

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. 86 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2021

Up to 20 scholarships to help local students study agriculture

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to members or dependents of members who wish to pursue higher education for a career in an agriculture related field. Over \$25,000 is available. The applications are for the 2022-23 school year.

College students and high school seniors are invited to apply for these Kane County Farm Bureau FOUN-

Applications available for KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships

DATION scholarships. Go to www.kanecfb.com and click on "Scholarships & Internships" to download an application, or, pick one up at the KCFB office, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles. A brochure is also available online to assist students in identifying potential careers and areas of agriculture related study.

Farm Bureau internships are also available for the 2021 winter, and 2022 spring and summer breaks. A separate Internship application is available on the website. The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 14 scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship, (1) up to \$2,000, for an Illinois resident and student accepted to or enrolled in a School of Veterinary Medicine in the state of Illinois. The scholarship seeks to help develop the next generation of animal care practitioners.

President's Scholarship (1) \$1,500, reserved for the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation General Agricultural Scholarship from among high school seniors, will provide a minimum \$1,500 to

be applied towards tuition.
General Agricultural



The KCFB Foundation awarded 14 scholarships last year to area students, including Grant Baldrige of Elburn, who was awarded the President's Scholarship for study at Montana State University. Applications for the 2022-23 school year are now available and are due Feb. 15.

Scholarships (up to 10 available) @ \$1,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline. Student must be pursuing higher education for an agriculture related career. A brochure is available to assist students in identifying those careers and areas of study.

John Buck Memorial Scholarships (2) @ \$1,500, through an endowment to the Foundation and supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, the

fund provides for two (2) \$1,500 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Students in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will County

are eligible to apply.

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John (continued on page 8)

COUNTRY Financial agents are cheerleaders for local team

The Kaneland Youth Football League Sapphire Cheer Squad got a boost recently from agents in the COUNTRY Financial Batavia office. The squad is the first in KYFL history to have a bid to State Competition. The squad is coached by Alyssa Powell, COUNTRY Financial Batavia agency assistant; Christie Brandenburg, Heather Fiordiroso and high school coaches Abi Burroughs and Keelyn Devine.

Batavia agents Greg LeBeau,

Andy Johnson, Kevin Laurie and Zach Fox donated the funds to cover state competition registration fees. The state cheer competition will be held the first weekend in December at Northern Illinois University. Good luck, KYFL Sapphire Cheer Squad!

COUNTRY Financial is an insurance and financial services company formed by Farm Bureau in 1925 to meet the insurance needs of Farm Bureau members.



Top: The Sapphire Cheer Squad was delighted to receive a \$1,550 check to cover state competition registration fees from COUNTRY Financial Batavia office agents Greg LeBeau, Andy Johnson, Kevin Laurie and Zach Fox.

Bottom photo, back row, left to right: Coaches Heather Fiordiroso, Abi Burroughs and Christie Brandenburg; COUNTRY Financial Batavia office agents Andy Johnson, Kevin Laurie and Greg LeBeau; coach and COUNTRY assistant Alyssa Powell.

December Featured Food Hams!

The special this month is delicious ham for your holiday dinner. Each ham is individually foil wrapped and boxed which makes them perfect for holiday entertaining or as gifts. They vary in weight from about 10-12 pounds for traditional (\$3.96 per lb. member price) and 7-9 pounds for spiral (\$5.91 per lb. member price). PLUS status members always receive a 5% discount on edible foods and monthly specials.

Order yours today by sending in the form on page 8 or calling the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 by Wednesday, December 15 at noon. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Wednesday, December 22, after noon.

KCFB CALENDAR DECEMBER 2021

- 4-7 IFB Annual Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago
- 15 Citrus Pick-Up, 10am-5pm Heinz Bros., St. Charles (tentative)
- 16 Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 15 Holiday Ham Orders Due, 12pm
- 22 Holiday Ham Pick Up, 12-4:30pm
- 23 County Agriculture Committee, 10am
- 24 Office closed for Christmas Eve
- 27 Office closed for Christmas
- 31 Office closed for New Year's Eve

Happy holidays!

KCFB Pollinator/Rain Garden project to be shared at convention

Kane County Farm Bureau's "Pollinator/Rain Garden - Public Planting" event was chosen by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) as one of 2020's "County Activities of Excellence" (CAE) in October of last year. With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing in January 2021, AFBF opted to hold its annual convention virtually, and KCFB hosted a virtual exhibit of the program idea. Now, in January 2022, KCFB leaders will have the opportunity to travel to Atlanta to share their experience in-person as AFBF returns to a live conference format.

The annual CAE program recognizes and shares innovative county Farm Bureau programs and activities from around the nation. For 2020 AFBF chose only 12 county Farm Bureau programs for recognition.

The Pollinator/Rain Garden installation was a joint project (continued on page 3)



The American Farm Bureau Federation County Activities of Excellence (CAE) Awards celebrate unique, volunteer-driven programming at the local level. The CAE program categorizes county activities into the following areas: Education and Ag Promotion, Member Services, Public Relations and Information, Leadership Development and Policy Implementation.



Just in time for Christmas!
see page 8 for details



"Enhance the quality of life for member families; promote agriculture, farms and food; and, advocate good stewardship of our land and resources."

November 2021

In accordance with the bylaws of the Kane County Farm Bureau, notice is hereby given to voting members that the following proposed amendments to the bylaws of said association will be voted upon by the Board of Directors of the Association at their regular monthly meeting, Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois. Proposed new language is underlined and language to be stricken is in ~~strikeout~~ format.

Michael J. Kenyon, Secretary
Kane County Farm Bureau

To: Kane County Farm Bureau Voting Members

The notice above informs voting members of the Board of Directors' intent to vote on amendments to the bylaws of the Kane County Farm Bureau at their regular meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021. These amendments were drafted by the Illinois Farm Bureau's Office of General Counsel and have been recommended for approval by the organization's Board of Directors.

Following this notification to the voting members of the association, the Board of Directors will take a final vote on these amendments on December 16. A 2/3 vote of the entire number of Directors is required for passage. **No action is required on your part.**

The proposed amendments update the bylaws to establish a system of at-large representation on the Board of Directors of your association by eliminating Director Districts. Upon passage of the proposed amendments, the Board of Directors will take up the discussion of the nominating policies necessary to implement this governance change, and to further remove the Board of Directors from nomination/election processes.

