

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 85 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2020

KCFB Pollinator/Rain Garden receives CAE award

Kane County Farm Bureau's "Pollinator/Rain Garden – Public Planting" event was recently chosen by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) as one this year's County Activities of Excellence (CAE). The annual CAE program recognizes and shares innovative county Farm Bureau programs and activities. For 2020 AFBF chose only 12 County Farm Bureau programs for recognition from submissions across the nation.

The Pollinator/Rain Garden installation was a joint project 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 this year. Two Illinois CFBs, Kane and



KCFB's public planting of a pollinator/rain garden on the FB property in July was selected as one of 12 "County Activities of Excellence" conducted by County Farm Bureaus across the nation this year. The projects are chosen annually by the American Farm Bureau Federation. In addition to inviting the public to participate in the installation, this environmental and water quality improvement also demonstrates an allowable best management practice that farmers can use to meet provisions in the Kane County Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Woodford, won the honor.

Since the 2021 AFBF Annual Meeting will be virtual, a video will be prepared on the project

purpose and accomplishments for the virtual convention. Kane

County Farm Bureau will be invited to display information on Pollinator/Rain Garden - Public Planting event and its successes in-person at the at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Atlanta in January 2022.

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).

Congratulations to the Kane County Farm Bureau for winning the American Farm Bureau Federation County Activities of Excellence Award for 2020 for their "Public Planting-Pollinator/Rain Garden" project.

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.

Hinckley-Big Rock FFA receives KCFB Foundation grant

The brisk and bright morning of Friday, October 30th brought Hinckley-Big Rock FFA teacher Tracey Sanderson, students and FFA alumni out for a special event with KCFB Foundation Board President Joe White and Executive Director Steve Arnold.

The group met at the Ag Education Building currently under construction on the east side of Hinckley-Big Rock High School in Hinckley. The shell of the building was constructed over the summer and FFA students and alumni are now prepared for the second phase of cold weather projects including interior construction and instal-

lation of the HVAC system, electricity and plumbing.

The 8:00 a.m. event began with the presentation of a \$500 FFA Chapter Grant from the KCFB Foundation to the high school FFA Chapter. Then, White revealed a second KCFB Foundation check, in the amount of \$20,000, to help in the second phase of construction on the Ag Education building. The 20K amount is expected to cover costs for HVAC and electrical work.

The idea for the building was hatched 5 years ago, when the old building suffered storm damage and community and FFA members and alumni brainstormed the concept of a new building.

Construction of the new

building started this past summer, and the shell was built in about four weeks by a team of volunteer laborers and FFA students and alumni. The building construction also benefited from the donation of equipment and personnel.

Sanderson and H-BR FFA Alumni President Nan Long of Big Rock are both impressed by the support in the community and by the enthusiasm of the students for this project. They counted 30-40 volunteers in their core group. Monetary donations from Pioneer, Resource Bank, Compeer Financial, CHS, DeKane Equipment, NIU Board of Trustees member Bob Pritchard and a grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation

preceded the \$20K donation from the KCFB Foundation. They also received site work from O'Donnell Excavating and roofing help from Condon Construction in Sandwich.

Students worked together with adult volunteers, reading blueprints, climbing lifts and learning a lot about the construction process and the collaborative effort needed to con-

struct the building. In addition to the building construction, a group of volunteers provided breakfast, lunch and snacks to the volunteers working at the construction site. "We were well fed," noted Sanderson.

Long commented that "The building shell was built in about four weeks with funding and volunteer labor from the

(continued on page 8)



(Left to Right) Kendall Hawbaker, Ashley Wackerlin, Jenna Halverson (Alumni), Maddie Noble, Bob Strand (Alumni), Joe White, Bridget Wilkening, Nan Long (alumni), Ciera Woods, Eric Wackerlin (alumni), George Baumann, Donna Kimpan (Alumni), and Bryan Gorsky.

The KCFB Foundation will sponsor a **Vintage Truck Raffle** to raise funds for College Scholarships and Ag Literacy programs. The Grand Prize in the 2021 Raffle will be a 1972 Chevy C/20 Camper Special. Perfect for glamping in your vintage camper/trailer, hauling your vintage muscle car, or just chores around the farm. See page 8 for order form.



Farmers—see page 2 for local & federal grant funds

KCFB CALENDAR DECEMBER 2020

- 5 IFB 2020 (Virtual) Business Meeting
- 7 Young Farmers, 6:30pm, Farm Shop at Long Farms, Big Rock
- 10 Citrus Pick-Up, 10am-5pm, Heinz Bros., St. Charles
- 10 Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 17 Holiday Ham Orders Due, 12pm
- 17 County Ag Committee, 10am
- 22 Holiday Ham Pick Up, noon-4:30pm
- 24 Office closed for Christmas Eve
- 25 Office closed for Christmas Day
- 31 Office closed for New Year's Eve

Happy Holidays!

Fresh Citrus

We have limited quantities of Citrus available. Perfect for the holidays & for gift giving! KCFB will have 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.

December Special

HOLIDAY 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 (\$3.86 per lb member price) and 7-9 pounds for spiral (\$5.81 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 Thursday, December 17 at noon. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Tuesday, December 22, after noon.

