

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. 2 FEBRUARY 2021

KCFB scholarships available—application deadline Feb. 15

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, 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. Email info@kanecfb.com for an application packet, or, pick one up at the KCFB office, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles. A brochure is also available 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 also available. The KCFB FOUNDATION provided 15 scholarships last year and since 1989 has awarded over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local college students.

NEW – Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship, 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 winners proudly pose for this KCFB file photo. Don't miss your opportunity to apply for a 2021 scholarship.

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 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 counties are eligible to apply.

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John 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

(continued on page 7)

Get an application and information for KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships by emailing info@kanecfb.com. There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields. The Agriculture industry offers hundreds of rewarding and challenging careers, with categories including: Agribusiness Management, Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications, Agri-science, Resource Development and Management, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Resources, Packaging, Horticulture, Forestry, Food Science, and Fisheries/Wildlife.

Shopping spree to provide hunger relief

Kane County Farm Bureau has announced it will sponsor its 20th annual Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries. The event will be held at the Batavia Jewel-Osco on Randall Road on an as yet undisclosed date.

Farm Bureau chose the Jewel store in recognition of its past 19 years of cooperation in the event. Through these shopping sprees,

Farm Bureau has purchased and donated over \$40,000 worth of groceries to food pantries and shelters that assist the most vulnerable in our communities.

Out of an abundance of caution on behalf of Jewel customers and store employees, Farm Bureau will not announce the date of the Spree to the public (continued on page 2)

2021 Government Affairs Leadership Conference goes virtual

Illinois Farm Bureau's annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) will go virtual for 2021. Over three days in mid-February, staff from the organization's Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division will connect with leaders and members over the lunch hour to discuss organizational policy and initiatives, the business and regulatory environment and local issues.

These calls will feature speakers, information, and training on key issues impacting agriculture, public policy and

organizational priorities.

For information on connecting to any of the one hour Zoom conference calls, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 or email KCFB Manager Steve Arnold at steve@kanecfb.com. Topics and dates for the noon – 1 p.m. conference calls are:

Tuesday, February 16 – National & State update and priorities

Wednesday, February 17 – Business and Environment

Thursday, February 18 – Local Issues and Engagement



KCFB is ready for the challenge! Our 20th annual Food Check-Out Shopping Spree will feature two public official contestants competing against the clock. The event is 5+ minutes of fun, excitement, and a race to collect the most groceries for their designated Food Pantry. Each contestant is awarded a traveling trophy to display in their office for the year, showcasing their participation. Pictured above are 2020 contestants State Senator Jim Oberweis, representing Hosed House of Aurora and State Representative Dan Ugaste, representing South Elgin Food Pantry.

Farm toy of the month

Junior farmers will have plenty to love with February's toy – a John Deere vehicle gift set. The set includes a trio of green machines – row crop tractor, pickup truck and 4WD tractor, perfect for carpet or sandbox farming. Regular price for this power 3-pack is \$24.68, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of February and you can save an extra 10% by downloading the IFB Benefits app from Abenity OR showing us the app on your smart phone.

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



KCFB CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2021

5 Food for Thought Regional Ad Group, 10 am

11 KCFB Nominating Committee, 6 pm

KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm

14 Valentine's Day

15 KCFB Foundation scholarship applications due

16 IFB Govt Affairs Leadership Conference (virtual, Noon-1 pm)

National/State priorities Update

17 Farm Business & Regulatory Environment

18 Local Issues and Engagement

Kane County Board Ag Committee*, 10 am

22-28 Pick up Well Water Testing kits

*Meeting held at County Administration Building, 719 S Batavia Ave., Geneva

Happy Valentine's Day!

FEBRUARY FEATURED FOOD Bourbon Sirloin Steaks

This month KCFB is offering Bourbon Sirloin Steaks available in 4 pound boxes. Each box contains 8, 8-ounce boneless, bottom sirloin steaks cut from top choice beef, that are hand trimmed, marinated and individually wrapped. They are great grilled and are also delicious served on a steak salad, warm or cold. Member price is \$37.00. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Offered while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.

Farm Bureau to offer incentives to advocates

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

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

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. Now, Farm

Bureau will reward you for your actions with the bumper sticker pictured at right and a \$10 gift card for your first completed action request. Advocates who respond to 100% of requests during the year will get a special prize at the end of the year. **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
- Make your voice heard and join FB ACT today.

Spree

(continued from page 1)
 lic in advance. The Spree has typically drawn a crowd at the store entrance, making social distancing difficult for spectators and shoppers. Rather, Farm Bureau will work directly with the chosen local officials, the food pantries they represent and a small group of volunteers in 2021 to continue the Shopping Spree tradition, help support area food pantries, and encourage our members to do the same. Originally, KCFB Shopping Sprees marked "Food Check-Out Week," the date in early February by which the average American household had earned enough income to provide for its food supply for an entire year. Typically, consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food. A low number by world standards, thanks to the efficient efforts by America's farmers and ranchers, who work hard every day to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food supply. Farm Bureau still uses the occasion to remind consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food, and to encourage members and the public to support neighbors in need through local food pantries.

All of the groceries collected during the 5 plus minute spree by each contestant will be purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to food pantries chosen by the contestants. Most current and former State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County, going back to 2001, have competed in the event, along with numerous

Mayors and Country Government officials.

Through this and other KCFB sponsored hunger relief efforts, including a 2018 10,000 Gallon milk CHALLENGE, Harvest for ALL and a 2013 Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of more than 2 mil-

lion meals to area food pantries.

Shopping Spree contestants have raised over \$40,000 for local food pantries while competing in the Farm Bureau sponsored contest at the Batavia Jewel-Osco. Many organizations have been represented over the years. Below is a list of contestants and beneficiaries.

