) cooked on a spit, wrapped in pita with onions, pickled cucumber, cabbage, and tomatoes.
- **Vegemite sandwich**, Australia – This sandwich is toast spread with vegemite, a brown paste made from leftover brewers' yeast extract. Australians eat this sandwich with cheese for breakfast. This is the equivalent of a PB&J in the USA.
- **Cemita**, Mexico – An egg-based bread topped with avocado, meat, white cheese, onions, herbs, and salsa roja.
- **Bánh mì**, Vietnam – A baguette filled with mayonnaise, cilantro, garlic, fish sauce, cucumber, pickled carrots, and meat (pork, fried tofu, ham).
- **Arepa**, Venezuela – A maize-dough flatbread filled with chori-zo, plantains, beef, pulled pork, cheese, and avocado. Arepas are typically eaten as a breakfast food.
- **Medianoche**, Cuba – Roast pork, Swiss cheese, ham, pickles, and mustard in a soft egg roll, warmed on a press. Traditionally a late night food.
- **Chacarero**, Chile – Churrasco-style steak on a round roll with tomatoes, peppers, and green beans.
- **Leberkäs Semmel**, Germany & Austria – Leberkäs is similar to bologna sausage, and is served hot on a semmel (Kaiser roll) with sweet mustard.
- **Katsu-sando**, Japan – Breaded pork and cabbage on white bread.
- **Chip Butty**, England – Literally a French fries sandwich. Bread, fries, and ketchup.
- **Donkey Burger**, China – This sandwich is donkey meat on a bun, and is usually served cold.
- **Croque Monsieur**, France – Grilled ham and cheese sandwich, with Emmental or Gruyère. Some of the cheese is melted on top of the bread.
- **Francesinha**, Portugal – Bread, ham, linguça, fresh chipolata sausage, and steak covered in melted cheese and beer sauce. This was created by a French/Belgian immigrant who was trying to create a Portuguese Croque Monsieur.

Adapted from [thrillist.com](http://thrillist.com)



## AAIC & United Way spread Ag Literacy

*How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?* is one of the American Farm Bureau Foundation's most popular accurate ag books, and the AFB Foundation is thrilled that the United Way, North-Northwest has incorporated this book in their United Way Healthy Eating volunteer project. This project debuted in January and since its debut, more than 300 copies of *Lunchbox* have been donated to children in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Additionally, the United Way's 2016 Celebration Luncheon launched a book drive that includes *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?* American Agricultural Insurance Company (AAIC) is matching book-for-book up to 150 books with copies of *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?* The Foundation is grateful for AAIC introducing the United Way to this book and the importance of ag literacy.

AAIC has gone even further with spreading ag literacy in the community by doing classroom visits. Eight volunteers from AAIC visited Gary M. Sanborn School to promote literacy and healthy eating to third grade students. The volunteers read *How Did that Get in My Lunchbox?* and led discussion and hands on activities to further the fun and learning. At the end of class each student was given a copy of the book to take home.

### Strawberry Grilled Cheese Sandwich

- 2 slices bread
- 2 oz. cream cheese
- 4-6 strawberries, sliced
- 1 tbsp butter
- Maple syrup (optional)

Cut cream cheese into 8 slices. Place 3 slices each on 2 pieces of bread. Cover the cream cheese with sliced strawberries, and place the remaining slices of

cream cheese on the strawberries. Sandwich with remaining slices of bread. Melt butter in a pan and cook each side of the sandwiches for 2 minutes. Serve with maple syrup, if desired.

From [rothinrice.com](http://rothinrice.com)

### Bear Sandwich

What a fun way to get your child to eat breakfast, so easy that they can assemble themselves.

#### What you need:

- Bread, Banana, Raisins, Butter, Sugar, Cinnamon

#### What you do:

Mix sugar with cinnamon. Toast bread lightly. Spread with butter while hot. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture. Slice banana and use one slice for the bear's nose. Place raisins for the eyes and one for the black nose. Finish the bear with two banana slices for the ears. Serve and enjoy!