If you have questions please feel free to call our office (630) 584-8660 and ask for Manager Steve Arnold, or call your District Kane County Farm Bureau Director at the number listed in the monthly *Kane County Farmer*.

Sincerely,
Joe White
Joseph White, President
Kane County Farm Bureau

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU® • 2N710 Randall Road • St. Charles, Illinois • 60174-1532
Phone: 630.584.8660 • Fax: 630.587-8479 • www.kanecfb.com • info@kanecfb.com

The KCFB lawn is again a small forest of Christmas cheer with the arrival of Mark's Christmas Trees. The Monday before Thanksgiving was set up day for Denise (inset left) and Harold Marks, Jr. and crew, with fresh Wisconsin trees being unloaded and uprighted in stands across the lawn. The Marks also have fragrant wreaths, greens, decorative birch bundles and more to decorate your December.



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 2021 THRU DECEMBER 2021**

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

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the BYLAWS of KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ~~Strikeout~~ New language
To be considered and voted upon at the December 16, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE II
Members

Section 11. Election of Directors. ~~For purposes of elections, the county shall be divided into five (5) Districts, as follows: District 1, Big Rock, Sugar Grove, and Aurora townships. District 2, Kaneville, Blackberry, and Geneva/Batavia townships. District 3, Virgil, Campton, and St. Charles townships. District 4, Burlington, Plato, and Elgin townships. District 5, Hampshire, Rutland, and Dundee townships. The members of the Board of Directors will be elected by and from the membership at-large of this Farm Bureau. Each District shall be represented by up to three (3) directors.~~

Section 12. Nomination. Prior to each annual meeting the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) voting members in good standing of this Farm Bureau. ~~The Board will endeavor to appoint Nominating Committee members from diverse geographic areas of the county, and insofar as possible, one shall reside in each District.~~ The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for nominating qualified individuals to stand for election to the board.

The Nominating Committee shall, after appointment, elect a chairperson from among their members, and determine possible candidates for the position of ~~district~~ director, establish that the candidates meet the qualifications to serve as directors of this Farm Bureau and are willing to serve as directors, and submit the names of the prospective candidates to the Board of Directors. ~~Every effort should be made by the nominating committee to have each township represented by a director. The nominating committee will endeavor to nominate diverse candidates, including but not limited to geographic diversity, farming operation type, operation size and gender.~~ The Board of Directors shall authorize the President or the Secretary to notify each voting member in good standing of the report of the nominating committee ~~for the member's district.~~

For the purpose of electing a candidate to serve on the Board of Directors, each voting member in good standing ~~of this Farm Bureau who resides in that District~~ shall receive a ballot and may vote by mail for not more than the number of candidates equal to the number of vacancies ~~in that District.~~ They may vote for candidates suggested ~~nominated~~ by the Nominating Committee or for a qualified candidate of the member's own choice. A card or letter ballot must be postmarked not later than ten (10) days following the date the names of prospective director nominees were mailed to the member. A member may deliver the card or letter ballot containing his vote to the office of this Farm Bureau within said ten (10) day period. Votes mailed or delivered after said ten (10) day period shall not be counted.

The prospective candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes ~~from their Districts~~ shall be declared the winner or winners and announced at the annual meeting by the chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Section 13. Election of I.A.A. Delegates. In connection with the annual meeting of the organization, due notice thereof having been given, one or more delegates shall be elected from and by the members in good standing engaged in the production of agricultural products to represent the members of Illinois Agricultural Association within Kane County, or the members present in such meeting may provide that such delegates shall be elected by the Board of Directors of this Farm Bureau, as provided in the By-Laws of said Association. The member qualifications, term of office, powers and duties and voting power of such delegates shall conform to the By-Laws of Illinois Agricultural Association.

ARTICLE III
The Board of Directors

Section 1. Number and Authority. The business and affairs of this Farm Bureau shall be managed by or under the direction of a Board of Directors of not less than ten (10) nor more than fifteen (15) members. The number of directors may be fixed or changed from time to time, within the minimum and the maximum, by the directors without further amendment to the By-laws. No decrease shall have the effect of shortening the term of an incumbent director. Directors shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The terms of the Board of Directors shall be staggered in such a way that one-third of the directors are elected at each annual meeting or as near to this fraction as possible, and when adding new members of the board, the board may authorize an initial term of less than three (3) years in order to effectuate a one-third stagger.

Section 2. Qualifications. The members of the Board of Directors must be Regular Voting Members in good standing, and must at the time of their election be residents of or have a substantial agricultural interest in the District from which they are elected Kane County, and must be eligible to hold office under the provisions of Article II, Section 1 of these By-Laws.

**Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PUBLISHED MONTHLY**

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Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator
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- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>■ DISTRICT 1
Aurora, Sugar Grove,
Big Rock Twnshp.
Nan Long
11461 E. County Line Rd.
Big Rock, IL 60511
815-693-7214
Donna Lehrer
7S027 Jericho Rd.
Big Rock, IL 60511
630-556-3476
William Keck
P.O. Box 281
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
(630) 466-4030
■ DISTRICT 2
Kaneville, Blackberry,
Gen./Bat. Twnshp.
Bill Collins
1125 Lewis Rd.
Geneva, IL 60134
630-484-6852
Karl Kettelkamp
47W407 Main Street Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-365-2713</p> | <p>Joe White
President
47W727 Main St. Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-878-1726
■ DISTRICT 3
Virgil, Campton,
St. Charles Twnshp.
Andrew Lenkaitis
6N707 Corron Rd.
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-513-9980
Chris Collins
1143 Anderson
Elburn, IL 60119
630-934-4642
Dale Pitstick
2N118 Pouley Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-816-0223
■ DISTRICT 4
Burlington, Plato
Elgin Twnshp.
Beth Gehrke
12N860 US Hwy. 20
Elgin, IL 60124
847-697-2538</p> | <p>Mike Kenyon
Secretary/Treasurer
1250 E. Main St.
South Elgin, IL 60177
847-741-1818
Craig Bradley
37W791 Orchard Lane
Elgin, IL 60124
847-888-2380
■ DISTRICT 5
Hampshire, Rutland,
Dundee Twnshp.
Joe Engel
15N720 Walker Rd.
Hampshire, IL 60140
847-347-5561
Gerald Gaitsch
10613 Brittany Ave.
Huntley, IL 60142
847-669-2003
Wayne Schneider
Vice President
721 Lindsay Lane
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-428-0488</p> |
|--|--|---|

Garden project

(continued from page 1)

of the Farm Bureau and the Kane County Environmental and Water Resources Division. In addition to its aesthetic and environmental benefits, the dual purpose (rain garden & pollinator garden) was constructed to remind farmers of their opportunity to install water quality benefits, in lieu of detention, to meet stormwater management requirements for many on-farm development projects. The “in lieu of” provisions were a significant and positive change to the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance, approved by the Kane County Board in 2019.