Funding for Farmers Kane County Round 2 Business Grants

On November 19 the County of Kane announced it is now accepting grant applications from FARMS and other local businesses in need of financial assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, through "Round Two" of the county's Business Grant Program.

The Kane County Board appropriated \$5 million for this initiative from its Coronavirus Relief Fund. Eligible FARMS and other businesses may apply for up to \$25,000 to cover certain expenses from 3/1/2020 to 12/30/2020. (Businesses that applied under Round One are welcome to apply under Round Two.)

Applicants should review the Program Guidelines and Application Instructions for additional terms and conditions. All applications must be completed using the ZoomGrants application portal established for this initiative.

Submissions will be reviewed and funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-eligible, first-served basis. While an application deadline has not been established for the Round Two program, the county anticipates closing the application portal when funds are exhausted, or when it is no longer feasible to process applications and issue awards before the end of calendar year 2020.

More information, including a link to the web-based application portal, is posted on the county's Coronavirus Relief Fund page.

The County has established a dedicated telephone number and email address for this important program and staff is ready to field inquiries.

Round Two Business Grant Hotline and Email: 630-762-2084, CRF2@co.kane.il.us.

FARMS and other business-

es that would benefit from one-on-one assistance or might lack adequate technology to complete the on-line application, can receive computer and scanning technology assistance free of charge at the Kane County



Office of Community Reinvestment in downtown Batavia. This service available by appointment only, in order to ensure strict compliance with COVID-19 screening and distancing standards. Applicants will be able to bring their financial and expense documentation to this office where it can be digitally scanned for upload to the application portal.

FEDERAL CFAP 2 signup ends Dec. 11

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) will end Dec. 11. The program provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. To apply, go to <http://farmers.gov/cfap/apply>.

To complete the CFAP 2 application, producers will need to reference their sales, inventory, and other records. However, since CFAP 2 is a self-certification program, this documentation will not need to be submitted with the application. Because applications are subject to County Committee review and spot check, some producers will be required to provide documentation. Producers should retain the

records and documentation they use to complete the application.

USDA has established a call center for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. For more information, contact the DeKalb/Kane/DuPage FSA office at 815-756-3234 x2.

TARGETED County mini-grants available for Direct farm marketers

Through the "Growing for Kane" program, the Kane County Development Department is administering "mini-grants" to assist farms with COVID related expenditures. These funds are specifically for farms that sell food products direct to consumers.

Information and application procedures on this program, along with a brief survey, will be delivered electronically to those farms identified as meeting the pre-requisite by early December. Farms and farmers that self-identify as meeting the criteria that do NOT receive the information electronically are asked to contact the Kane County Farm Bureau by December 5.

Funding for COVID-19 mini-grants is made possible by a grant from Compeer Financial to the Kane County "Growing for Kane" program. For more information, contact the Kane County Development and Community Service Department at tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us; hilljanice@co.kane.il.us; or farruggiatony@co.kane.il.us, or Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or steve@kane.cfb.com.

Farm Bureau 2021 calendar gifts to members

In appreciation of our Kane County Farm Bureau members, we will soon have 2021 wall calendars featuring antique tractors or barns. Pick up your FREE calendar at our St. Charles office while supplies last.

For many, 2021 can't come soon enough!



Welcome new members

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

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

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

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2020 THRU DECEMBER 2020

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

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

Kane County Farmer

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

(USPS No. 289700)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kane County Farmer
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

Periodical Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174
Year Subscription: \$2.00

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847-428-0488

Young Farmers to meet at Big Rock farm

When KCFB Young Farmers gathered in St. Charles at KCFB for dinner and conversation in November, they decided to expand meeting locations across the county to make future meetings more accessible to more young Farm Bureau members.

In November, Carolyn Gehrke of Elgin reported on her participation in a Discussion Meet for Young Farmers in Northern Illinois in October. She will participate in a virtual statewide discussion on December 12.

KCFB Development & AITC Coordinator Kelcee Miller filled the group in on fundraising ideas for 2021. These included AmazonSmile, Prairie Farms Dairy's "Our Caps, Your Cause" fundraisers, and a local dining-

out fundraiser in cooperation with local restaurants through GroupRaise fundraisers. These efforts will supplement other KCFB Foundation fundraising efforts for Ag Literacy, Scholarships, hunger relief and community support.

The group also learned about grants and funding available during the pandemic to support farmers and small businesses, brainstormed ideas for the Foundation's Vintage Truck Raffle (including locations throughout the county to park the truck to increase visibility) and discussed volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Looking ahead to 2021, potential community service activities including donating agriculture friendly books to

Little Free Libraries, FFA acquaintance activities, grain bin safety education and concealed carry classes were discussed. Social and educational activities discussed included virtual conferences, an annual Euchre Tournament for Young FB members and traditional annual KCFB events for students, public officials and the general public.

Oh, and as to those future meeting locations, the groups' next gathering will be held in the farm shop at the John & Nan Long farm in rural Big Rock, 6:30 pm on Monday, December 7. The address is 11461 E. County Line Rd, Big Rock. Dinner will be provided. No RSVP is necessary. Members from 18-35 are welcome.