From [KIDSSOUP.com](http://KIDSSOUP.com)



### August is:

#### National

- Water Quality Month
- Peach Month
- Family Fun Month
- Golf Month
- Picnic Month

August 2 –

- Ice Cream Sandwich Day
- August 3 – Watermelon Day
- August 7 – Friendship Day
- August 10 – S'mores Day
- August 17 – Thriftshop Day
- August 26 – Dog Day
- August 31 – Trail Mix Day

### Congratulations

**Caeley Classen.** Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's "Fruits and Vegetables" word search. For her participation, she received a picnic bag and some veggie tools compliments of Kane County Farm Bureau. Thank you, Caeley, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for a chance to win a prize!

### What makes a sandwich?

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

- |         |               |         |              |        |
|---------|---------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| BACON   | CUBAN         | JELLY   | PEANUTBUTTER | TOMATO |
| CHEESE  | EGGSALAD      | KETCHUP | PITABREAD    | TUNA   |
| CHICKEN | GRILLEDCHIESE | LETTUCE | ROASTBEEF    | TURKEY |
| CLUB    | GYRO          | MAYO    | RYE          | VEGGIE |
| CRUST   | HAM           | MUSTARD | SUBMARINE    |        |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by August 15, 2016 to be entered in our drawing to win a prize of sandwich-themed items.

# New Harvest for ALL signs available

Harvest for ALL has a new look and can be seen on display on rural roads in Kane County. The signs are presented to recognize farmers who have donated a portion of their crops, cash, and in-kind contributions, and are directed to local food pantries of the donor's choosing.

The new signs were designed so that they will not fade and can be easier to read from the side of the road. Farmers are proud to display their signs to try and help spread the word on

how to provide hunger relief in Kane County.

Harvest for ALL is a Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION community service program, and provides an avenue to contribute to local hunger relief efforts. It encourages local farmers, Farm Bureau

members, and consumers to support hunger relief efforts.



# Reducing the RFS bad for environment and economy, farmers tell EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency must protect the Renewable Fuel Standard as Congress originally defined it nearly a decade ago, Iowa farmer Randy Caviness told the EPA at a public hearing today. He testified on behalf of Iowa Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"EPA's decision not to follow the intent of Congress in the 2007 RFS is highly disappointing to all of agriculture," said Caviness, who also serves as a member of AFBF Issue's Advisory Committee on

Energy. "This decision strikes a blow to conventional ethanol production and dampens the prospects for the further development of advanced biofuels."

Caviness is a firm believer in clean energy, and his farm is proof of it. He has farmed for 28 years without energy-intensive tilling and leads initiatives to install wind turbines in his home county of Adair and neighboring Cass County.

Caviness told EPA that renewable fuels are an American success story and critical to keeping our nation moving for-

ward in reducing dependence on foreign oil and providing well-paying jobs in rural America. EPA's proposal to reduce the RFS would hurt agriculture and rural economies at a time when farmers are already struggling with a down-turned economy.

"Our nation's farmers can grow more bushels of corn and soybeans on fewer acres to feed and fuel the world," Caviness said. "But if these reduced volumes are finalized, this decision will stall growth and progress in renewable fuels as well as the broader agricultural economy."

# Farm, food & family briefs

## Chicago Recycles Nutrients

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has opened what it's calling the world's largest nutrient recovery plant.

In partnership with Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies, MWRD plans to recover phosphorus and nitrogen from wastewater, and create a high-value fertilizer.

The system can remove more than 85 percent of phosphorous and up to 15 percent of nitrogen from 1.44 billion of gallons of water daily before they release into streams and rivers. MWRD will receive revenue from every ton of fertilizer produced.