KCFB received the County Activities of Excellence Award

in the Public Relations and Information category. Other categories included Agriculture Promotion; Leadership Development; Membership Services; Policy Implementation; and Public Relations and Information. Twelve county Farm Bureaus from seven states were recognized in 2020. Another dozen that won the honor in 2021 will also display their ideas in Atlanta.

Kane County Farm Bureau has been recognized previously for County Activities of Excellence awards, in 2007 Touch-A-Tractor (educational event); 2008 Winner’s Choice Tractor Raffle (fundraiser); 2009 Bounty of Kane (consumer outreach); 2010 Grain for Groceries (Harvest for ALL hunger relief); 2012 SPROUTS

(classroom education); and, 2015 Million Meal Challenge (hunger relief).

For 2022, the Farm Bureau is working on a grant for an expansion of the existing pollinator/rain garden to approximately five times its original 750 sq. ft. size. This proposed expansion to a landscape scale feature will allow more space for pollinator plants, addition of prairie and wetland species plants and provide for interpretive signage to help the public understand the benefits of pollinators and what farmers are doing to protect the environment.

Additional partners are sought for the 2022 expansion for site excavation, hardscapes, soil amendments, plants and plant materials and mulch. Local landscapers, garden cen-

ters and Farm Bureau members are encouraged to support the effort which will again include

volunteer planting in the spring/summer of 2022, by calling KCFB at 630-584-8660.



Kane County Farm Bureau will be awarded an American Farm Bureau Federation “County Activities of Excellence” Award for 2020 for their “Public Planting-Pollinator/Rain Garden” project. Volunteers will travel to Atlanta in January to share the idea with Farm Bureau members from across the nation.

Harvest in Kane County



Photos courtesy of Michael Bohlin

Kane County Young Farmer Michael Bohlin was kind enough to share some of his 2021 harvest photos with us. Top: Bohlin and other Kane County farmers worked into the night to harvest dry grain before autumn rains. Bottom: The CHS grain elevator on Meredith Road is backlit by the rising sun, ready for another busy day of harvest. As of November 14th, corn was 95% harvested and soybeans were 93% harvested in Kane County.

COUNTRY Financial®, IFB keep farmers updated on improved opportunities to protect farm & crops

There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring. COUNTRY Financial® and Illinois Farm Bureau remain ready to assist farmers through every season. The organizations are again teaming up for ten regional meetings across Illinois to share updates on improved opportunities for farmers to protect their farms and crops in 2022.

“Every farm operation is different, and our goal is always to help our farm clients and Farm Bureau members reach their goals together with options and information from a trusted partner,” said Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial Crop Agency Manager. “These meetings offer us the opportunity to connect with clients and members prior to the busy planting season, to make sure they have the most up-to-date information about federal crop and hail insurance options, learn about new coverage options from COUNTRY and gain a better understanding of changes in markets and government that they may need to consider, so they can make informed decisions for their operation.”

The ten meetings co-hosted by COUNTRY Financial and Illinois Farm Bureau will take place throughout January and February. Eight meetings will be held in-person across the state, and there will be two virtual presentations. All meetings will include:

- Crop Insurance Update, including changes to federal crop insurance and new private products offered by COUNTRY, the #1 crop hail insurer in Illinois. (Doug Yoder, Crop Agency Manager for COUNTRY Financial)
- Crop Claims Update (COUNTRY Financial Crop Claims Representative)
- Market Outlook (Tim Tresslar, Grain Origination Manager for Growmark)
- Legislative Update (Illinois Farm Bureau)
- Opportunity for Audience Q&A with presenters

The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th at Dekalb County Farm Bureau, starting at 8:00 AM. (full schedule of events is listed below) Each event is open to any Illinois farmer. Registration opens December 13, 2021 for

each event. To register and reserve a seat for any of the ten events, farmers should call their county farm bureau office. A full directory of Illinois county Farm Bureau offices can be found at <https://www.ilfb.org/about-us/directory/>. Farm Bureau members can also login at www.myifb.org to register online.

For updates and more information, visit <https://on.ilfb.org/winter-agribusiness-seminars>.

- Dekalb County Farm Bureau**
1350 W Prairie Dr
Sycamore, IL 60178-3166
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
8:00 am
Virtual #1
Tuesday, January 25, 9:00 am
Virtual #2
Wednesday, February 9, noon

About COUNTRY Financial®—COUNTRY Financial serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States and offers a full range of financial products and services from auto, home, business, farm and life insurance to retirement planning services, investment management and annuities.

KCFB seeking Board candidates

The Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking eligible candidates for election to the association’s Board of Directors. A Farm Bureau director is an individual who helps provide governance, set policies, and supports the philosophy and actions of the organization. Directors should be willing to dedicate

time to make a difference in agriculture and to provide direction, inspiration, and motivation to the largest, most influential and effective farm related organization in Kane County.

Eligible candidates are regular Farm Bureau members (farmers and farmland owners) residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in in the spring of 2022 to voting members in Kane County.

To suggest potential candidates for election, members should call 630-584-8660, or fill out the form below.

TO: Nominating Committee, Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Name (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Township _____ Telephone (____) _____

Signature _____

Membership # (if known) _____

Form completed and returned by: Name _____

Mail to this form to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174
Return on or before January 15.

The Nominating Committee will evaluate candidates and propose a slate to run for directors.

Farm Bureau 2022 calendar gifts to members



In appreciation of our Kane County Farm Bureau members, we have 2022 wall calendars featuring antique tractors, barns or scenic agricultural landscapes. Pick up your FREE calendar at our St. Charles office while supplies last.

Happy Holidays from Kane County Farm Bureau



Your local source for feed, supplies, and so much more!