Have a farm product to sell?

The Kane County Farm Bureau Country Store is in search of 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.

Happy Holidays from the Kane County Farm Bureau

Christmas shopping at Kane County Farm Bureau



Visit the Kane County Farm Bureau's Country Store for a selection of farm related Christmas stocking stuffers.

Look no further, the KCFB Country Store can be your one-stop-shop for holiday gifts! Offering everything from the perfect, fresh-cut Christmas tree, Stocking Stuffers, Santa gifts, and much, much more; we have what's on your list.

Let us be your ERTL farm toy supplier as well. We're no Toyland, but we have a variety of farm toys sure to put a smile on a kid's face age.

*ERTL is known worldwide as the leader in farm toys for nearly 70 years and we are proud to present this year's lineup of officially licensed die cast toys and replicas.

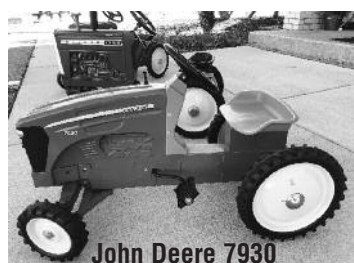
Farm toy of the month

Big toys are always the most popular ones, aren't they? This month we are featuring a trio of fun, diecast pedal tractors for the junior farmers on Santa's nice list – a **John Deere 7930**, **Cockshutt 70** or **Oliver 1755** Pedal Tractor. Are all pre-assembled and available at our office. Each tractor is \$299.00. KCFB members get a 5% discount, PLUS members get an additional 10% off.

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, and when you stop by, be sure to take a look at the 1940's-50's vintage pedal tractors we've collected for the pedal tractor corral at next year's Touch-A-Tractor!



John Deere 7930



Cockshutt 70



Oliver 1755

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 Slap You Silly hot sauce (\$6.50 any size/ flavor), Happy Bee Soaps (\$6), Teeple Barn collectible coffee mugs (\$5), Pilot Knob blue or red "hull-less" popcorn (\$2), and the ever popular Pork BBQ Spice (\$9.50) & Bean's Farm Grilling Dust & Seasoning.

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.

TRELLIS
Pet Food • Propane
Salt • Delivery

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

St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

New ways to support the KCFB Foundation

The KCFB Foundation is pleased to announce new ways for members to support its mission of funding for education, local scholarships, hunger relief and community support – from the comfort of your own home – and even without spending more money!

AmazonSmile

Calling all Amazon shoppers! The KCFB Foundation now has an AmazonSmile account and would greatly appreciate your support! AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization 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.

Our Caps, Your Cause – Prairie Farms Dairy

In 2018, we encouraged the community to join us in our 10,000 gallon milk challenge – a challenge to provide milk to our hungry neighbors through donations earmarked to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, or to the local food pantry of your choice. Members responded generously, even helping gather hundreds of empty milk jugs so we could make "donation stations" for local retailers.

We are shifting gears for 2021. We are excited to be working with Prairie Farms Dairy in their "Our Caps, Your Cause" program.

We ask members to collect caps from Prairie Farm Dairy white or chocolate milk in one gallon or half gallon sizes, and from Prairie Farms iced coffee, and send or drop them off at the KCFB office on Randall Road in St. Charles. Each contains a redeemable code, and Prairie Farms will give 5-cents to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation for each code entered.

So drink your milk and save your caps! It's a small change that can make a big difference!



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

Klein's Farm & Garden Market

Udina • 847-697-4910

Kuipers Family Farm

Maple Park • 815-827-5200

Lee's Trees

Lily Lake • 630-365-2116

Spring Bluff Nursery

Sugar Grove • 630-466-4278

Randy's Vegetables

Sleepy Hollow (Dundee)

***Heiden's Christmas Trees**

906-280-1897

This Farm Market & Greenhouses

Maple Park • 815-985-8001

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse

Huntley • 847-669-3421

Trellis Farm & Garden

St. Charles • 630-584-2024

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:

Atanacio Sanchez Hampshire
Mike Thran Centerville
Brianna Maple Hampshire

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

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement

with farmers

- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *Farm Week*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to *FarmWeek Now.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.

Nominations sought for KCFB Director

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 members (farmers and farmland owners) residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in March, to

regular members in each respective District. KCFB has five districts each made up of three townships.

To suggest potential candidates for election, members should call 630-584-8660 by January 15, 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 _____

Township _____ District # _____ 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 director.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Going right along with this month's theme of Farm Style Christmas Gift and Holiday Traditions and our book of the month, *Pick a Pine Tree*, one of my favorite holiday traditions is picking out our freshly cut Christmas tree and then rushing home to decorate it.

Decorating and getting the house ready for the holidays is something I always look forward to each year. Ever since I can remember, I would go with my dad and older sister to either Lowe's, Menard's, or a local tree stand to find our chosen fresh-cut tree. We would look for a tree in the 6 foot range, with lots of strong branches and of course, not too expensive! We typically buy a Scotch Pine or a fir pine tree that fit our criteria and budget.