Illinois cities, suburbs and farmers must reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into rivers and streams as part of a state and national effort to reduce a so-called dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico

## Those Summer Nights

Looking for some where to spend a fun night with the

whole family this summer? Head to Summer Nights at Brookfield Zoo just outside Chicago from 4 to 9 pm Fridays and Saturdays through Aug 13. Enjoy activities for all ages, including live entertainment, a kids stage, food, beer, and wine gardens, and a laser light show at the end of the evening. Kane County Farm Bureau representatives will be at Summer Nights on August 6th running the agricultural activities booth.

Kane County partners with Brookfield Zoo through the Illinois Farm Bureau as a way to reach out to consumers. You'll feel Farm Bureau's presence during the eight-week event through Ag in the Classroom activities, fun Illinois food facts and farm themes peek boards.

Zoo members attend for free, while non-members can attend by paying \$15.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children ages 3 to 11. For more information, visit [www.ilfb.org/summer](http://www.ilfb.org/summer).

**Farm Bureau Members' Call**

## against Telecommunications Bill Effective

Farm Bureau members' opposition helped curb controversial telecommunications right of way legislation, according to Bill Bodine, associate director of state legislation.

SB 2237 would have allowed telecommunications companies to install their cable in road rights-of-way without negotiating an easement with the landowner in most cases.

The bill failed to advance when the House Public Utilities Committee did not call it for a vote.

"Thanks to our members who responded to our call to action, especially because that came during planting season," Bodine said. "We heard from several legislators and 'adopted' legislators who received calls from our members asking them to vote no. Those calls were effective in minimizing support for the legislation."

# What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

PAIMA CHITAMBO has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for May 2016 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Paima has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance and financial security needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services.

Let Paima's expertise help you! Contact her at 2172 Blackberry Dr., Unit 100, Geneva 60134, 630-262-1128, [paima.chitambo@countryfinancial.com](mailto:paima.chitambo@countryfinancial.com)/ [paima.chitambo](http://paima.chitambo).

Congratulations, Paima!

## Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Felipe Rocha, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for June, 2016. Felipe began his career with COUNTRY Financial in August of 2011 and

# Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora. As a token of our appreciation, Felipe receives two tickets to

services clients out of his office located at 514 N. Lake Street, Aurora, 60506 - (630) 897-7746.

Felipe's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with.

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



Felipe Rocha

# Website source on IL Cottage Foods Law

The University of Illinois Extension has designed a website that provides information about Illinois' Cottage Foods Law. "Illinois has a Cottage Foods Law that enables small-scale entrepreneurs to sell their products made in their own home kitchens, such as baked goods, jams and jellies, or dried herbs and teas, at their local farmers' market," said Jenna Smith, U of I Extension nutri-

tion and wellness educator.

The Website covers which foods can and cannot be sold, requirements that must be met to start a business, and essential food safety information.

"Now is the perfect time to begin thinking about what to sell at your farmers' market," Smith said.

For information, visit [web.extention.illinois.edu/cottage](http://web.extention.illinois.edu/cottage).

# 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.**

## FOR SALE

Alfalfa grass hay - large 3x3x8 and 3x4x8 bales - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cuttings. Nutrient content available upon request. Call: 847-436-2538

JD 32B 8 row pull-type 200 gallon sprayer \$150; 4 section 24 foot wheel drag \$125; MHarris No 32 2 Row Depth-o-matic cultivator \$75; 2 Case trip plows - 2 row & 3 row. Both \$600; MHarris oak floor hay wagon 8'x16' \$800; IH 140 Internal Hydraulics, tires, snow plow, 100 gallon roller \$3900. Call: 630 988 5726

2010 JD 625F HydraFlex head, CM, fore/aft, dial-a-speed reel, full composite finger auger, stubble lights, low stone dam, single point hook-up, low acres, no rock damage. \$21,000 OBO. Call: 630 878 1726

Unverferth HT-30 head mover, low profile tires, lights, good condition, \$3500 OBO. Call: 630 878 1726