Pet Food • Propane
Salt • Delivery



St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

Can we believe the holiday season is already upon us? I am one of those people who starts the celebrations early. Yes, I am that person who wants to start listening to Christmas music and decorating for Christmas right after Halloween. Not that I

am trying to bypass Thanksgiving or the importance of that day, because I do enjoy Thanksgiving celebrations with my friends and family, however there's just something extra special about Christmas to me that I just can't wait to begin the festivities and make that time of year last just a little bit longer!

As I have gotten older, I realize more and more about the importance of time and to do more of what makes YOU happy. Sure, some people may look at me and think I am a crazy lady for jamming to Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" on November 1st on my way to work, but it makes me happy and that's all that matters! My advice to you reading this is to spend your time wisely and do more of what makes you happy this holiday season even if it means putting up your Christmas tree in November!

I think all too often we get in such a rush during the holidays

that we sometimes forget to actually slow down, be present and enjoy the time with our friends and family. Time is a gift we can never get back so why are we always trying to rush it and stressing ourselves out? My challenge to you reading this during this holiday season is to slow down and be present. Take pictures, play games, create lasting memories with your loved ones. It will be a gift that keeps on giving every year.

And speaking of gifts this holiday season, try not to stress yourself out about the "perfect" gift or the amount of money to spend. With everything going on in the world there are a lot of things up in the air, prices increasing and there will be things out of our control. As adults we all know that is easier said than done sometimes, especially when you have a large family or have many gift giving occasions. The holidays are not about going broke to give the perfect gift. The truth of the matter is, the holidays are not about

the gifts. Do you think I remember all the gifts I have gotten over the years? Absolutely not. I remember the moments and memories that money can't necessarily buy. I remember the holiday traditions with my family, conversations, card games, silly photos, baking Christmas cookies with my grandma, blaring holiday music and dancing with my dad, watching Christmas movies with my nephews, and so much more. It's about who you spend your time with and the memories made.

If you are still looking for gifts for your loved ones this holiday season, I encourage you to shop small. Go check out some of your local shops and boutiques downtown. Support your local community.

I encourage you and your family to do more of what makes you happy this holiday season and remember that to be present and enjoy the memories in the making!

Happy December!

Young Leader Conference registration open

We are excited to announce the return of the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference in 2022 on January 21-22, 2022 in East Peoria! **Registration is now open** and will close on Friday, December 17 at noon. Space is limited and the Conference is expected to reach capacity quickly. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau office at 630-584-8660 as soon as possible!

Registration will cap at 550

participants and registrations beyond the 550 will be added to a waiting list. Counties may not substitute members. If an attendee cancels, the spot will be filled with the next person on the waiting list. KCFB will receive a list of the accepted members and those who are on the waiting list by the end of the day on December 21.

Registration is available ONLY by contacting Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

We can help protect your business with insurance you deserve



Bob Effner CLU, 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 Gerages
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



Norma Grathoff
Geneva
630-492-5324



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0004



Bob Kearns
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

Commercial insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. "COUNTRY Financial®" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.

1220-509HC_20503-6/22/2021



Book of the month

Did you hear the news?! Santa Claus is coming to town! No, really, Santa. Is. Coming. In just a few short weeks the man in the red suit with his reindeer and sleigh filled with holiday toys for every good little girl and boy will be coming to town! Have you been good? Santa and his elves are packing up their presents and will be heading our way soon!

Have you ever wondered the route Santa takes when he visits Illinois? See how in our book of the Month of December, *Santa is coming to Illinois*, written by Steve Smallman and illustrated by Robert Dunn and Amerigo Pinelli. This is the holiday tale of Santa's journey from the North Pole to Illinois on a starry Christmas Eve. Readers will see the magic that occurs throughout Santa's travels from rooftop

to rooftop all over Illinois, delivering packages of all shapes and sizes to the good little girls and boys in Illinois.

To see the eventful and festive journey Santa and his reindeer take when they visit Illinois, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a FREE library! – And check out *Santa is coming to Illinois*.



Santa is coming to Illinois by Steve Smallman, illustrated by Robert Dunn and Amerigo Pinelli

Have a product to sell?

The Kane County Farm Bureau Country Store is in search of local cottage food products from members. We are looking for unique items that will add a special flavor to a meal, make the perfect sauce, or are the snacks that you just can't put down!

Please contact us with your non-perishable or shelf-stable items either in person, via e-mail, or give us a call to discuss. Here is our contact information: 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174, steve@kanecfb.com, 630-584-8660.





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Chicago's Christmas tree tradition & Kane Connection

The first official Christmas tree in the city of Chicago was installed in 1913 in Grant Park by then-mayor Carter Harrison – a 35-foot tall spruce tree. Beginning with Christmas 1966 the official Chicago Christmas tree was placed in Civic Center Plaza, now known as Daley Plaza. For years, the official tree was constructed of multiple trees, but in 2008 the city decided the tradition was too costly to maintain, and began in 2009 to display an individual tree.

The 2009 Daley Plaza Christmas tree was an individual tree donated by a family in Palos Heights.

In 2010, for the first time, the Daley Plaza Christmas tree was chosen through a contest. Chosen from three finalists, the winning tree, was donated by a McHenry family.

For 2015, the Chicago Christmas Tree was moved to a new location in Millennium Park.

The official Chicago Christmas tree has varied in height from the 35-foot spruce used in 1913 to the 85-foot tree

used in 2008. The contest rules in 2010 laid out a number of prerequisites that were required of the winning tree, one of which is that the tree must be found within 100 miles of the Chicago Loop and in a location from which it could safely be removed.

Two of the donated trees in the past eight years have been from Kane County – a 57 foot Colorado Blue Spruce donated by the Atkinson family of Elgin in 2014, and a 55 foot Blue Spruce donated by the Nelson family of Elgin in 2019.

Christmas treats for eyes and tastebuds

No-bake Chocolate Coconut Snowballs

Ingredients

- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 3 cups sweetened shredded coconut
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 6 tablespoons unsweetened natural or Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Instructions

Place the oats and 1 cup of shredded coconut in a large bowl. Set aside.

Combine the butter, sugar, milk, cocoa, and salt together in a large saucepan over medium heat. Whisk until the butter melts and then bring to a boil. Allow to boil for 1 minute without whisking. Remove from heat, stir in the vanilla extract, then pour over the oats/coconut. Stir until combined. Cover tightly with alu-

minum foil or plastic wrap and chill for at least 45 minutes and up to 2-3 days.