My dad would provide the muscle power and help us in the selection process by holding the

tree straight up, rotating it so we could get a good look at it and make our decision. If it was too tall we could trim it or if it was on the shorter side we could boost it up by adding a platform underneath the tree-stand to give it more height. Like my mom always said, "Every tree deserves a home," so when picking out the tree my sister and I found beauty in the unique flaws of the tree. It's not all about the tree, it's about how you make it your own, people you are with and the memories made in the process. Every year it's something new and exciting to look forward to because no two trees or seasons are the same. One thing that does stay the same for me, is the anticipation of seeing everything come together and the joy of spending time with my loved ones.

I remember one year we were getting our floors redone

KANE COUNTY FARMER

so it delayed the tree-picking and decorating process. My parents said we could still purchase a real tree to scratch our holiday decorating itch, but a smaller tree to fit in our bay window. And just like that another tradition was born, two Christmas trees for our house!

Our tree picking tradition was passed down to me once my sister moved out and my dad and I continue it to this day. It wasn't until about two years ago my parents purchased an artificial Christmas tree for our living room. I was slightly sad because we always had a real Christmas tree in the living

room. But my dad and I still will go out each year and spend time together to select our mini Christmas tree to sit in our window.

Each and every holiday season is unique. The current holiday season makes it more difficult to continue holiday traditions and spend the quality time with our loved ones, but I think this year holds a special blessing in disguise. It is giving us an opportunity to slow down and shift the way we think in new creative ways to spread the holiday cheer with one another. With the idea of every tree needs a home inspired by my

parents, I challenge you all to my county wide Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Contest. Take the most forlorn tree and give it a Christmas makeover with some extra love and holiday cheer to make it the most beautiful! To be entered in our Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Contest, submit your before and after photos to: aitc@kanecfb.com. Winner will receive a Christmas themed gift and may be featured in next month's *Farmer*.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

Book of the month

Our book of the Month for December is *Pick a Pine Tree*, written by Patricia Toht and illustrated by Jarvis. This story walks readers through the excitement and magic that occurs when picking out the perfect pine tree from fresh off the lot and into our cozy homes for the holiday



Pick a Pine Tree by Patricia Toht

season. As we know, trees come in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. With a little help from our friends and family, twinkling lights, colorful ornaments, and other festive decorations the plain pine tree transforms right in front of our eyes to a beautiful Christmas tree. To see the festive transfor-

mation and joy for yourself, come on into the Kane County Farm Bureau Library – yes, we have a FREE library! And check out *Pick a Pine Tree*.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

A special bonus – this is also the book of the month for Ag in the Classroom, so be sure to follow us on Facebook for upcoming activities and an author interview!



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 sauces, and much, much more!



Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the FOUNDATION. These contributions help in the areas of to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from October 16-November 15, 2020.



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

Donor	Beneficiary
Beth Gehrke (memorial donation for John Ramm)	KCFB Foundation
Thomas Richter	KCFB Foundation scholarships/AITC
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp and Paul "Griz" Stover	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.

In 1856, Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
Merry Christmas!

Helping you protect what matters most



 Bob Effner CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles/Elgin Agency Manager 630-584-0001	 Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245	 Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434
 Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326	 Deb Stob Geneva 630-208-0890	 Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110
 Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155	 Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852	 Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500
 Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324	 Jeff Jones Geneva 847-989-9989	 Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737
 Kelly Landorf St. Charles 630-762-1328	 Victor Alvarado Elgin 847-742-0003	 Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
 Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694	 Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001	 David Berreles Hampshire 847-683-2100
 Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696	 Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	 Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 Ashraf Gerdes Aurora 630-898-3750	 Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	 Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

Christmas tree!

Often referred to as evergreens, Christmas trees include different species of firs, spruces, and pines, all of which stay green year-round. These trees are grown and harvested in 45 different states.

Across the country, over 300,000 acres are dedicated to growing a traditional holiday sight, the Christmas tree. In 2018, more than 32 million Christmas trees were purchased to display in homes and public areas throughout the United States, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. Today, 98% of Christmas trees are grown on farms, and unlike artificial trees made from plastics, real Christmas trees can be recycled to provide benefits to the environment.

A Christmas tree can take up to 15 years to grow to 6 feet tall, so for each tree harvested, Christmas tree farmers plant one to three more seeds. On average, trees are harvested at about seven years old.

Adapted from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's *Seasons Ag Mag*.

Popsicle Stick Snowflake ornaments

Supplies:

- Popsicle sticks (plain or colored)
- Paint or markers
- Rhinestones
- Glitter
- Pom poms
- Stickers
- Twine, string, and/or ribbon
- Hot glue

Steps:

1. Paint or color the popsicle sticks (if you don't already have colored sticks)
2. Next, form the shape of the snowflake with the popsicle sticks (lay 2 popsicle sticks on top of each other to form the letter "t" and then lay 2 more on top of that to form the letter "x"), put a small dab of hot glue in between each popsicle stick. Once done, add a dab of hot glue to the back and add your twine or string for hanging.
3. Now is the fun part! Decorate the snowflakes as much or as little as you'd like using the materials.

For more ideas and inspiration, check out <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/popsicle-stick-snowflake-ornaments/>



A recipe for sharing: M&M cookie mix in a jar

Ingredients:

- 1 quart Mason jar
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar (packed)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup Holiday M&M's or chocolate chips or both!