— Shopping Spree Contestants —

Year	Contestants	Beneficiary
2002	State Senator Chris Lauzen State Rep. Pat Lindner	Holy Angels Food Pantry Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
2003	U of I Extension Leader Lala Williams Kane Co. Board Chairman Mike McCoy	Salvation Army, Elgin Marie Wilkinson Foundation, Aurora
2004	State Senator Steve Rauschenberger State Rep Linda Chapa LaVia	Salvation Army, Elgin Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
2005	State Rep Tim Schmitz State Rep John Millner	South Elgin Food Pantry Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps
2006	KC Board Chair Karen McConnaughay KC State's Attorney John Barsanti	Salvation Army, Tri-City Corps Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
2007	State Senator Mike Noland State Senator Linda Holmes	PADS of Elgin Wayside Cross Ministries, Aurora
2008	State Rep Ruth Munson	All People's Interfaith Food Pantry, Elgin
	16th Circuit Judge Patricia Golden	Community Crisis Ctr., Elgin
2009	State Rep Keith Farnham State Rep Kay Hatcher	Centro Informacion, Elgin Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
2010	State Rep Randy Ramey State Rep Sara Feigenholtz	Northern Illinois Food Bank Lakeview Pantry, Chicago
2011	Mayor Tom Weisner Village President Sean Michels	Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grove
2012	State Rep Bob Pritchard	Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grove
	State Rep Christine Johnson	Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2013	State Treasurer Dan Rutherford State Senator Karen McConnaughay	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Food for Greater Elgin
2014	Mayor Jeff Schielke, Batavia State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit	Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2015	State Rep Keith Wheeler State Rep Steve Andersson	Elburn Food Pantry Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
2016	Dr. David Sam, President, ECC T.R. Smith, Chair, KC Ag Committee	Spartan Food Pantry Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2017	Senator Cristina Castro Dr. Christine Sobek, President, WCC	F.I.S.H. Food Pantry, Carpentersville Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2018	Jeffrey Walter, Elburn Village President Theresa Barreiro, Kane County Board	Countryside (Elburn) Food Pantry Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
2019	Representative Jeff Keicher Senator Donald DeWitte	Hinckley Area Food Pantry Tri-Cities Salvation Army, St. Charles
2020	Representative Dan Ugaste Senator Jim Oberweis	South Elgin Food Pantry Hesed House

Lunches to Legislators

Would you like to have lunch with an Illinois State Representative or Senator? Kane County Farm Bureau's Lunches to Legislators (L2L) program gives you a chance to do just that! We need volunteers for this annual visit that allows Farm Bureau members to get better acquainted with legislators.

Farm Bureau staff will arrange visits for volunteers to district offices of Kane County's local legislators, (state represen-

tatives and state senators) on Mondays or Fridays beginning in mid-March. Equipped with boxed lunches, Farm Bureau policy books and farm and food facts literature, they'll express their appreciation for the legislators' hard work.

To volunteer to assist with this program, please fill out the form below and mail back to KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174.



Lunches to Legislators provides FB members with a reason, and a support system, for making an "appearance" at a local legislative office to get acquainted with local lawmakers. Members are invited to assist with the lunch delivery in March or April. Simply fill out and return the form below.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Legislative District: _____ Congressional District: _____

Do you have a relationship with a current elected official? If so, who?: _____

Are you willing to support Farm Bureau policies on state and national issues? _____

Please provide a brief description of your agricultural background and views: _____



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	*											
B. COLLINS	X											
C. COLLINS	X											
J. ENGEL	X											
G. GAITSCH	*											
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK	X											
M. KENYON	X											
K. KETTLEKAMP	X											
D. LEHRER	*											
A. LENKAITIS												
N. LONG	*											
D. PITSTICK	X											
W. SCHNEIDER	X											
J. WHITE	X											

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

Kane County Farmer

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Farms, food and the environment

Spring & summer education for teachers, students and the public from KCFB

Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute I beginning July 12.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days, Monday, July 12th - Thursday, July 15th. Kane County Farm Bureau will be the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours

will reveal the essentials of research, production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields and a crew of dedicated volunteers who share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

Topics may include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other current topics in agriculture.

S.P.R.O.U.T.S.

The Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers

and Students brings volunteers into area third grade classrooms to read an agriculture-themed



Teachers participating in Summer Ag Institutes get a tour of Midwest Groundcovers in St. Charles. KCFB file photo.

book to students and share their knowledge about rural life and farming. The book is then donat-

ed to the school library. We are looking for volunteers for this activity, traditionally conducted

in April. 2021 activities may be restricted by COVID but we still encourage third grade teachers, and volunteers, to contact our office at 630-584-8660 to register those interested in participating. Ask for Kelcee.

Touch-a-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau's

3-day spring open house is a fun opportunity for "city folk" to see antique and new tractors and combines up-close, sit in seats, take photos and mingle with local farmers. Kids will enjoy the many farm-themed activities and games. Touch-A-Tractor is scheduled for April 16-18 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau. Groups and organization that have traditionally provided in-person lessons to 4th graders at the Farm Bureau's "AgDays Expo" at Mooseheart will be issued an invitation to attend Touch-A-Tractor to set-up informational booths and provide education about farms and farmers to families and the public.

FB Foundation to offer community service grants to FFA Chapters

To recognize and encourage the continued contributions of students from Kane County FFA Chapters in the success of Kane County Farm Bureau programs, the KCFB Foundation will offer 2021 incentives in the form of "FFA Chapter Grants".

For many years FFA Chapters assisted the Farm Bureau annually with its largest educational undertaking, Ag Days, where fourth graders gather at the Mooseheart grounds in March for farm-themed lessons. In recent years, individual FFA members have also been crucial to the success of the Farm Bureau's Touch-A-Tractor and county fair promotions.

"We're happy to be able to offer these funds to local FFA Chapters," said Foundation President Joe White. "FFA does a lot for the future of agriculture and the success of young people in all walks of life." He adds, "Their participation in Farm Bureau programs helps FFA members build teamwork, leadership development, and presentation skills while representing their Chapter to the public - and we receive capable volunteers and exposure to the next generation of agricultural leaders."