Meanwhile, pulse the remaining coconut in a food processor to break it down. It's easier to



◀ No-bake Chocolate Snowballs
DIY Cinnamon ornaments ▶



days or in the refrigerator for 1 week.

Recipe provided by: <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/no-bake-chocolate-coconut-snowballs/>

DIY Cinnamon ornaments materials

- 1 c. ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 2 tsp. ground cloves
- ¾ cup applesauce
- Christmas cookie cutters
- Drinking straw
- Ribbon or twine
- Rolling Pin
- Mixing bowl & spoon
- Wax Paper

Instructions

Preheat oven to 200 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine all of the ingredients, mixing until well combined and dough begins to form.

Sprinkle your surface with extra cinnamon to avoid sticking, empty dough mixture onto the surface and knead the dough, then roll it into a ball. Roll out your dough flat with rolling pin about ¼ inch thick.

Using your Christmas cookie cutters, cut out cinnamon shapes and lay them onto the parchment paper. Using a drinking straw, poke a hole in the ornament where you want the string to go through. Leave a little bit of space between as a buffer so the ornament does not break.

Bake in the oven for 2 hours. Let the ornament cool, thread a ribbon or twine through the hole and tie a knot. Decorate as desired, hang and admire!

For more ideas and inspiration, check out <https://saynotsweetanne.com/2018/diy-cinnamon-ornaments/>

JOKE

- How do sheep wish each other happy holidays?
Merry Christmas to ewe!
- What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?
You get tinselitus
- What kind of music do elves like?
Wrap music
- What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes!

O, Christmas tree

R	E	E	R	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	D	H	C	W	G	Artificial
F	T	E	A	S	D	V	H	F	R	O	S	Y	N	I	N	N	V	A	I	Balsam Fir
V	R	W	W	V	M	O	C	I	W	C	J	B	S	F	A	P	V	F	Christmas Tree	
L	J	E	U	V	L	R	F	G	O	A	A	O	G	S	T	G	K	S	T	Decorations
A	C	L	S	I	P	E	A	T	Q	L	C	N	H	A	S	A	K	E	S	Douglas Fir
R	I	I	D	H	L	N	C	F	S	C	I	D	N	L	E	M	K	I	H	Family
L	O	A	G	B	C	H	L	A	E	M	R	I	L	G	E	F	A	R	Y	Fraser Fir
I	Y	L	O	A	P	U	M	S	M	E	S	H	F	U	R	V	D	O	P	Fresh-Cut
S	G	N	S	I	K	F	T	I	N	W	R	Q	D	O	T	S	N	M	G	Gifts
H	T	X	N	T	I	M	R	J	S	O	M	T	N	D	P	J	J	E	B	Holidays
H	N	E	A	R	Y	T	U	U	B	A	I	S	T	H	G	I	L	M	A	Lights
V	F	I	P	L	O	F	A	W	L	R	L	T	P	L	O	L	Q	M	R	Local
X	A	T	I	D	Q	S	A	S	G	T	I	A	A	R	U	Y	Y	A	I	Memories
D	L	M	A	G	Z	M	E	N	I	L	V	C	R	E	D	X	A	B		Noble Fir
A	A	H	G	J	T	M	Q	E	N	F	R	J	L	O	O	C	G	M	B	Ornaments
F	F	R	A	S	E	R	F	I	R	I	Z	T	T	Y	L	C	U	K	O	Pre-Cut
W	H	I	T	E	P	I	N	E	I	C	J	V	B	T	B	G	E	T	N	Ribbons
O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S	F	I	J	Q	M	R	U	J	T	D	S	Scotch Pine
S	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	A	K	F	R	C	G	M	F	S	Y	Traditions
S	B	M	V	L	K	X	A	O	C	L	X	G	F	W	J	U	V	P	Y	Tree Farms
																				Tree Stand
																				Trimming
																				White Pine

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by December 15, 2021 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

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

December is ...

National

Peppermint Bark Day	1st
Eat a Red Apple Day	1st
Green Bean Casserole Day	3rd
Cookie Day	4th
World Soil Day	5th
Gingerbread House Day	12th
Maple Syrup Day	17th
Oatmeal Muffin Day	19th
Cookie Exchange Day	22nd
Candy Cane Day	26th
Fruitcake Day	27th
Chocolate Candy Day	28th
Bacon Day	30th

Pear Month

Root Vegetables and Exotic Fruits Month

Congratulations

to **Barbara Geisen** of Maple Park, the November 2021 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 prize to be picked up at the Farm Bureau within the next 30 days (prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Barbara, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



brated with artificial trees.) I reasoned that my family had used the same style of tree stand in my childhood for fresh-cut trees. But telling your

new husband how his father-in-law does the job likely ranks a top 10 no-no in the book of happily ever after.

Memories trim the tree

The first test of our marriage arrived with our first Christmas tree. I wanted the picture-perfect experience: Newlyweds strolling through the local tree farm. Big, falling snowflakes. Lots of laughter while wearing a cute stocking hat with matching mittens. You know, just in case someone would snap our photo for a magazine cover.

In reality, I cannot remember anything about that first tree-hunting experience except the trials of getting the tree to stand upright in the living room.

For years following that first Christmas, my husband told relatives, friends and any newly married man of when he had to cut a board from the garage wall to strengthen the “cheap tree stand” I had purchased. (An important note: His family cele-

brate with artificial trees.) I reasoned that my family had used the same style of tree stand in my childhood for fresh-cut trees. But telling your

new husband how his father-in-law does the job likely ranks a top 10 no-no in the book of happily ever after. During that post-Christmas sale, I bought a heavy-duty, steel stand on discount. Here we are 20 years later, still married, using that stand and visiting local tree farms that give us the enjoyment of a fresh fir in the living room. Illinois claims home to 272 Christmas tree farms growing more than 3,700 acres of trees that deliver holiday cheer, according to 2017 Census of Agriculture, the most current data available. The Illinois Christmas Tree Association reports that 98% of fresh-cut trees grow renewably on farms, as opposed to harvested from the wild.