Instructions:

Assembling Jar:

Carefully layer each ingredient on top of one another (gently press each layer in place before adding the next layer)

Seal the lid and decorate the jar with a festive ribbon & attach the recipe card:

- a. Preheat the oven to 350°
- b. In a large bowl, whisk 1/2 cup of melted and cooled unsalted butter, 1 large egg, & 2 teaspoons vanilla extract. Add the contents of the jar & gently stir with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until combined. Chill for 30 minutes
- c. Form golf ball sized portions of dough and place onto a lined baking sheet. Bake (at 350°) for 8-10 minutes. Place baking sheets on a rack to cool & enjoy!

Recipe provided by: <https://celebratingsweets.com/mm-cookie-mix-in-a-jar/>



Fun Facts

- * 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms, while only 2 percent are cut from the wild.
- * More than 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre.
- * Almost all trees require shearing, or trimming, during their growth to attain the desired Christmas tree shape.
- * Most Christmas trees take six to ten years to reach

- maturity.
- * Live Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.
- * In 2012, 85% of the live Christmas trees purchased were pre-cut. The remainder were "cut-your-own."
- * The most popular Christmas tree varieties are Scotch pine, Douglas fir, noble fir, Fraser

- fir, balsam fir, Virginia pine, and white pine.
 - * Christmas trees are grown and harvested in all 50 states.
 - * There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms in any given year.
- Sources: University of Illinois Extension, National Christmas Tree Association, USDA Census of Agriculture

Fun history

- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- ★ The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.
- Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- ★ Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up

- with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882. Christmas tree lights were first mass produced in 1890.
- In 1900, large stores started to display large, illuminated Christmas trees.
- ★ The tradition of an official Chicago Christmas tree began in 1913, when one was first lit by Mayor Carter H. Harrison in Grant Park.
- The official Christmas tree tradition at Rockefeller Center began in 1933. Since 2004, the tree has been topped with a 550-pound Swarovski Crystal star. Since

2007, the tree has been lit with 30,000 energy-efficient LED lights, which are powered by solar panels.

Gather 'round the tree

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

- Angel
- Artificial
- Candles
- Cookies
- Decorations
- Douglas Fir
- Evergreens
- Family
- Gifts
- Holidays
- Lights
- Merry Christmas
- Noble Fir
- Ornaments
- Pine trees
- Real
- Reindeer
- Santa Claus
- Snowflakes
- Star
- Stockings
- Tinsel
- Trimming
- Wreath

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by December 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a Christmas themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

December is ...

National

- Cookie Day 4th
- Cotton Candy Day 7th
- Brownie Day 8th
- Pastry Day 9th
- Horse Day 13th
- Cupcake Day 15th
- Chocolate Covered Anything Day 16th
- Maple Syrup Day 17th
- Hard Candy Day 19th
- Wreaths Across America Day 19th
- Ugly Sweater Day 20th
- Cookie Exchange Day 22nd
- Christmas Eve 24th
- Christmas Day 25th
- Kwanzaa 26th
- Candy Cane Day 26th
- National Fruitcake Day 27th
- Chocolate Candy Day 28th
- Bacon Day 30th
- New Year's Eve 31st
- Handwashing Awareness Week (December 1-7)
- Safe Toys & Gifts Month
- Universal Human Rights Month

Jokes

- What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?
You get tinselitus
- What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes (or Frosted Flakes)
- Why do mummies like Christmas so much?
Because of all the wrapping!
- What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas calendar?
He got 12 months
- What does an elf study in school?
The elfabet
- Where does a snowman keep his money?
In a snow bank
- What kind of music do elves like?
"Wrap" music

For more festive jokes, check out <https://redtri.com/funny-christmas-jokes-for-kids/slide/1>

Congratulations

Doug Barnacle of Westmont. His name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For his participation, he will receive farm themed Christmas decorations/gifts! Thank you, Doug, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Farm influences gifts under the tree

When almost 4 years old, our son's Christmas wish list included a "tree cutter" (chain saw), a "bin site" (grain storage facility), and a "wiggly tractor," (his description of a high-horsepower tractor that articulates, or bends, in the middle).

To his delight, he received toy versions of all of them.

Life on the farm influences the gifts found under the family tree, often itself decorated with ornaments shaped as cows, pigs, barns, and corn-consuming wildlife. I remember the

Christmas when the men received sets of reversible ratcheting wrenches. They excitedly opened two same-shaped packages: one standard, one metric.

Our farm family often finds the best gifts the most useful ones. Lithium battery-powered tools, air compressors, and rubber boots. Deep-well socket sets, air tools, and a new set of pilot-point drill bits in a rugged case. In sarcastic wonder, my husband once unwrapped an extension ladder, rung by rung.

The women often appreciate practical items that make tasks easier in the garden and kitchen. The kids receive toy tractors, wooden toy barns, farm animal figures, and plastic fencing to keep those little livestock contained. A few years ago, our son unwrapped a rolling tool chest for storing Nerf darts and LEGO items in his room. For her room redesign, our daughter listed wishes for decorations

with windmills, chickens, and sunflowers.

