

Kane County Farmer



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

VOL. 87 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2022

IL county, state FB organizations shine at AFBF Convention

By Mike Orso, FarmWeek

The nation's largest organization of farmers and ranchers has honored county Farm Bureaus in Illinois as well as the Illinois Farm Bureau in 2022 for programs the groups executed in 2020 and 2021.

At the 103rd convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) held in Atlanta, Kane County Farm Bureau and Woodford County Farm Bureau shared programs singled out as County Activities of Excellence.

Kane County Farm Bureau exhibited information about the pollinator and rain garden installed at its headquarters along busy Randall Road in St. Charles, west of Chicago. The garden celebrates a new county stormwater ordinance that allows farmers to install water best management practices when building such things as new farm buildings, grain bins and roadways.

"It seems to be really a waste of productive farmland to build stormwater detention on property that may have 150, 200 or more acres to divert that stormwater when you create impervious surface," says Steve Arnold, Kane County Farm Bureau manager. "It seemed to

us it would be better to ask farmers to improve water quality in lieu of stormwater deten-

tion and taking valuable farmland out of production."

The garden represents a

county stormwater best management practice. In 2022, the organization hopes to add 2,800

square feet to the original 800-square-foot pollinator and rain garden in the shape of Illinois.



Photos, clockwise from top left:

Kelcee Miller, left, and Liz Polovin with Kane County Farm Bureau shared information about the organization's pollinator and rain garden which plans on expanding in 2022. Photo credit: Mike Orso.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall looks on as KCFB Manager Steve Arnold explains the impetus for planting a pollinator/rain garden at the association's office on Randall Road in 2020, as part of the trade show at the organization's annual convention in Atlanta.

Duvall (2nd from left) presented KCFB staff members Steve Arnold, Manager, Liz Polovin, Membership Coordinator and Kelcee Miller, Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator a certificate in recognition of the County Activity of Excellence.



Apply for Foundation scholarships by Feb. 15

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is offering up to 20 scholarships to members or dependents of members pursuing college degrees. The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2022.

There are hundreds of careers in the agriculture industry and hundreds of students from Kane County studying in schools across the country to

prepare to take the lead in providing food, fiber and fuel for us all.

Applicants may qualify for the Rodholm Charitable Trust Veterinary Scholarship, KCFB General Scholarships, Ag Scholarships, the KCFB President's Scholarship, Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, the John Buck Memorial Scholarship, AGCO Platinum Scholarship and/or the AGCO Parts Division/AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships.

Applications and details on scholarship requirements are available by calling 630-584-8660; visiting www.kanecfb.com and clicking on Getting

Involved and Scholarships; emailing your request to info@kanecfb.com; or stopping by the KCFB office, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles.

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, Recreations, and Tourism Resources, Packaging, Horticulture, Forestry, Food Science, and Fisheries/Wildlife.

KCFB CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2022

9 Virtual – Winter Agribusiness Seminar, Noon (register by calling 630-584-8660)

10 KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm

14 Valentine's Day

15 KCFB Foundation scholarship applications due

15 IFB Govt Affairs Leadership Conference (Springfield)

Statewide Legislative Reception at GALC (Spfld)

This Blessed Earth Book Club Conversation, 6pm (pre-registered members only)

17 Kane County Board Ag Committee*, 10 am

KCFB Nominating Committee, 6 pm (tent.)

25 Food for Thought Regional Ad Group, 10 am

28 Registration due for "Rules for the Road"

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

Happy Valentine's Day!

February Featured Food Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

Our featured product for this month is Inboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops – a KCFB member favorite! Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. (10 per box) or 10 oz. (8 per box) and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop is individually vacuum sealed. Just thaw, cut it open and you're ready to cook up a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. It's a Farm Bureau favorite! Price is (not including tax) \$31.18 per box for members, Non-members pay. \$34.63. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau!



Sure, it's a pain to deal with when it comes. Ice storms create dangerous travel conditions and can cause severe damage to power lines, trees, homes and barns, and make winter livestock chores ever more challenging. But the wonder that they leave in their wake can also be unarguably, well, beautiful. We bet many of you grabbed a camera and headed outside to capture pictures of your homes, farms or landscapes the second week of January. And while this one may not win any prizes, it's a place that many of us here are particularly fond of and justifiably proud of.

AFBF delegates adopt IFB policies on climate, urban ag, energy

By Timothy Eggert, FarmWeek
 Voting delegates at American Farm Bureau Federation's 2022 Annual Meeting in Atlanta adopted more than a dozen new policies – including measures on the 2023 farm bill, urban agriculture and climate change – submitted by Illinois Farm Bureau's delegation.