Our teenage kids love the fresh-cut tradition, and we can

relate to those tree farm families in the thick of a harvest season that just ended for us. While growing a different Illinois crop, we share the same connection to the land and aspirations for the next generation. I hope those tree farm owners also find satisfaction in the life-lasting memories they create for families like ours. Twenty years ago, guests placed gifts under a fresh Christmas tree at our late summer wedding. We called it the “wedding tree,” a 12-foot scotch pine with silver ribbon, heart ornaments and glass balls containing childhood photos. The local tree farm gifted us the tree, which married my enjoyment of Christmas trees with the traditional gift table. My groom had suspicions at “I do” what he was getting into.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens. She loves the Christmas season and listens to holiday music in the tractor radio during harvest.

Illinois to ‘build army of conservation stewards’ for monarchs, KCFB to help

Illinois kick-started work on a statewide plan to protect monarch butterflies in October of last year with a virtual gathering of people from across the state to launch the Monarch Action Plan.

A month earlier, leaders of four state agencies, IDNR, IDOT, IEPA and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, signed the Illinois Monarch Action Plan. See it at <http://illinoismonarchproject.org/>.

Fast forward to October 2021 and Illinois Farm Bureau released its “Pollinator Habitat Guide for Agricultural Landscapes”, consolidating information from a variety of resources into one easy how-to guide for farmers and rural landowners. Find it online at www.ilfb.org/Pollinators.

According to IDNR Director Colleen Callahan, it is fitting for Illinois to be involved. “We’re in the heart of the monarch flyway,” Callahan said. And every action helps. Callahan noted IDNR had expanded its pollinator plot on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

Pollinator habitat may be added in unique locations, she

said. As more solar energy installations are built, the ground underneath solar panels “would be a great place for pollinator plots to be planted,” Callahan said.

IDNR’s Natural Heritage Division, explained the monarch plan was developed to provide

op into butterflies.

Illinois could achieve its milkweed goal if every resident planted 12 milkweeds or four stems were planted on every acre. While that wouldn’t be reasonable, everyone can do the most we can, according to IDNR, and KCFB can help.

For 2022, the Farm Bureau is working on a grant for an expansion of the existing pollinator/rain garden to approximately 5 times its original 750 sq. ft. size. This proposed expansion to a landscape scale feature will allow more space for pollinator plants, addition of prairie and wetland species plants and provide for interpretative signage to help the public understand the benefits of pollinators and what farmers are doing to protect the environment.

Additional partners are sought for the 2022 expansion for site excavation, hardscapes, soil amendments, plants and plant materials and mulch. Local landscapers, garden centers and Farm Bureau members are encouraged to support the effort which will again include volunteer planting in the spring/summer of 2022 by calling KCFB at 630-584-8660.



the state with a cohesive effort relevant across Illinois’ diverse landscape and supported by diverse groups. The state wants to “build an army of conservation stewards” for monarchs, according to IDNR. One of the plan’s goals is to add 150 million new stems of milkweed, the host plant for the monarch. Without milkweed, monarch larva would not be able to devel-

Shop ... and support KCFB Foundation

Can you believe Christmas is just around the corner? Neither can we! Find great deals and more when you shop and support The KCFB Foundation’s AmazonSmile account. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (KCFB Foundation, obviously!) every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com,



with the extra bonus that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Step by step instructions:

1. Click the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3691384>

2. Click the yellow “Start shopping” box
3. Sign in using your Amazon log-in info
4. Begin shopping!

To verify that you’ve followed the steps properly, at the check-out portion of your purchase there will be a box stating, “Supporting Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation”

You will also see on various items that it will say, “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation.”

Thanks again for your continued support!

Honey, it’s time to stuff the stockings!

Christmas is coming whether you’re ready or not, so why not get a jump on stocking up on stocking stuffers? The Kane County Farm Bureau is featuring a collection of “the perfect stocking stuffers” for the people who have made it onto your “nice” list.

Mini-honey bears from White Farms in Elburn are priced at \$2.50 for a 2 oz, bear shaped jar or buy 2 jars for \$4. These sweet little bears will be a hit come Christmas morning. Honey is the natural sweetener that everyone loves and pure local honey has many healing properties as well. \$1 from each mini-honey bear sale will benefit the KCFB FOUNDATION.

Besides mini-honey bears, we have a collection of local Illinois treats including Pilot Knob blue or red “hull-less” popcorn (\$2), the ever popular Pork BBQ Spice (\$10.50), and Teeple Barn collectible coffee mugs (\$5).

We’ll also have fried and honey crunch peanuts, fresh pecans and other salty and sweet snacks and treats.

If you’re looking for stocking stuffers for the mini farmers on your nice list, we also have plenty of mini-tractors, trucks, ATV’s, and various farm animals from TOMY.

Whatever your holiday needs, the Kane County Farm Bureau’s Country Store has something for everyone. Stop in and visit us Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm @ 2N710 Randall Rd, cross street is Oak in St. Charles.

Mini-honey bears are a thoughtful, sweet little gift for your honey.



Several Kane County Farm Bureau member farms and businesses offer Christmas Trees and some offer wreaths and roping/garland.

These locations include:

- Heinz Brothers Greenhouse – St. Charles
630-377-6288 • trees & wreaths
- Klein’s Farm & Garden Market – Udina
847-697-4910 • trees & wreaths
- Kuipers Family Farm – Maple Park
815-827-5200
- Lee’s Trees – Lily Lake
630-365-2116
- Spring Bluff Nursery – Sugar Grove
630-466-4278 • Trees & wreaths
- Randy’s Vegetables – Sleepy Hollow (Dundee)
*Heiden’s Christmas Trees
906-280-1897
- Theis Farm Market & Greenhouses – Maple Park
815-761-8374

Christmas trees (limited supply – open weekends starting Nov. 20th) & wreaths

- Tom’s Farm Market & Greenhouse – Huntley
847-669-3421 • Christmas trees
- Trellis Farm & Garden – St. Charles
630-584-2024 • Christmas trees & roping

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Growing To Serve You Better

THE 'WHITE' CHAIR

By Alice Macha
Communications Coordinator



My husband and I had a running joke about the "white" chair. It is actually a green recliner, and was a "purrfect" snoozing spot for our white and gray cat. A week of cat naps would give the chair a soft, gauzy haze of snowy cat hair, and we would joke back and forth about whose turn it was to vacuum the "white" chair.