The Farm Bureau Foundation will renew its pledge to FFA Chapters in return for assistance with four community service, education and promotional programs in 2021 which will promote leadership development skills in FFA members. They are AgDays in March, Touch-A-Tractor in April, the Kane County Fair in July and the Young Farmers Acquaintance program. Participation in two or more of these programs will earn FFA Chapters a minimum

\$250 Chapter Grant. Participation in all four will earn the Chapter \$400. Up to an additional \$100 will be offered to FFA Chapters that complete and report a community service activity, bringing the potential award up to \$500 per FFA Chapter. Chapters will not be penalized for events postponed or cancelled due to the COVID related restrictions.

FFA Advisor Ryan Robinson said the grant will give his students the chance to do bigger projects in the community. "These funds will benefit us in a big way," says Robinson. "This will be a great opportunity to complete a service-oriented activity, such as working with food pantries or sending care packages to troops overseas, which teaches the students good citizenship skills. If we qualify, we would use the grant funds to complete projects with higher costs, such as landscaping projects in the community."

In 2020, the KCFB Foundation provided \$20,000 to the Hinckley-Big Rock FFA alumni to help the group construct and equip an agriculture education building on the school campus, in addition to the district's FFA Chapter Grant.

The Kane County Farm Bureau is a not-for-profit membership organization, representing the interests of local agriculturalists. The Bureau's Foundation provides funding to support agricultural, educational, and leadership development for the benefit of agriculture and local farm families. In Kane County, FFA has three chapters at local high schools in Burlington, Hinckley Big Rock, and Kaneland.

AmazonSmile-shop & share with KCFB

Have you heard the news? 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.

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."

IDOA official: Preparation, patience needed for online pesticide exam

By Kay Shipman, FarmWeek

Preparation and patience are Brad Beaver's top recommendations for successfully completing the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)'s online pesticide certification exam. Beaver, acting chief of IDOA's environmental program bureau, discussed needed equipment and how IDOA addressed issues with the online testing process.

Since mid-December, 780 people completed exams and another 200 exams were scheduled the week of January 11. More than 800 are enrolled in online pesticide training. IDOA expects to offer 15,000 to 20,000 certification exams during the 2021 certification year.

Beaver told FarmWeek IDOA has resolved a problem that caused individuals to be kicked off during an exam. "The main issue was the server wasn't

big enough to handle the (computer) traffic. Things are running much faster," he said.

Beaver recommended someone kicked off during an exam try to log back in and let the proctor know what happened. If that isn't successful during an exam's three-hour timeframe, the test can be rescheduled and \$12 fee transferred to the rescheduled exam, according to Beaver. If a test must be rescheduled within 72 hours, an extra \$12 may be charged to ensure an available proctor.

Beaver noted Google Chrome is the preferred browser and exams should be taken on a desktop or laptop computer either a Windows PC or Mac with a working camera and microphone. Exams cannot be taken on a tablet or Chromebook.

To start, go to the University

of Illinois Pesticide Safety Education website or <https://extension.illinois.edu/psep/training-testing> and follow the step-by-step instructions in figure 1 below to create an account and sign up for any training and any online exams. "Training is valid for 30 days so they can review as many times as needed," he added.

The website instruction page helps users test their computer equipment and microphone. If equipment fails, "you don't have to buy a new laptop or computer. Try to borrow one from someone else," he advised. While a public library computer may be another option, it must be in a private area without others nearby.

If it is difficult to hear using a computer's internal speaker, Beaver recommended connect-

(continued on page 6)

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

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All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand:

- Properties of ammonia.
- Competent in safe operating practices.
- How to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or emergency.
- Personal Protective Equipment & First Aid.
- Transportation Safety.

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified, and must participate in refresher training every three years.

Certified grower training will be offered at no cost to the grower or grower farm operator via an in-person or online training program approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).

Online is now available on the IDOA website at www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3. In-person training opportunities will be announced as they are developed.

Who needs to be certified?

"GROWER"
Any individual who produces an agricultural commodity on property he or she owns or controls

"GROWER FARM OPERATOR"
An individual employed by or otherwise authorized by a grower to transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or to otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment. These individuals include grower family members, full-time and part-time hired help, and others providing anhydrous ammonia services at no fee.

*This new requirement is found in the IDOA regulations regarding anhydrous ammonia at 8 Illinois Administrative Code 215.

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AG LITERACY CORNER

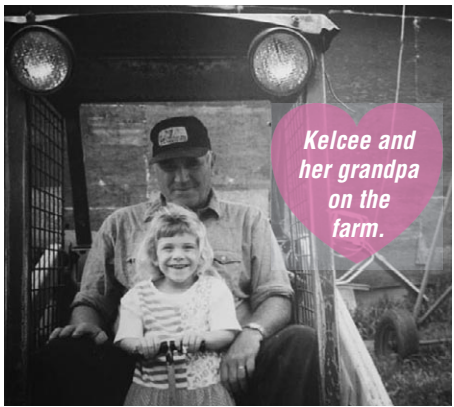
By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County! The theme for the month of February is Love of the Land. When I dive deeper into what this truly means I couldn't think of a better way to describe it than to recount a conversation with my grandpa. He has been farming all of his life and certainly knows first-hand what it means to love the land. He now farms 1,200 acres of land in both DeKalb and Kane Counties, and I asked him what things come to mind when I say, "love of the land." He started out by explaining how, "A lot has changed over the years. You take good care of the land because you are responsible for it. You must be a good steward of the land." To be a good steward of the land, my grandpa went on to explain that you must be proactive and plan ahead.

My grandpa continued, "You're not just planning ahead for today or this season but for the seasons and generations to come after. Planning ahead means testing your soil to see what the land requires, such as lime, fertilizing, putting in waterways, cover crops, and rotating the fields to keep the

land from eroding from wind and water. Keeping a close watch over your fields for weeds because they will take nutrients out of the soil, which will harm your growing crops." My grandpa went on to explain, "We don't use the same practices that we used back in the day. We don't do the same tillage we used too,



and many farms have moved to no-till. We are much more aware of and do everything we can to conserve the land. Love of the land is being responsible for keeping these things up for generations to come."