A new plat book from the county Farm Bureau office makes a great coffee table gift for every landowner in the family. Single sockets and hand-warmer packets give weight to stockings. And a set of well-fitting work gloves wrapped with a can of whole cashews provides a fail-safe gift idea for most any adult in the family.

By late November every year, I pull out the kids' Christmas picture books, an annual gift from us that they collected through middle school. Several of the books share farm influences with stories set on tree farms and in barns or stables, including the original Christmas story that pairs with the kids' nativity set.

The holidays bring another avenue to express the joy we find in farming. I confess to streaming Christmas music in the grain cart tractor in October

to prematurely mix harvest and the holidays, a couple of my favorite things. No doubt, farm life will penetrate the holiday scene again this year. Wrapping paper alone gives away my farm fetish. The patterned paper with chickens, pigs, and cows in

Santa hats reveals the gift giver before the tag does.

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

Poll shows Americans' unwavering trust in farmers, sustainability

A majority of U.S. adults have a positive view of farmers' sustainability practices, and an overwhelming majority trust farmers, according to a new national public opinion poll from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The survey of 2,200 U.S. adults found that more than half (58%) rate the sustainability practices of U.S. farmers positively, with broad agreement from a majority of adults across demographic groups. Nearly nine in 10 adults (88%) trust farmers, a 4% increase from AFBF's June 2020 polling, which is evidence the public recognized that food supply chain challenges brought on by the pandemic were not within the control of farmers and ranchers.

The survey also explored public attitudes about the environmental sustainability achievements of farmers and ranchers, as well as future direction to advance climate-smart farming. Overall, the public agrees farmers shouldn't be expected to bear the financial

burden alone. More than four in five adults (84%) say environmental sustainability and economic sustainability are both important for farmers, and most adults say both are very important. More than four in five adults also say feeding the world (84%) and farmers passing farms on to future generations (83%) are important.

"Americans have a high level of trust in farmers, and they understand that we're committed to protecting the soil, air and water," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We want to leave the land better than we found it for our children and grandchildren, as well as our nation. Our survey demonstrates that Americans are impressed by advancements in climate-smart farming and we look forward to building on that success."

Support for farmers' sustainability efforts swelled when government data was shared about achievements. More than eight in 10 Americans (81%) were impressed when they

(continued on page 7)

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

Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation
Educational & Community Service Programs

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
Make checks payable to KCFB Foundation OR
please charge my donation to my:

VISA MC Discover

Name (as it appears on card) _____

Card Number _____

Exp: ____/____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

I want to help support:

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Ag Literacy Library

SPROUTS

Ag Days

FFA Chapter Grants

Touch-A-Tractor

Other (indicate below) _____

Please make this a recurring monthly gift
(Your credit card will be billed this amount each month)

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

\$ _____ **Surprise us!**

Please dedicate my donation to:
Kane Co. Farm Bureau FOUNDATION
2N710 Randall Rd.,
St. Charles, IL 60174
By phone at 630-584-8660

For information on other ways to support the work of our not-for-profit Foundation, establish a memorial scholarship, honor a loved one, or establish a new agricultural or community service program, effort, contract Steve Arnold, Executive Director, at 630-584-8660 or steve@kcfb.com.

IAITC December schedule

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is offering a variety of resources geared towards teachers and parents in this era of virtual learning. Below is a schedule of the December programs, including lesson release dates, classroom and family challenges, an author visit, and virtual field trip.

Find these lessons and more at <https://www.facebook.com/aginthe classroom> or at <https://www.beyondthebarn door.wordpress.com>.



December Lessons and Activities Schedule

Release Date	Theme: Evergreen Trees
December 3rd	Lesson for the Week of December 7th: Pinecone Adaptation Experiment
December 3rd	Field Trip: Helmig's Tree Farm
December 4th	Family Engagement Challenge: Create a Pinecone Wildlife Feeder
December 9th	Family Cooking Challenge: Pretzel Marshmallow Snowflake
December 10th	Author: Patricia Toht, Pick a Pine Tree
December 10th	Lesson for the Week of December 14th: Grow a Snowflake
December 17th	Lesson for the Week of December 21st: Conifer Hardiness

All activities and lessons will be released on the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Facebook page.

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Zimmerman Recycling, Inc.
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(815) 756.8600

Save time, 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.ilfb.org. Click on the Membership tab at the top, and then Renew your membership. You will be asked to register

using your Farm Bureau number and to create a username and password.

The ability to check your membership information anytime, anywhere can help prevent unwanted Farm Bureau membership 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, please sign on to the website or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to check on the status of your membership.

SWEET CHRISTMAS AND CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

By Alice Macha



I grew up in the 60s and 70s in England and America, so my Christmas memories are a patchwork quilt of different customs and celebrations. Through it all, my family was close and we could always depend on each other for support and security. My good home and family is the greatest blessing – it formed the foundation on which I built my life.

One of my fun holiday memories is my mom's annual get together and cookie exchange with her bridge club friends and her challenge to her daughters – "OK girls, I need Christmas cookies!"