The white cat came into my life at a time when I needed a positive note. My previous two cats had passed away a few months before of old age-related issues. My siblings and I were moving my ailing father and stepmother into a skilled nursing facility in Batavia and it was very difficult to see dad there. My boyfriend (now husband) wasn't keen on cats and was cautiously optimistic that I was "done with cats."

A chance stop at Geneva PetSmart to burn time before a Tuesday doctor visit turned out to be fortuitous. I was at the door to the pet adoption room when a woman stepped out,

telling me to "Watch out for the white one, he bites."

I stepped into the little room and strolled down the line of cages, surveying grooming, sleeping, disinterested tabbies and ginger, my heart in dry dock. Suddenly, a small white paw reached out, patted my hand, my chest, and my nose. I looked into the bright green, inquisitive eyes of a young cat and thought, oh oh.

I went back on the following Saturday and the white cat was a mess, feverish and wheezy with an upper respiratory infection. But when I sat on the floor at PetSmart, he climbed right into my lap and purred as I pet him. My heart began to repair.

The next day, as I read over the adoption paperwork, I learned that my cat was a six month old kitten. I almost called the whole thing off because I didn't want the worries of a naughty kitten with my full time job. But a deal was a deal and I felt obligated to bring my little cat home and settle him in my

KANE COUNTY FARMER

office, a temporary confined space until he earned the run of the house.

The next day I came home from work after worrying all day about the cat, with visions of chewed computer cables, litter box mishaps and mischief and mayhem. When I opened the office door, the office was intact and the cat was settled in my office chair, greeting me with a stretch and a purr. My heart began to float a little.

And so began 11 years of smooth sailing with a wonderful, joyful little creature who was playful, affectionate, clever, gentle and feisty. He and my boyfriend hit it off and played rowdy games with feather wands, toy mice and a laser pointer. The

cat would leap onto our shoulders and give us head butts or settle in like a warm, soft, purring stole. I told my sister that I thought the white cat was very clever. She said, "Do ya think? He has a guy who doesn't like cats wrapped around his paw!"



The cat traveled between my house and my boyfriends', at ease and comfortable in either home. He knew if he was with us, he was home. And when we married, he was happy to settle permanently in my husband's home, patrolling rooms, catching spiders, watching birds at the

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, 2011. His office



Felipe Rocha

is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

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.

WANTED

Jill of All Trades - Minimum 20 hours weekly M-F in our St. Charles office. Applicant must be computer literate, self-starter, have pleasant personality and phone voice and be willing to learn a variety of tasks. We offer

vacation pay, Self-directed retirement plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for college student or stay-at-home mom. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview

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

FOR SALE

2nd 3rd and 4th cutting grass/alfalfa hay for sale. Small bales and large bales available. Call: 847-436-2538

2000 New Holland Manure Spreader - Rebuilt-Great Shape. Bed chain great shape. Works well. Ready to go. PTO driven. Call for a test drive. \$4,000. Call: 630-940-6778

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Edward Stuehm has been named the Rep of the Month for October 2021 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Edward 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 Ed's expertise help you! You may reach him at 630-845-8245, edward.stuehm@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/edward.stuehm/>. Congratulations, Ed!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for October 2021. 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!

Save time and renew online!

It's easy to make sure your Farm Bureau Membership is current. The Illinois Farm Bureau provides many services to all Kane County Farm Bureau members, for example, online membership renewal through their website.

Did you know you can renew your Farm Bureau membership online? You can also view your payment history, print a lost or updated membership card, and update your account information including address,

spouse/dependents, phone and e-mail all through the Member Center of the website.

To do this, simply visit www.iffb.org. Click on the Get Involved menu, and then Join/Renew your membership. You will be asked to register using your Farm Bureau number and create a username and password.

The ability to check your membership information anytime, anywhere can help prevent unwanted Farm Bureau mem-

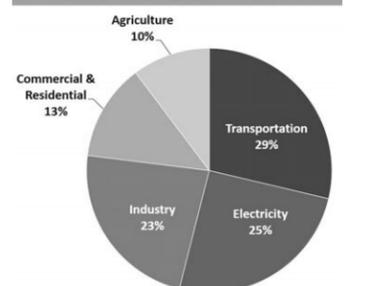
bership late fees and keep you eligible for COUNTRY Mutual and COUNTRY Preferred insurance coverages. Don't delay, check to make sure your information is updated today!

REMINDER: Regular (voting) and Professional Members are due for renewal in September. Associate members' renewal dates vary.

Did You Know?

According to an October 2020 survey of 2,200 American adults, nearly half (45%) correctly ranked agriculture as the smallest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector. In fact, according to the latest EPA data, agriculture accounts for 10% of total U.S. emissions, far less than the transportation, electricity production, commercial and residential, and industry sectors.

Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2019



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2021). Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019

Total Emissions in 2019 = 6,558 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ equivalent. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to independent rounding. Land Use including Agriculture and Forestry in the United States is a net sink and removes approximately 12 percent of these greenhouse gas emissions, this net sink is NOT shown in the above diagram. Source: US EPA Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019.

Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our FOUNDATION. These contributions help in the areas of community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. The Kane County Farmer reminds readers that the KCFB Foundation is still accepting contributions earmarked to benefit our hungry neighbors through local food pantries and the Northern Illinois Food Bank as part of our Harvest for ALL initiative. Fall harvest is a great time to recognize and support our hungry neighbors!

Names shown are contributions received from October 16, 2021-November 16, 2021.



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

Donor

Thomas Richter
CHS Elburn

Beneficiary

KCFB Foundation scholarships/AITC
Harvest for ALL - Elburn Countryside Food Pantry

* For more information on KCFB Foundation scholarship, education or community service programs, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director at 630-584-8660.



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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	
Kevin Beford	Aurora
Valerie Landmeier	Fenton
Lynn Mingl	Elgin

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.*

Landowners can apply for conservation easements through NRCS

Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE).

NRCS State Conservationist Ivan Dozier said all eligible applications on file Dec. 10 would be considered for fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding. For FY 2022, NRCS has \$423,000 available.

Interested landowners need to find an entity who is willing to help in the purchase of the easement. If you do not know of an entity that would work, con-

tact your local NRCS office to get more information about the type of entity that would hold an Agriculture Land Easement.

Through conservation easements, NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners or entities to assist landowners with the purchase of Agricultural Land Easements (ALE).