After doing all of these practices, my grandpa said one of his favorite things each season is going to the fields in the fall. He explained, "It is so satisfying to combine the beans and watch the golden ears of corn go through the combine – the cul-

KANE COUNTY FARMER

mination of another year of love of the land.

When I asked my grandpa what lessons he has learned from loving the land, he responded humbly, "We learn lessons all the time, every day." Many of the lessons my grandpa described revolve around learning from your mistakes, talking to other farmers, and educating yourself about all the different aspects of farm land. Specifically, my grandpa said, "We learn to keep up with what's new, whether it's new technologies, new implementation of practices, and different

machinery, all for more efficient and better farming. If you don't learn, you'll get left behind." My grandpa started farming with just an old tractor, plow, disc, and cultivator. Never did he imagine the advancements or the new discoveries that would blossom in the years to follow.

It's no surprise that farmers work long hours. Oftentimes they work sunup to sundown and sometimes even later into the night. Love of the land means having a good handle on your priorities and getting the family involved at a young age to pass down the knowledge and life les-

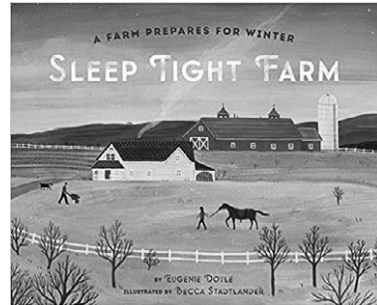
sons the farm instills. As my grandparents have always said, "One of the best places to raise a family is out in the country."

One of my favorite take-aways from this conversation with my grandpa was his comment that drove this love of the land home. He said, "If you take care of the land, it will take care of you. Not just for now, but for the generations to come. Think and plan ahead." And I think those words are applicable to not just farming, but to life itself. If you take care of the things you love, they will return that love and care too.

Book of the month

The book of the month for February is *Sleep Tight Farm, A Farm Prepares for Winter*, written by Eugenie Doyle and illustrated by Becca Stadtlander. This charming and informative story takes readers on a journey of how a family gets their farm ready for "deep frost, the coming wind, and the winter snow." Doyle illustrates what winter means to the farm year and to the family that shares its seasons, from spring's new growth, summer's heat, and fall's harvest to winter's well-earned rest. "All year long the farm has worked to shelter us, feed us,

keep us warm, and now it's time to sleep." Readers will see that a farm takes a lot of work, but for every way a farmer loves and



Sleep Tight Farm
by Eugenie Doyle, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander

cares of the farm, the farm returns the love and kindness with a gift – fresh eggs for breakfast, milk to go with your meal, tasty fruits and vegetables all year long and more!

To view the captivating exploration for yourself come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and visit our FREE KCFB Library. Check out *Sleep Tight Farm, A Farm Prepares for Winter*.

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

Our caps, your cause

In 2018, we encouraged the community to join us in our 10,000 gallon milk challenge by buying and donating to the Northern Illinois Food Bank. With the successful event in mind we are shifting gears a little bit in 2021. We are excited to be working with Prairie Farms Dairy in their Our Caps, Your Cause program. Simply purchase Prairie Farm Dairy white or chocolate milk in a gallon or a half gallon or Prairie Farms iced

coffee and peel off the special Our Caps, Your Cause sticker to reveal a unique, redeemable code. For every redeemable code, Prairie Farms will give 5 cents to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. We hope you will join us in our next challenge and bring your milk caps into KCFB or mail them to us.

In the meantime, keep drinking your milk and save your caps all year long! It's a small change that can make a big difference!



February

Lessons and Activities Schedule

Theme: Abraham Lincoln
Subtheme: Transportation

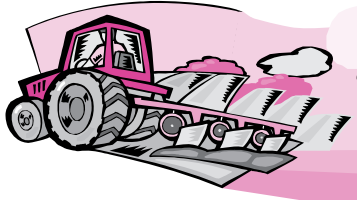
January 27th	February Classroom Challenge: Tin Foil Flatboat
January 28th	Lesson for the week of February 1st: L is For Lincoln
February 3rd	Family Cooking Challenge: Mary Todd Lincoln's Almond Cake
February 4th	Lesson for the week of February 8th: Transportation
February 4th	Virtual Field Trip: Mt. Pulaski Courthouse
February 11th	Lesson for the week of February 15th: Navigating IL Waters
February 11th	Virtual Author Visit: Peggy Thomas, <i>Lincoln Clears a Path</i>
February 12th	Family Engagement Challenge: Polish a Penny
February 18th	Lesson for the week of February 22nd: Lincoln's Patent
February 20th	March PD in Your PJ's

All activities and lessons will be released on the IAITC Facebook and Instagram pages on their release dates.

Helping you protect what matters most

Bob Effner CLFP, 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 Difruscilo St. Charles 630-549-7696	Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Ashraf Geroges Aurora 630-898-3750	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600

0120-583HO



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



Sweet treats for sweet hearts

VALENTINE S'MORES TRAIL MIX

Prep Time: 2 mins
Total Time: 2 mins
Servings: 8-9 cups

INGREDIENTS:
1 1/2 cups M&M's
3 cups miniature marshmallows



1 box honey Teddy Grahams
INSTRUCTIONS:
Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl.

3. Immediately press a M&M onto each hug. Allow to cool completely and then enjoy or package.

Recipes found by McKenna Berglind on: <https://www.garnishandglaze.com/>.

VALENTINE PRETZEL HUGS

Prep Time: 5 mins
Cook Time: 4 mins
Total Time: 9 mins
Servings: 25

INGREDIENTS:
25 Hershey's Hugs
25 pretzel twists
25 Cupid Messages M&M's

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Cover a pan in parchment paper and preheat oven to 200 degrees F.
2. Place pretzels on the parchment lined pan and then top each pretzel with a hug. Bake for 4-5 minutes or until chocolate is shiny and shape is retained.



Illinois Farm Bureau supports the important conservation efforts of our farmer members. That includes educating the public about practices being used on the farm. Using video, social media and other channels, we are helping the public see exactly why Illinois farmers' conservation efforts should be applauded.