My mom was a wonderful, creative cook, but a reluctant, impatient baker. She didn't like following fussy recipes and measuring a quarter teaspoon of this and a tablespoon of that. So she tasked her daughters with measuring and dolloping dough onto cookie sheets, and my younger sister and I had a lot of fun together, thumbing through magazines, finding recipes, making shopping lists, assembling ingredients and turning out dozens of cookies. We would commandeer the kitchen

after dinner with aproned authority and commence to cooking in a flurry of activity, forming a mini assembly line of cookie creation. We had a great time listening to tunes, and gabbing with each other about school and friends and whatever else was on our minds.

As the first batches finished in the oven, warm, buttery smells would waft through the house. My dad would cruise through the kitchen to check our progress and perform quality control on the batches. My brother would make an appearance to "sample" cookies by the handful, drawing protests from his busy baking sisters.

My mom was pleased to present her batch of homemade cookies to her friends and "her" cookies were always well received, which made her proud. In return, my sister and I were able to sample and critique the assortment of exchange cookies. Hey, they were COOKIES – what's not to like?

I still make cookies at Christmas and send a batch or two to my brother, older sister and niece and nephews in the Seattle area. And my younger

sister and I still get a chuckle out of our mom's "Girls – I need Christmas cookies!" command to us and still reminisce each year about our cookie baking challenges.

That is the richest gift of all – whether my mom was conscious of it or not, she helped us build family traditions that travel through time and distance and bring us Christmas comfort and joy.

Reese's Double Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine (1 stick), softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup Reese's peanut butter chips

Heat oven to 350°F. Beat butter, sugar and peanut butter in large bowl until creamy. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Stir together flour, baking soda and salt; gradually add to butter mixture, beating until well blended. Stir in peanut butter chips; drop by scant 1/4 cupfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet, 6 cookies per sheet.

Bake 12 to 16 minutes or until lightly browned around edges. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely. Makes about 18 cookies.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Bobbi Boston! Bobbi has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since 2004. Her office is located



Bobbi Boston

at 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles and she may be reached at: 630-485-5155.

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

Trust in farmers

(continued from page 6)

learned that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency and Agriculture Department, farmers have put 140 million acres in conservation programs, more than doubled the amount of renewable energy sources they use, and nearly tripled the amount of food grown in the last 70 years with the same or fewer resources.

Looking to the future, the survey explores how Americans think sustainability efforts on farms and ranches should be funded. Seventy percent of adults say government incentives to encourage farmers to adopt additional sustainable agricultural practices would be effective. More than three-quarters of adults believe it is important for the government to fund science-based research (76%) and improve infrastructure (78%) to support agriculture.

At a time when some corporations are making sustainability commitments that include or impact agricultural production, a bipartisan majority of adults (62%) say corporations should compensate farmers for the additional cost of implementing environmental practices to help achieve sustainability goals.

The survey also revealed there is still work to be done to increase awareness of agriculture's comparatively small contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. More than four in five adults (84%) were not able to correctly identify agriculture's impact. On a brighter note, nearly half of adults (45%) correctly ranked agriculture as the smallest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector. 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.

FB ACT – Act today, win tomorrow

FB ACT is a tool for Farm Bureau members to drive policy agendas, focused on agriculture, and respond to the continuous threats posed by other interest groups and elected officials who don't share our same interests. As a member of Kane County Farm Bureau, you have the voice and strength to stand up for farms, food, and our future.

How to Join FB ACT:

- Text FARM to 52886
- Visit the IFB App
- Enter www.ilfb.org/fbact into your browser

- Contact us at 630-584-8660
- **Ways to Receive IFB Action Requests:**
- Open a text from FB ACT that alerts you to contact your targeted officials
- Receive a direct email from FB ACT the minute IFB needs you to act
- Pick up a call from the IFB President laying out what action IFB needs from you.

Be an advocate for Farms and Food, text FARM to 52886.



Happy Holidays from the Kane County Farm Bureau

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 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Ed 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 Ed at 630-845-8245, edward.stuehm@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/edward.stuehm/>.

Congratulations, Ed!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for October 2020. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street Batavia, 60510, (630) 326-1996. Zach's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Zach!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SERVICES

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

WANTED

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

HELP WANTED-CLERICAL/CUSTOMER SERVICE. 25-35 hours weekly: M-F: must be self-starter and team player. Applicants should be computer literate with pleasant phone voice. Some overnight travel possible. Vacation pay and investment plan offered. Office located East Side of St. Charles. Call Bob: 630-377-1056 ext 101 for further information.

Don't miss out on holiday ham ordering – turn the page to order delicious for holiday dining

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

Applications available for KCFB Foundation scholarships

in an agriculture related field, including a NEW scholarship opportunity for 2021. The applications are for the 2021-22 school year.

College students and high school seniors are invited to apply for these Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION scholarships. Go to www.kanecfb.com and click on

The KCFB Foundation awarded 15 scholarships last year to area students, including Willem Vandermeij of Geneva who was awarded the President's Scholarship for study at the Cedarville University. Applications for the 2020-21 school year are now available and are due Feb. 15.

"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 ag-related study.


Farm Bureau internships are also available for the 2020 winter, and 2021 spring and summer breaks. A separate Internship application is available on the website. The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 15



scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

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, 2021.