Delegates also approved IFB policy proposals related to renewable energy, labor and crop insurance and risk management, advanced by the AFBF Resolutions Committee in December.

"Good discussion today," IFB President Richard Guebert Jr. told FarmWeek following the voting session, which capped AFBF's 103rd Annual Convention, held in Atlanta. "We were pretty successful getting all but one of our submittals through and put into AFBF policy."

Illinois was represented by 20 delegates, part of the 345-member delegate body. Overall, more than 4,000 people attended the convention.

"Other states' presidents and I have built coalitions, our delegates here have built coalitions over the years with other states, and we support one another," Guebert said of IFB's success. "Especially when there's policy that's really important to our members and theirs as well, and we support each other going forward."

Voting delegates on Tuesday also reelected AFBF President Zippy Duvall to another term. He has held the position since 2016.

Climate change

IFB delegates on introduced seven amendments – all were approved except one – to final policy submittals. Of those and the IFB policies adopted by del-

egates, Guebert said the measure on climate change is one of the most important.

The final language on that measure, among other things, includes support for a voluntary market-based carbon system with "clear, science-based and consistent standards for calculating the amount of carbon sequestered by agricultural practices" and farmer compensation for future, current and past sequestration activities.



Top photo: Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert Jr. rises to speak about an amendment made Tuesday from the voting delegate floor of American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting in Atlanta. (Photo by Jim Polus)

Left: Among the speakers on the AFBF stage in 2022 was Georgia native and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

It also features support for "education programs for farmers and farmland owners with negotiating carbon sequestration language to provide fair and equitable compensation, adequate legal protection and liability limits."

Mark Gebhards, IFB executive director of governmental affairs and commodities,

into national policy is a new measure defining and supporting urban agriculture. The new policy defines urban agriculture as a wide range of activities from cultivation to processing and from marketing to distribution of food in urban and suburban settings in both outdoor and indoor facilities.

Despite no amendments or

floor discussion, Guebert said other states with major urban areas expressed "a lot of support" for it in December during the AFBF Resolutions Committee.

2023 farm bill, risk management & crop insurance

Delegates further adopted IFB policies about the 2023 farm bill, including supporting inflation-adjusted farm program payment limits and supporting increased commodity loan rates.

IFB also helped to defeat an amendment from multiple states

to strike national farm policy language supporting "treating base acres lost to renewable energy projects the same as CRP base acres" and "when the energy contract expires, and the underlying land returns to production, the base acres return."

Guebert, rising on the delegate floor in opposition to the amendment, said it's "very important" to give landowners – especially those who host solar projects – an opportunity to "bring those acres back and get your base reestablished after the" (continued on page 7)

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 2022 THRU DECEMBER 2022

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X											
B. COLLINS	X											
C. COLLINS	X											
J. ENGEL												
G. GAITSCH	*											
B. GEHRKE	*											
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.

GALC returns for 1 day, in-person event

Illinois Farm Bureau's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference returns Feb. 15 as a one-day, in-person event to provide members with updates on issues ranging from the livestock industry and water quality to carbon markets and fertilizer prices.

This year's theme is "Shaping the Future." The event will be held at the Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield. The popular legislative reception will be at 6:15 p.m. at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

"This is an opportunity not only for members to hear what IFB's legislative and regulatory focus will be in 2022, but for them to be part of that process, learn from experts and staff and provide their input on what our approach should be," said Mark Gebhards, IFB executive director of governmental affairs and commodities.

Governmental Affairs & Commodities staff will lead three, 55-minute workshop sessions, while two guest speakers will each host one-hour talks.

Keynote speakers include Chris Stirewalt, an American politics editor for The Dispatch and a former Fox News digital politics editor, and Gregg Doud, who served as the chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Repres-

(continued on page 3)

Kane County Farmer

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DeWitte, Ness to participate in 21st Annual Shopping Spree

Thirty-third District State Senator Donald DeWitte and 66th District State Representative Suzanne Ness have agreed to be “competitors” in the KCFB’s 21st annual Shopping Spree for hunger relief, an event that has contributed over \$40,000 in groceries to area food pantries since its inception.

Although COVID related restrictions may postpone the event which is typically held in February, the Farm Bureau is committed to sponsoring a race between these public minded and public-spirited local officials to continue this tradition of giving.