At the center of the campaign, a new website, www.ilfarmersconserve.com, contains insightful videos that showcase a variety of innovative conservation practices. In under two minutes, visitors can learn how woodchip bioreactors preserve water, how no-till practices protect land or how pollinator habitats improve the food supply. With new content added often, the website is designed to grow.

As we highlight the important conservation efforts Illinois farmers use today, we welcome you to join us in our efforts. Visit www.ilfarmersconserve.com, enjoy video content, and please share this site with people you know. Collectively, we can impact public opinions through effective education.

Kane County Farm Bureau loves the land too, with involvement in Kane County Stormwater Ordinance, assistance in a woodchip bioreactor, and planting of a pollinator garden on the KCFB lawn last summer.

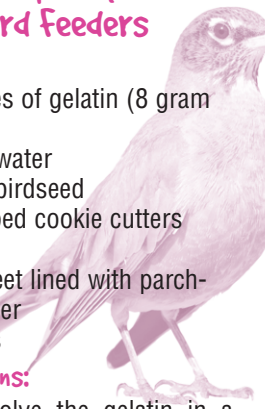
Jokes:

- What did one volcano say to the other? ♥ I lava you!
- What did the farmer give his wife for Valentine's Day?
♥ Hogs and kisses! ♥
- What did the one sheep say to the other? ♥ I love ewe!
- What do owls say to declare their love? ♥ Owl be yours!

And sweet treats for sweet tweets

Heart Shaped Bird Feeders

Supplies:
2 envelopes of gelatin (8 gram packets)
2 cups of water
3 cups of birdseed
Heart shaped cookie cutters
String
Baking sheet lined with parchment paper
Toothpicks



Instructions:
1. Dissolve the gelatin in a pot of simmering water. Continue to stir until the powder gelatin is completely dissolved.
2. Next, pour the 3 cups of birdseed into a large bowl and

add the gelatin water.

3. Stir the mixture until the birdseed is completely coated and wet. (You may need to add more birdseed (~1 cup), depending on how absorbed your birdseed blend is and what seeds make up your birdseed. The mixture should not be runny)

4. Using a spoon, scoop the birdseed into the cookie cutters on a parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Be sure to press the birdseed firmly into the cookie cutter. You don't want any airspaces.

5. With a toothpick, poke a hole in the birdseed cookie – this hole is where the string will go so you can hang your bird feeder.

6. Let your feeders dry overnight and once they have completed dried and hardened,

gently remove the toothpick and slide the string through the hole to tie and hang outside for the birds to enjoy!

For more ideas and birdfeeder inspiration, please check out: <https://www.kitchencounterchronicle.com/how-to-make-a-cookie-cutter-bird-feeder/>.



Love of the land ♥

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

- Acres
- Conservation
- Crops
- Environment
- Farmland
- Valentine's Day
- Lincoln
- Livestock
- Location
- Love
- Mother Nature
- Nourishment
- Pollinators
- Preservation
- Quality
- Relationship
- Resources
- Size
- Soil
- Technology
- Temperature
- Tillage
- Waterways
- Wildlife

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

February is ...

- National**
Dark Chocolate Day Feb. 1
Groundhog Day Feb. 2
Tater Tot Day Feb. 2
Carrot Cake Day Feb 3
National Golden Retriever Day Feb. 3
Bubble Gum Day Feb. 5
Chocolate Fondue Day Feb. 5
World Nutella Day Feb. 5
Frozen Yogurt Day Feb. 6
Pizza Day Feb. 9
Valentine's Day Feb. 14
Pancake Day Feb. 16
Random Act of Kindness Day Feb. 17
Chocolate Mint Day Feb. 19
Love Your Pet Day Feb. 20
Muffin Day Feb. 20
Sticky Bun Day Feb. 21
Chili Day Feb. 25
Chocolate Souffle Day Feb. 28

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- Dog Training Education Month
- National Bird Feeding Month
- National Cherry Month
- National Grapefruit Month
- National Macadamia Nut Month



TOUCH-A-TRACTOR – the name says it all! There are dozens of hands-on activities and fun for the family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 16-18, 2021.

Congratulations

Sally Stannard of Elgin, who was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a garden themed product! Thank you, Sally, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

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

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



Love for the land, Valentine month and beyond

On a westward drive to the home farm, my eyes drift to the tree-lined grassy knoll atop the Southeast Field. From that hill-top a good half mile off the gravel road, you can take in one of the best views of the home farm. Add in a brilliant sunset, and my heart feels the praise that we vocalize in unison at Sunday worship: God is good.

February brings the month to reflect on love, and a farm family's love for the land proves a unique, powerful, and spiritual bond. While better felt than described, the closest parallel seems a loving parent-child relationship. Farmers often name their fields based on location, size, or ownership lineage. We monitor the land's health and nourish it. We identify its strengths and weaknesses and nurture within its abilities to reach its full potential. Then, we share in the land's accomplishments and failures at harvest.

Spend enough time with the land and you learn where the deer travel, raccoons roam, and bald eagles frequent. The

biggest, oldest cottonwood and sycamore trees stand as landmarks at field edges in the Front Bottom and Fremont East Field. Our kids now fish as we did in the bordering river in the summer and hike the timber for morel mushrooms in the spring. During harvest, they dine on meals in the field and learn to drive tractors. By winter, they beg to sled at the first fall of snow on the soybean stubble at Beecher South.

In time, they will understand how rainwater moves across the land and to use modern precision technologies to implement nutrient management plans. Environmental impact guides our decisions for waterways, conservation practices, and minimum to no-tillage of the soils. Cover crops bring promise to build soil health and nutrient retention. Soil sampling remains a routine standard, something like bloodwork to monitor health. The land's temperature and touch tell its readiness to plant, and a weather-related app on our smartphones tell us the rainfall at each field under our care. Like generations before us, we tend the land with the tools, resources, and knowledge of the time.