## 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

Farm site demolition & clean up. New horse barns with underground utilities and earthwork. Drainage tiles, pasture mowing, spraying, new seeding, inter seeding & fence installation. We follow SIU Plant & Soil Science Practices. 10% discount for Farm Bureau members, 5% if you mention this add! Berning Earthwork Inc., Tom Berning 630-330-9970, [BerningEarthWorks@comcast.net](mailto:BerningEarthWorks@comcast.net); Galusha Farms, Steve Berning, 630-878-6350, [steve@galushafarm.com](mailto:steve@galushafarm.com). Call: 630-330-9970

Tree Pruning & Removal in North/Central Kane & Dupage Counties - [www.ArborJoe.com](http://www.ArborJoe.com) - ISA Certified Arborist Joe. Call: 224 789 8773

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Will pick up for free unwanted or old snowmobiles. Weed mowing bobcat work deliveries of black dirt / topsoil, sand, lime stone, gravel, or anything else you need hauled in or out sod and seeding call Jon @ J.P. Rippinger - 630-254-9446

Want to buy vintage & used tools Call Chris, 630 550 7182

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# Summer Ag Institute: Hungry Planet

By Vida Martin

How about those tomatoes? I'll get to them in a minute. I love food. I think most people love food. I also believe that most of us have said one or more of the following; "I'm hungry, I haven't eaten since breakfast. I forgot my snack, so I can't wait until lunch. I'm starving!" There you have the starting point for this year's Summer Ag Institute. We have a Hungry Planet and we need to figure out how to feed the world.

Every year Suzi Myers puts together a fantastic opportunity for teachers and school counselors to learn more about Agriculture related businesses. This year was no exception. We had one day in class that was chock full of information. The day helped set the tone for our field trips. The highlights of what we covered that really got me thinking about yield, production, and supply were the discussion about the *Hungry Planet* book by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, a video from WorldPopulationHistory.org, and a YouTube video titled "How Many People Can Earth Support?", plus the remaining 20,000 or so words we were exposed to through handouts.

Now, about those tomatoes. We visited Mighty Vine and Monsanto to learn more about food production in Illinois. Mighty Vine is a new company in Rochelle that uses Dutch technology to grow tomatoes hydroponically. A visit here can give a view into a partial answer for increasing crop yield in an environmentally friendly way. Think harvest-

ing rainwater, a vertical growing system, and utilizing bees for pollination. The proof of this pudding is in the tomatoes. Try one, you'll be tasting sunshine.

It was all about corn at Monsanto. We got a different look into corn production at the Waterman facility. The research in progress is integral to figuring out how to produce more food with fewer chemicals in a way

dren are currently food insecure. The Operations Department at the Food Bank has some amazing people. The organization and efficiency that goes into processing, tracking, and shipping as much food out as possible to partners is incredible. When you look at row upon row of shelves filled with items and think about the volume that rotates through the facility, it is mind-boggling.

Rest assured that Northern Illinois Food Bank is working locally to help end hunger.

As a school counselor for grades 9-12, I am motivated to bring as much career information to my students as possible. I want to broaden their perspective, help them find their passion, and realize that there is not a cookie cutter "right way" to achieve those goals. The truth is we need every single person to make a difference in our global future. So the challenge for me comes in the form of personalizing career suggestions and thinking outside the box. I have to know my students, ask about their interests, goals, and dreams. THEN I can suggest a career that will attract their attention, give them a nudge

that avoids creation of a monoculture through the fascinating worlds of breeding, entomology, and pathogens that will help farmers increase efficiency and reduce on-farm costs.

I grew up close to the Erie Canal in New York state. Water transport of goods, all kinds of goods, is not surprising to me. The surprise at Dresden Island Lock and Dam was learning that civilian individuals can work for the Army Corps Engineers, that the Chicago River flows faster than the Mississippi River, and that one barge has the cargo capacity of 58 large semis.

Northern Illinois Food Bank gets food out to nearly 600,000 people in their 13 county service area through its amazing facility in Geneva and a network of partner food pantries and feeding programs. I know people go hungry, but it's heartbreaking to see the statistics for how many chil-



The SAI II group at Mighty Vine in Rochelle

Top: The group for the Summer Ag Institute II was made of 10 teachers from all around Kane County, and can be seen together here at Mighty Vine in Rochelle with guide Danny Murphy.