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

c/o Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 Ph: 630-584-8660 Fax: 630-587-8479 www.kanecfb.com

2021 Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship/Internship Applications Now Available

The objective of the KCFB Foundation's scholarship/internship program is to assist students pursuing higher education and agriculture-related jobs and careers. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and college students. Applications are available at kanecfb.com by clicking on "scholarships & internships" and must be submitted by February 15, 2021. Additional prerequisites are listed below:

Scholarships

KCFB FOUNDATION President's Scholarship (\$1,500 minimum) For the most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation Agricultural Scholarship from a **high school senior**.

KCFB FOUNDATION Agricultural Scholarship: (\$1,000 minimum) For students pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields whose parents are & have been members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing since February 1, two year prior to the scholarship application deadline.

KCFB FOUNDATION General Scholarship: (\$1,000 minimum) For **high school seniors only** whose parents are & have been members of the Kane County Farm Bureau in good standing since February 1, two years prior to the scholarship application deadline.

John Buck Memorial Scholarships: (2 @ \$1,500) For students from Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, DuPage, Lake or Will County pursuing a degree in an agriculture field with preference given to students with agricultural mechanics and turf management career ambitions.

Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship: (\$1,000 minimum) For a student residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field.

Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship: (\$2,000 minimum) For an Illinois resident accepted to or enrolled in a school of Veterinary Medicine in the state of Illinois.

AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship: (\$2,500) One award for the most outstanding applicant currently enrolled and who has **completed at least one full year of college education**, pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field of study, residing in the state of Illinois.

AGCO Parts - AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarship: (2 @ \$1,000) Two awards for **female students** in Illinois pursuing a degree in agricultural related career field of study.

AGCO Parts Division Scholarship: (2 @ \$1,000) Two awards for students from Illinois pursuing a degree in an agricultural related career field of study.

Internships

LOCATION: Kane County Farm Bureau - St. Charles, Illinois

DATES: Offered December 2020 - August 2021

PRE-REQUISITES: 30 undergraduate hours (communications or education emphasis preferred)

REQUIREMENTS: Minimum of 300 hours, 20 hours/week (**summer**)
Minimum of 100 hours (**winter**) or 30 hours (**spring**)

VALUE: Up to \$2500 to be paid at conclusion of internship (**summer**)
Up to \$750 (**winter**) and \$300 (**spring**)

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that supports education, leadership development, research and charitable activities for the benefit of agriculture and farm families.

S/WORD/Foundation/Scholarship/Scholarship & Internship Apps Now Available 2021.docx

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HBR FFA

(continued from page 1) community."

"Most Saturdays there were 15 to 20 volunteers working on the building, which was quite amazing," Sanderson added.

Sanderson and Long both commented that working parallel with alumni was unusual and refreshing and it was wonderful for the students to see the teamwork and altruism that fueled the project.

FFA Chapter president and HBR senior Maddie Noble is proud that "Students helped as much as possible. We were on the lifts helping install the sheet metal and learning a lot in the process." Noble also commented that "Seeing this building being constructed makes me happy that future students will have a more interactive experience."

In addition to the building under construction, the FFA chapter tends a 2 year old apple orchard adjacent to the building, a greenhouse, and a 40 acre test plot. Apples from the orchard will be used in classroom labs and donated to local food pantries. The greenhouse gives students the environment to grow annuals and poinsettias as fundraising items. The test plot gives students the opportunity to work with local seed dealers, and to plant, collect data and harvest the various crops.

The building will contain classrooms, an equipment stor-

age area and space for visitors to bring animals, equipment and crops for student review.

"The KCFB Foundation is pleased to contribute to this project," commented Joe White. "It's exciting to see a community that is passionate about ag education and we are proud to be a part of the process."



Top photo: FFA students review building blueprints inside the new Ag Education Building. They helped with construction of the building and are looking forward to the next phase of interior work.

Bottom: Tracey Sanderson, Hinckley-Big Rock agricultural teacher and FFA advisor.

December Special— HOLIDAY 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 (\$3.86 per lb. member price) and 7-9 pounds for spiral (\$5.81 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 below

or calling the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 by Thursday, December 17 at noon. Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Tuesday, December 22, after noon.



December Special— HOLIDAY HAMS!

Name: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Member Number: _____

Please indicate quantity:

TRADITIONAL	SPIRAL SLICE
Plus Mbr. (\$3.67/lb) _____	Plus Mbr. (\$5.52/lb) _____
Member (\$3.86/lb.) _____	Member (\$5.81/lb) _____
Non-mbr. (\$4.83/lb) _____	Non-mbr. (\$7.26/lb) _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS NOON. Thursday, December 17. Payment is due at pickup at Kane County Farm Bureau (Randall Rd. & Oak St., St. Charles) on Tuesday afternoon, December 22.

Just in time for Christmas!

Tickets are now available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2021 Vintage Truck Raffle. They make great stocking stuffers!

The Grand Prize this year is a 1972 Chevy C/20 Camper Special. As in past years, Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor in April 2021 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Tickets are \$15, 2/\$25 or 5/\$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 September 9th, 2021 at the Kane County Farm Bureau.



Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 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 ____ / ____ / ____