The timeless mission remains: Leave the land better than you found it. The mantra resonates across the state and nation, where farmers raise the next generation to love the land and fulfill their duty as temporary caretakers and stewards.

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
Jim Brown Elburn
Todd Gray Hampshire
Mack Farm
Account Poynette, WI
Eric Metz Burlington
Barb Olson St. Charles

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 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.

Pesticide exam

(continued from page 3)

ing external speakers because headphones are not allowed during an exam.

Once an individual signs up for an exam, a time must be scheduled with a test proctor by clicking on the proctor website's link. Testing is "truly available 24/7. If you want to take it at 3 a.m., there's likely a slot available. We've had a lot of people take tests at different hours of the night," he said.

Everyone needs to set up two accounts: one with U of I Extension and another with the proctor service. The same login

and password may be used for both and to schedule additional training and exams.

Those unfamiliar with online proctored exams may be surprised. Beaver explained a proctor will want to "look" at the test taker's room to ensure manuals and other reference materials aren't beside the computer. The proctor will ask to see a driver's license to be sure the person taking the test is the individual who registered. "They will lock down your computer so you can't Google answers," he noted. Likewise, no phone calls or conversations are allowed during the exam.

"Just like when you take the written test, there is a clean desk. We will not let you have your phone and take a call," Beaver reminded.

"The challenge of a remote system is, how can we ensure

the integrity of the exam? IDOA has to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency integrity," Beaver said. "Some may look at this as intrusive, but it's the only way we can be sure."

IDOA staff understand an online testing system is new for some people and allow individuals to have someone with them at first in case there are technical problems, Beaver said. However, once the proctor starts the exam, the additional person must leave, he added.

Nine pesticide training programs were available by Jan. 11 and more are expected soon.

As of Jan. 1, IDOA began offering a few limited in-person testing sessions. The schedule and information is available at https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pesticides/Pages/in-person-testing.aspx.

Kane County publishes recycling 'Green Guide' supplement

The newly printed 2021 Kane County Recycles Green Guide is a one-page supplement to the 2020 Green Guide.

This year, because there were not many changes in programs or services, Kane County did not publish a whole new guide, but instead offers a supplement with changes and additional information - most importantly, the 2021 event dates.

Follow the links below to download the guide or 2021 supplement, or go to the county webpage for more information on how to obtain a paper copy.

- https://kanecountyconnects.com/2021/01/want-to-know-what-s-changed-in-recycling-get-kane-countys-2021-green-guide/

Guide:

- https://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Documents/KCR_GreenGuide_2020.pdf

You can obtain a copy or copies in these ways:

- 1. E-mail list - Sign up on the e-mail list to receive an electronic copy direct to your inbox upon publication each January.
2. Paper Copy Mailing List - email or call Kane County at meycourtney@co.kane.il.us or 630-444-3016 to get on the mailing list to receive a copy (or a number of copies) each year, mailed directly to your home or business.
3. Pick up a paper copy from: Kane County Farm Bureau OR Kane County Treasurers Office (where prop-

erty taxes are paid) located in the Kane County Government Center, Building A, 719 Batavia Ave., Geneva. 2n floor, north end of building.

If you need a paper copy of the 2020 Green Guide to pair with this supplement, please request that contacting the county as directed above in #2.

Please refer to the website - www.countyofkane.org/recycling - which is always kept up to date, for the latest information about recycling in Kane County, including recycling guidelines for what you can and cannot put in your bin, places you can drop-off all sorts of things to be recycled, event and recycling center details, and more.

Changes to the 2020 Green Guide
Page 1: 2021 Event Dates are listed on the flip side of this supplement.
Page 1: Campion Township changed haulers from Waste Management to Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Kaneville Township has DC Recycling as their hauler.
Page 3: Electronics Drop-offs have been rebranded as Kane County Recycling Centers because we now take additional materials there, including clothing and textiles, books, and scrap metal.
Page 3: Electronics Recycling for Businesses. Businesses can bring electronics to the Recycling Centers now. Please see website for more information.
Page 3: Items accepted at the Recycling Centers have changed. See website for the updated list.
Page 6: Liquid Latex Paint can be recycled at Ace Hardware stores but the costs may differ from the fees charged at Kane County Recycling Events. Call hardware stores for their per-can costs.
Page 10: Elgin ReStore hours are now Tues-Sun 9-5, closed Monday.
Page 13: Dehumidifiers, and other Freon-containing items, are NOT accepted with electronics at County Recycling Centers. Take them to The Crusher at 651 W. Washington Street in West Chicago.
Page 13: Fire Extinguishers were omitted last year. Here is the correct info: If full or empty: See the Naperville Household Hazardous Waste facility information on page 4 of the 2020 Guide. If empty: Aurora TriState Fire Protection (630-978-0600) will take the old one if you are buying a new one.
Page 14: SCARCE has new location: 800 S Rohlfing Rd. (Rt. 53), Addison, IL 60101.
Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date information: www.countyofkane.org/recycling

RECYCLING TIPS in the time of COVID-19
Personal Protection Supplies: Gloves, masks, and alcohol wipes can NOT be recycled in your curbside recycling cart. Please check out TerraCycle.org for a PPE Zero Waste Box or dispose of in the trash. Reusable washable masks, gloves, and wipes are a good way to minimize waste.
Delivery Packaging: Most is recyclable, some is not.
Bubble wrap: Bubble-wrap is recyclable at grocery store plastic bag recycling programs but not in your curbside recycling cart.
Cardboard boxes: Remove all packing material from box, flatten box, and recycle in curbside cart.
Plastic pillows or bags: Look for How2Recycle label on packaging, and follow that instruction. Plastic film with a #2 or #4 stamp can be recycled at grocery store programs. Pop the pillows before recycling.
Plastic envelope mailers: Most plastic envelope mailers (with or without bubble-wrap inners) can be recycled through grocery store programs but not in curbside recycling. Remove and dispose of label before recycling, by cutting it off and placing in trash.
Paper envelope mailers: Some are recyclable and some are not. Because there are many different kinds of mailer envelopes, look for the How2Recycle label and follow instructions implicitly. If there is not a How2Recycle label then it is probably not recyclable. The non-recyclable envelopes are generally hybrids of material like the orange-colored paper with plastic bubble wrap inside. Mixed-material items are NOT recyclable. Please throw them in the trash.
Styrofoam: Block Styrofoam is recyclable at the Dart Container Corporation in North Aurora. They will also take cleaned and dried food service foam products.
Take-Out Containers: Many take-out containers are not recyclable. Do recycle clear plastic tub shaped containers (round or rectangle okay) that are bigger than your fist. Do recycled clear plastic clamshell containers. Do not recycle Black plastic. Do not recycle thin, flat lids. Do not recycle foam or small sauce containers.