Right, top to bottom: Katherine Thompson, a kindergarten teacher at Wildrose Elementary School takes a closer look at a corn plant at the Monsanto Research facility in Waterman.

Stacey Brolsma (left) from Wildrose Elementary School and Dan Henderson from Ottercreek Elementary School packing food at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, as part of the SAI II.



toward something they hadn't considered, and hope that one of these talented young individuals will help us all take the step toward food for all.

About the author: Vida

Martin is a high school guidance counselor and a frequent attendee of KCFB programs to improve agricultural literacy and expand resources for student career choices.

## Say 'I can' to canning with U of I Extension

Discover the fun – and functional – art of preserving the season's bounty of delicious, local produce with University of Illinois Extension Educator Laura Barr this summer.

Barr will be demonstrating various food preservation techniques with fresh fruits and vegetables during a series of sessions at the Aurora Farmers Market. The monthly presentations will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays Aug. 20 and Sept. 10. Each includes a unique topic and a corresponding Q-and-A session.

"Canning is a simple, smart way to make the most of the local produce available this time of year," Barr said. "Food preservation is on the comeback trail, with more and more people wanting to buy locally grown food and preserve their own food."

There is a growing trend for home-grown produce as well. All of these empower the consumer to control recipes and use less salt and sugar if needed, said Barr.

"As folks engage in their gardens, it is easy to save the bountiful harvest for later in the year and to share it with loved ones. As we serve our preserved food, it is important to have the latest scientific updates on the canning process."

The focus on evidenced-based practice and scientific

principles is the mission of U of I Extension.

In the first Farmers Market session, Barr will explore the important safety and process steps for hot water bath canning,



Extension Educator Laura Barr will be providing a series of food preservation techniques and demonstrations in the coming months.

and will be demonstrating with a ginger pear preserve recipe.

Other topics will include: black raspberry jam on Aug. 20 and fresh salsa on Sept. 10. Look for the demonstrations next to the market information booth with the orange awning.

Barr has been providing education on food preservation for the last few years at the Aurora Farmers Market, and each year, the audience and interest grows.

Barr is available for group or club demonstrations in DuPage, Kendall and Kane counties as well. For more information, contact Barr at lbarr@illinois.edu or 630-584-6166.

## Independent map amendment progresses

Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the Independent Map Amendment (IMA) coalition that submitted the final petition package to the State Board of Elections before the May 9 deadline. The coalition submitted more than twice the required minimum of 290,216 petition signatures. 84 County Farm Bureaus and nearly 300 IFB members who circulated petition sheets.

The board officially indicated petitions the IMA coalition, which includes groups such as Common Cause Illinois, Illinois Farm Bureau, Latino Policy Forum and Union League of Chicago, secured and submitted enough valid signatures to put the redistricting reform amendment on the ballot in November.

Altona farmer David Erickson, who serves on the IMA board of directors, said the amendment has far-reaching support.

"The broad diversity that it has, the number of endorsements it has from all over the state, I think it should make us feel very good that we're part of something that has been so well received," said Erickson, who also serves as vice president of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Still, the effort faces a lawsuit from opponents who want to keep the constitutional amendment away from Illinois voters. The IMA coalition indicated last week it had recently filed its court briefs. Erickson expects hearings this month.



"We've got a very strong case," said Erickson. "The amendment, as written, is very good constitutionally according to attorneys that we use, and government attorneys. So we feel confident."

If it makes it to voters and achieves at least 60 percent support in November, the constitutional amendment would allow an 11-member, non-partisan commission to establish legislative maps instead of the Illinois General Assembly.

Erickson said IMA staff indicated at a recent board meeting of the group that county Farm Bureaus and League of Women Voters chapters around the state helped collect most of the petition signatures.