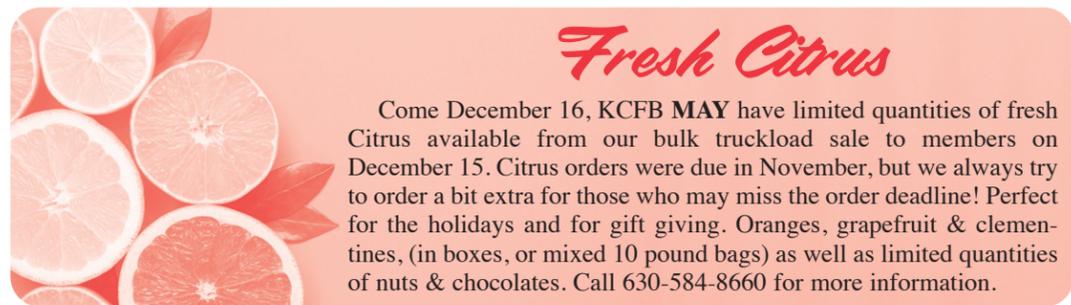
Eligible entities include state and local governments and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs.

"Easements are a powerful way to actually prevent conversion of productive working

lands across Illinois to non-agricultural uses and conserve vital grazing land and pastures," Dozier said.

The ALE sign-up is continuous; however, the Dec. 10 cut-off allows eligible applications to compete for funding. Applications received by Dec. 10 will be ranked in January and funding decisions will be made by NRCS after Jan. 28.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, farmers should call to set up appointments with local NRCS office staff. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov to learn more.



Fresh Citrus

Come December 16, KCFB MAY have limited quantities of fresh Citrus available from our bulk truckload sale to members on December 15. Citrus orders were due in November, but we always try to order a bit extra for those who may miss the order deadline! Perfect for the holidays and for gift giving. Oranges, grapefruit & clementines, (in boxes, or mixed 10 pound bags) as well as limited quantities of nuts & chocolates. Call 630-584-8660 for more information.

Farm toy of the month

Our December toy of the month is a Farm Toy Set chock-full of farm equipment for ages 5 and up. Your indoor farmers will be busy for hours with a 20 piece assortment of John Deere tractors, trailers, wagons, pick up truck, trailer and horses. This Farm Toy Set is \$18.62, but Farm Bureau members will receive a 10% discount in December.

A limited number of John Deere Plastic Pedal Tractors are

also available for \$120.36 each.

This easy to pedal tractor has a chain drive, turf-tread tires and is suitable for ages 3 and up. The same discounts apply.

Supplies are limited, so we'll see you soon.



Just in time for Christmas!

Tickets are now available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2022 Vintage Truck Raffle. They make great stocking stuffers!

The Grand Prize this year is a 1971 Chevy C/10 in beautiful blue and white. As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-

Tractor in April 2022 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$20 or 3 for \$50 and ticket sales help provide Ag Literacy programs and college scholarships for Kane County students.

Return the form below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA or MasterCard. Request tickets by December 20 and we'll mail your ticket stubs in time for Christmas gift giving!

The winning ticket will be drawn on October 13th, 2022 at the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or charge my:

Visa MC # _____ Exp ____ / ____

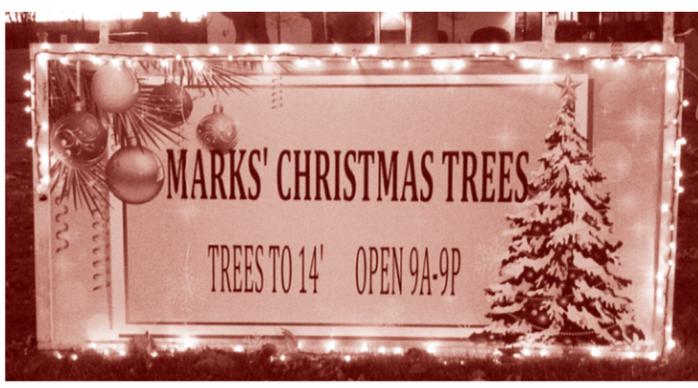
Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from Kane County Farm Bureau

Christmas tree discount for KCFB members

Marks' Tree Farm, which has been doing business in St. Charles for three decades, has established a Christmas tree lot at the Kane County Farm Bureau between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Marks' provides quality, fresh cut Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Spruce and White Pines grown on their farm in Northern Wisconsin. They are also happy to offer evergreen wreaths and crosses, perfect for doors or walls that

need a little "sprucing" up! Kane County Farm Bureau members will receive a \$10.00 discount on all trees on the lot. We hope you take advantage of this convenient and money saving member service. And, while you are at the Farm Bureau, stop inside for holiday gift ideas including farm toys, puzzles, branded apparel, and a selection of local meats, honey, BBQ seasoning, and much, much more!



Scholarships

(continued from page 1) Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively. The family & friends of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship (1) @ \$1,000, established by the family and friends of the former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer to provide an annual award for a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

AGCO Global Women's Network (AGWN) Scholarships (2) @ \$1,000, for women residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. AGCO GWN scholarships are supported by members of the local chapter at AGCO Parts in Batavia.

AGCO Parts Division Scholarships (2) @ \$1,000, for

students residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. Local AGCO Parts division employees in Batavia raise funds to support this scholarship effort.

AGCO Platinum Scholarship (1) @ \$2,500, for an Illinois resident and currently enrolled college sophomore, junior or senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field. Funds provided by special activities and projects carried out by our friends at AGCO Parts in Batavia.

General Scholarship (1) @ \$1,000, for a KCFB member or dependent in good standing since February 1, two years prior to application deadline, pursuing higher education for a career in ANY field.

For more information on FOUNDATION scholarship programs, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660, or go to www.kanecfb.com and click on "Scholarships & Internships".

Application deadline is February 15, 2022.

December Special Holiday Hams!



Name: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Member Number: _____

Please indicate quantity:

Traditional	Spiral Slice
Plus Mbr. (\$3.77/lb) _____	Plus Mbr. (\$5.61/lb) _____
Member (\$3.96/lb.) _____	Member (\$5.91/lb) _____
Non-mbr. (\$4.83/lb) _____	Non-mbr. (\$7.26/lb) _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS NOON, Wednesday, December 15. Payment is due at pickup at Kane County Farm Bureau (Randall Rd. & Oak St., St. Charles) on Wednesday afternoon, December 22.