Kane County Recycles Green Guide 2021 SUPPLEMENT GUIDE
This Guide is a supplement to the 2020 Green Guide
Dear Recyclers,
This year, because there were not many changes in programs or services, we are not publishing a whole new guide, but instead offer this supplement with changes and additional information, including the 2021 Event Dates. If you need a paper copy of the 2020 Green Guide to pair with this supplement, you can download it from countyofkane.org/recycling, click the Green Guide box on the left bar of the home page, or contact recycle@countyofkane.org and we will send you one.
Please always refer to www.countyofkane.org/recycling for the latest information about recycling in Kane County, including recycling guidelines for what you can and cannot put in your bin, places you can drop-off all sorts of things to be recycled, event and recycling center details, and more.
Thank you for your efforts to recycle right!
Sincerely,
Jennifer Jarland,
Kane County Recycling Coordinator
Inside...
Recycling Center Information
2021 Event Dates
Changes to the 2020 Green Guide
Recycling Tips in the Time of COVID

Lucky's ENERGY SERVICE "Fuel Is Our Life"
We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants - D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.
We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois - Wisconsin - Indiana
Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at www.luckysenergy.com
Growing To Serve You Better

Recycle Scrap for CASH
Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars
Trucking & Dumpster Service Available
"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"
Zimmerman Recycling, Inc.
301 Industrial Drive, DeKalb
(815) 756.8600

FEBRUARY BLESSINGS

By Alice Macha



My husband and I were in the kitchen on a recent Sunday evening, planning meals for the upcoming week. "I'm in the mood for meatloaf," I said. "With mashed potatoes?" he asked. "Sure, white or sweet potatoes, your choice." "And don't forget," he said, "we have Alaska salmon filets in the freezer."

And it struck me, what an extraordinary thing this is. My husband and I don't worry about the availability of food. It is plentiful, fresh and reasonably priced. We simply go to one of the four grocery stores within four miles of our house and select what appeals to us and is within budget. If we're feeling rich, we have the option to purchase Midwestern steaks,

Alaskan crab legs, rotisserie chickens, prepared meats or meals and enough deli meats, cheeses and sides to feed my entire neighborhood. Pinching pennies? We can purchase canned or dried beans, potatoes and a rainbow of vegetables grown across the country to make soups and stews that are filling, nutritious and inexpensive to prepare.

We have been savoring abundant citrus fruits from Texas, Florida and California and apples from Washington. We enjoy fresh Oberweis milk and locally produced cottage cheese and eggs. Good, locally grown tomatoes and herbs are available year round. Products are grown across the country, harvested, processed and quickly shipped. We purchase what we want or need and have the luxury of not giving it a second thought.

What is easy and convenient for us consumers is a lot of work for farmers, delivery drivers and grocers. I marvel at the effort that is involved in growing, harvesting and milling grains across the country, shipping and distributing to bakers, who fashion white, rye, multi-grain breads, rolls, wraps and flatbreads that pile the shelves at my local supermarket. I think of the dairy farmers who conscientiously manage their herds and deliver fresh, clean milk to local dairies for products as diverse as cheese, yogurt and ice cream that are stacked in coolers and freezers awaiting my dining decision.

February is a good month to ponder this remarkable abundance of food and appreciate the folks who work hard to bring it to us. It is the month in which the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) declares "Food Check-out Week," the week in which the average American has earned enough income to afford his food for the year. Kane County Farm Bureau celebrates this milestone with a "Food Check-out Challenge," in which local officials "compete" in a 5 minute sprint through the grocery store, piling their carts with food that is tallied and donated to the local food pantry of the contestant's choice.

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Jeff Jones! Jeff has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since November 2019. His



Jeff Jones

office is located at 2172 Blackberry Dr., Geneva and may be reached at: 630-492-5293. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Jeff Jones has been named the Agent of the Month for DECEMBER 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Jeff 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 Jeff's expertise help you! You may reach Jeff at 630-492-5292, jeff.jones@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.country>

[financial.com/jeff.jones/](https://countryfinancial.com/jeff.jones/). Congratulations, Jeff!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for December 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!

Motor vehicle rules for IL farmers

Trucking regulations can be complicated, and farm exemptions compound that problem. It seems everyone has a different answer to your question.

Illinois Farm Bureau is offering a two virtual "Rules for the Road" meetings in early March for farmers in Northern Illinois that will focus on trucking laws specifically for farmers.

Join us virtually on March 2 at 9:30 am or March 4 at 6:30 pm where Farm Bureau will introduce you to new rules,

remind you of the old ones that still apply, and help you figure out whether exemptions are available.



Presenting the seminar will be Rodney Knittel who special-

izes in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau®. For more information or a registration link, contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau 630-584-8660 or steve@kane.cfb.com.

KCFB will evaluate the opportunity and need for a limited number of farmer-members to join us at the Farm Bureau building in St. Charles to see this virtual program in a small, socially distanced group setting.

KCFB scholarships

(continued from page 1)

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. Application deadline is February 15, 2021.

UofI Extension webinar: Let's Talk Money

Deciding when and how much credit to use depends on the financial situation. Discover different scenarios when you might use credit, and learn options for borrowing money from creditors.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/dkk/events?tid=All&page=%2C%2C%2C5>

Webinar participation is free, but registration is required. One may register for any or all of the sessions held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. CT. Details about accessing the webinars will be provided after registration.