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**Iron & Sulphur Filters**  
**Drinking Water Systems**  
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*Kane County Farm Bureau members receive 10% discount on all service work.*



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# 2016 Bucket Raffle Fundraiser for the KCFB Foundation

Thank you to these local businesses who donated prizes for bucket raffles at the 2016 Kane County Fair. Your support of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs is greatly appreciated. Winners will be notified via phone and will be listed in next months *Farmer!*

- Alexander's Café – Elgin
- Aliano's Ristorante – Batavia
- Batavia Creamery
- Blain's Farm & Fleet – Sycamore
- C & C Mulch – Geneva
- Cabela's
- Cocoon – Geneva
- Colonial Café
- Costco – St. Charles
- Country Donuts – Elgin
- Country House Restaurant – Geneva
- Culver's – Carpentersville
- Deer Valley Golf Club
- Designer's Desk – Geneva
- Eddie Gaedel Pub & Grill – Elburn
- Elgin Park District
- Elgin Symphony Orchestra
- Fast Frame – St. Charles
- Forest Preserve District of Kane County
- Forge Brewhouse – Sycamore
- FunWay Ultimate Entertainment Center – Batavia
- Geneva Commons
- Geneva Park District
- Graham's Fine Chocolates and Ice Cream – Geneva
- Home Depot – South Elgin
- Hughes Creek Golf Club – Elburn
- J & R Feeds – Hampshire
- Jewel Osco – Batavia
- Jimmy's Charhouse – Elgin
- Johnsen's Farm and Country Store – St. Charles
- JuRin Japanese Restaurant – South Elgin
- Just Kabobs – St. Charles
- Kane County Cougars
- Kane County Farm Bureau
- KCFB Foundation
- Kane-Dupage Soil & Water Conservation District
- Klein's Farm & Garden – Udina & Elgin
- Dave Klussendorf – Batavia
- Kountry Kettle – Elburn
- Kuiper's Family Farm – Maple Park
- Lowe's Home Improvement – St. Charles
- Maciano's Pizza & Pastaria – Elgin
- Medieval Times – Schaumburg
- Meijer – St. Charles
- Menards – Elgin
- Morton Arboretum – Lisle
- NAPA – Elburn
- Needle Things – Geneva
- Nick's Pizza & Pub – Elgin
- Noodles & Company – Geneva
- Oberweis Dairy & Ice Cream – St. Charles
- Ollie's Frozen Custard – Sycamore
- Pal Joey's – Batavia
- Paisano's Pizza & Grill – Elburn
- Penrose Brewing Company – Geneva
- Plank Road Tap Room – Elgin
- Plano Molding – Plano
- Preservation Bread & Wine – Geneva
- John & Bonnie Prokop – St. Charles
- Public House – Elgin
- Randall 15 Theatre – Batavia
- Randall's Pancake House – South Elgin
- Ream's Meat Market – Elburn
- Rookies' Sports Bar & Grill – St. Charles
- Sammy's Mexican Grill – Elgin
- SciTech Hands On Museum – Aurora
- Sorrento's Restaurant – Maple Park
- Spirels Yogurt Delites – South Elgin
- St. Charles Bowl
- St. Charles Park District
- Starbucks – St. Charles
- Sugar Grove Family Fun Center
- Target – Batavia
- The Bike Rack – St. Charles
- The Corner Grind – Elburn
- The Shoppe Next Door – Hampshire
- The Spice House – Geneva
- Town House Café – St. Charles
- Tractor Supply – Carpentersville
- Trader Joe's – Batavia
- Tranquility Spa – St. Charles
- Trellis Farm & Garden – St. Charles
- Twisted Stitch – South Elgin
- USA Athletic Club – Aurora
- Wasco Nursery – Wasco
- Whiskey Acres – DeKalb

THANK YOU Morgan Britnell & Collin Osborn, Tracy Sanderson, and Andy & Sarah Lenkaitis for providing animals, hay and/or straw, and transportation for the Farm Animal Zoo.

Stock up on pecan halves and pecan pieces for baking and get a great price on chocolate covered pecan treats! Special prices while supply lasts. Available at Kane County Farm Bureau in St. Charles M-F 8:30-5pm.  
**PECANS HALVES, 12 OZ. BAG--\$7 • PECAN PIECES, 12 OZ. BAG--\$7**  
**MILK CHOC. PECANS, 12 OZ. CAN OR BAG--\$7**



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

## Pledge Form

Thank you for making a difference.

You have many choices when it comes to charitable giving. You'll find no other entity in rural America more committed to educating the next generation of professionals responsible for growing our food.

According to the USDA, there are nearly 60,000 agriculture job openings annually in the U.S. and only 35,000 graduates available.

Founded in 1989, the KCFB FOUNDATION is dedicated to filling the gap and giving these students a good start. They will meet the challenge of feeding a world population, set to hit 9 billion by 2050. The FOUNDATION is also committed to the community service effort of providing local hunger relief.

Whether it's food for today or food for tomorrow your pledge & donation to KCFB Foundation is making a difference. Few choices you could make say more about your commitment to providing a bright future for the future of farms and food.



Questions? 630-584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com

## FOOD FORWARD

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

I hereby pledge/contribute to FOOD > Forward.  
*I understand my donation will be used exclusively for classroom education & scholarships through KCFB FOUNDATION*

1 acre or \_\_\_ bushels of: \_\_\_ corn \_\_\_ soybeans (other)\_\_\_\_\_

A cash donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to FOOD > Forward

*Donations of \$50 or more eligible for FOOD > Forward yard sign to recognize participation*  
or

## Harvest for ALL

I hereby pledge/contribute to Harvest for ALL

1 acre or \_\_\_ bushels of: \_\_\_ corn \_\_\_ soybeans (other)\_\_\_\_\_

Produce or other in-kind donation made directly to food pantry

A cash donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Harvest for ALL

Food pantry beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about placement of a Harvest for ALL field sign\*

For past Harvest for ALL participants only:

I/we must decline participation in Harvest for ALL

*Checks may be made payable to the local food pantry of your choice, Northern Illinois Food Bank or KCFB Foundation-Harvest for ALL. Donations without a local food pantry designee will be donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Donations of \$100 or more eligible for an 18x24" aluminum Harvest for ALL field sign.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please send to:  
**Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation**  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.

# Take me out to the Ball Game

## KCFB Foundation FUNdraisers 2 ways to Support Scholarships and Agricultural Literacy



VS



Wrigley Field

Tuesday, September 20th • 7:00PM

See Wrigley from the Bleachers! Tickets are \$50, including transportation to and from the game. Transportation is through Rockford Charter Coach. The bus will leave from the Kane County Farm Bureau office at 3:30, returning after the game.



VS



Fifth Third Ballpark

Wednesday, August 17th • 7:00PM

Tickets are being sold for a discount price of \$12. Wednesday at the ball park is half priced night on items including regular-size sodas, burgers, pizza, nachos, popcorn and select souvenir items. Two Brothers will be handing out free travel mugs to 1500 fans that night too.

To reserve your tickets to either game please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau office at info@kanecfb.com or (630) 584-8660.

Payment is due at time of purchase, Visa and MasterCard are accepted.



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

All Proceeds benefit the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, in support of scholarships & internships, Agriculture in the Classroom, and other Agricultural Literacy programs.

## Order 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, hydrocooled, graded to U.S. #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, and packaged in a 25 pound 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. The peaches are freestones (easily comes off the pit). 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 pound box is \$32 (non-member) \$30 (member) and \$29 (Plus member). 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. Pickup will be on Thursday, August 25 from 2-6 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office, west side of the building.

Quantity:

\_\_\_\_\_ boxes @ \$30.00 Member; \$29 Plus Member; \$32 Non-member (per 25 lb. box)

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

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

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 5 p.m. Tuesday, August 16

Pickup is at the Farm Bureau on Thursday, August 25 from 2-6 p.m.