Illinois Extension provides

equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in programming, contact program organizer and presenter, Kathy Sweedler. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your needs.

McKenna Berglind, KCFB intern and Burlington Central High School student, helps Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Kelcee Miller assemble the monthly Constant Contact email newsletter sent to Kane County school teachers. The emailed newsletter keeps teachers up to date about KCFB and Illinois Farm Bureau lessons, virtual field trips, activities and book reviews.

All KCFB members can receive emails from us about upcoming events, food specials, annual fundraiser sales, scholarship opportunities and much more. Just share your email address with Kelcee Miller at AITC@kanecfb.com and we'll make sure you get the latest KCFB info.



Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the FOUNDATION.



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

These contributions help in the areas of to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from December 15, 2020-January 14, 2021.

Donor	Beneficiary
Kathy Konishi	KCFB Foundation – FFA Chapter Grants
Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center	KCFB Foundation – Scholarships
Mark Tuttle	KCFB Foundation – General Fund
Konen Family Foundation [SAI]	KCFB Foundation – General Fund



Jon DeRaedt, DeRaedt Grain Farms	Burlington Hampshire Food Pantry
John & Judith Van Bogaert	Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry
Wayne Schneider & Lisa Geisler	Northern Illinois Food Bank

* 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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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 – 630 550 7182

♥
Happy Valentine's Day!

Kane 4-H Foundation sponsors pork chop drive-thru dinner

Take a night off from cooking dinner and support your local community with the Kane County 4-H Foundation's drive-thru dinner fundraiser. Ticket sales are now open for the event, which is 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at Lions Park in Elburn.

"This fundraiser is in lieu of our annual pork chop dinner and auction event," said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event chairperson. "With everything this past year, we wanted to still find a way to support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension programs."

Dinner tickets are \$20 and include a 2-chop meal with sides and dessert, as well as a 50/50 raffle chance. The pork chops will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club, and served by that group, as well as Kane County 4-H families and Extension volunteers. COVID-19 safety pre-

cautions will be taken.

Pre-sale tickets for the drive-thru dinner are available through March 15 by contacting Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Doris Braddock at dbraddock@illinois.edu or 217-300-8664. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit University of Illinois Extension programs in Kane County including: 4-H Youth Development, Home and Community Education Association, Horticulture, Master Gardener, and Nutrition and Wellness Programs.

"We are grateful for the community support we receive each year and are proud to give back to Extension," said Collins. "Local support through fundraisers such as this one is vital to maintain the quality of Extension programs offered to the entire county."

To learn more about University of Illinois Extension in Kane County and all the programs they offer, visit go.illinois.edu/extensiondtkk.



Vintage truck raffle provides funds for scholarships

So many people make New Year's resolutions to lose weight, save money, and do more for their community. While we cannot help you lose weight, we can help you to save money and do more for your community!

Our "2021 Vintage Truck Raffle" does both – you can save \$ when you buy 5 tickets/\$50 (reg. price is \$15 each) and you are helping your com-

munity by providing funds for Ag in the Classroom activities and Agriculture related scholarships to local Kane County students.

Tickets are available NOW! Return the form below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with VISA, MasterCard, or Discover. Visit www.kanecfb.com for more information.

The winning ticket in KCFB Foundation's 2021 Vintage Truck Raffle will net the grand prize – this 1972 Chevrolet C/20 Camper Special. Winning tickets will be drawn Sept. 9th, 2021 at KCFB.



Tickets available NOW!



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 ____ / ____ / ____

Private well testing program in February

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water testing program in February 2020. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and this program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The program works simply as follows:

Step 1. Monday, February 22 – Friday, March 5, 2021

Pick up water test kits from the Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30am-4:30pm or from Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8am – 4:30pm, M-F. Payment is due for each test kit upon pick-up.

Step 2. Sunday, March 7, 2021

Collect the water sample.

Step 3. Monday, March 8, 2021

Return water sample to Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil &

Water Conservation District.

Costs vary for depending on which tests you have performed on your water. Three kits are available:

A. Basic Package (Nitrate Package) – \$45.00

Tests for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, soluble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

B. Pesticide Screen – \$80.00

Indicates the presence of triazine herbicides, Lasso, Dual or Harness.

C. Metals – \$95.00

Tests for 23 different metals.

More detailed sampling instructions will be included in each kit and additional information on how each test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation's District offices. Testing will be performed by Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, a

certified lab that has been nationally recognized for its work in testing rivers and lakes, and results are mailed directly to your home. We are able to provide these deeply discounted testing fees because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested.

Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 with any questions.



Touch-A-Tractor set for April 16-18

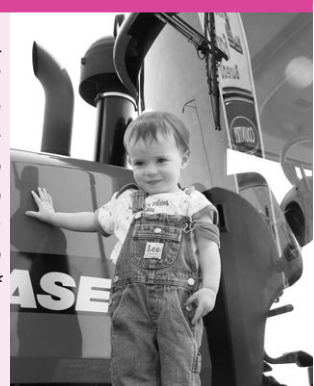
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 15th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will tentatively be held Friday – Sunday, April 16-18. We will bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event. It could be your first chance to get the kids out of the house this spring!

Kids get to touch and even sit in the seats of big, farm machinery they normally only see from the road. They can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, frolic in the corn corral, crawl through culverts, bang on pots and pans,

play with toy tractors and farm equipment and see farm animals. Area moms tell us their kids



Touch-A-Tractor – the name says it all! Dozens of hands-on activities, tractors and fun entice the whole family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 16-18, 2021.



ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2021 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's

biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2021, a Vintage Truck Raffle ticket will get FREE family admission all 3 days, all others will pay \$2 (adult) or \$5 (family) admission. Proceeds from Touch-A-Tractor and the Vintage Truck Raffle benefit the college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs of the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier!

If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, or have tractors or equipment to share, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

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.

NEW! **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.

KCFB SCHOLARSHIPS 2021
See story on page 1 and apply today!