For updates on the time, date

and location of the Shopping Spree, follow the Kane County Farm Bureau on Facebook, where the announcement as well as the local food pantries who will benefit, will be shared. Like the Facebook page and be sure to tune in for a Facebook live feed of the Shopping Spree!

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. At right is a partial list of contestants and beneficiaries.

Year	Contestants	Beneficiary
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 State Rep Christine Johnson	Between Friends Food Pantry, Sugar Grove Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry
2013	State Treasurer Dan Rutherford State Senator Karen McConaughay	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
2021	Representative Barbara Hernandez Senator Karina Villa	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry



Donald DeWitte



Suzanne Ness

In-person Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Grower Training

Farm Bureau members are invited to register for upcoming statewide Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Grower Training sessions to fulfill state requirements on mandatory safety training. Free certified grower trainings will be offered at several locations in winter 2022 through a partnership between IFB, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA).

The following central and northern Illinois locations will host the upcoming sessions. Training starts at 1 p.m. at all locations:

- February 21: Asmark Agricenter, Bloomington
- March 1: Mendota Civic Center, Mendota
- March 2: Knox Agri Center, Galesburg
- March 4: Poe’s Catering, Springfield

• March 14: Asmark Agricenter, Bloomington

Attendance is limited for each session. Growers may register at <http://www.ilfb.org/NH3> to guarantee their seat and learn more information.

As a reminder, Illinois growers and grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, are now required by state regulation (8 IAC 215) to complete certified grower training. Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022, to be initially certified and must participate in refresher training every three years.

For those who prefer the ease of a free online course, the Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Grower Training can also be fulfilled online at onenet.illinois.gov.

Certified Livestock Manager in-person workshops, online training

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), along with the University of Illinois Extension, is hosting Certified Livestock Manager Training and Testing Workshops. Both online and in-person options will be offered to provide Illinois livestock producers the manure management training they need to meet the requirements of the state’s Livestock Management Facilities Act.

For the first time the Certified Livestock Manager testing will be available in Spanish. This option will be

offered for both our in-person and online exams.

To attend an in-person workshop, registration is required at go.illinois.edu/CLMT. Registration will be open one month prior to the workshop date, and class size is limited in some locations. All participants are required to wear a mask in order to comply with COVID-19 safety precautions.

The 2022 workshop dates and locations are:

- February 1, IDOA Building auditorium, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield

- February 2, U of I Extension Pike-Scott Farm Bureau Building, Pittsfield

- February 3, Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Building, Monmouth

- February 15, Livingston County Extension Office, Pontiac

- February 16, DeKalb County Farm Bureau Building, Sycamore

- February 17, Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building, Freeport

- February 23, Bank of (continued on page 8)

GALC returns

(continued from page 2)

entative (USTR) during the Trump Administration.

Meanwhile, the first workshop session will focus on the Illinois General Assembly, livestock issues faced by the state, rules and tips about road safety and developments in conservation, climate change and carbon markets.

The second workshop session will feature strategies for communication, energy’s impact on agriculture and ways county Farm Bureaus can part-

ner with local government. The third workshop session will cover updates from the IFB ACTIVATOR, programs and services aiding the livestock industry, the Adopt-a-Legislator program, water policy and the American Rescue Plan Act.

An additional session will include a presentation about fertilizer and input prices from a panel of American Farm Bureau Federation staff.

“The event ends with the state legislative reception, which is a unique opportunity for our members to speak directly to their elected representa-

tives and to tell their story. That’s the power of Farm Bureau,” Gebhards said.

Kane County Farm Bureau Regular members (farmers and farmland owners), and Professional Members are invited to participate in the GALC. KCFB will pay the registration cost to attend as a benefit of your membership, and make hotel arrangements at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel for Monday and Tuesday if needed.

For more information on registration and full details about the conference, call 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

IFB Releases Workshop Topics for GALC

Illinois Farm Bureau’s Annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield. Attendees will have the choice of 8 topic sessions in addition to the General Sessions and a Tuesday evening Legislative Reception at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

The recently released schedule of workshops/topic sessions includes:

Unlocking the Mystery of the General Assembly

The General Assembly session is expedited this year because the upcoming elections have all legislators running in new districts and the voting constituencies, they will face are untested. In this session we will look at what is expected for key issues the General Assembly must face before its April 8th scheduled adjournment. We will also attempt to unlock the new legislative maps to see how they will shape the future of our states policy.

Livestock in Illinois

Opportunities for Illinois’ livestock industry rely on balance and support. Join this session for a conversation on how Illinois Farm Bureau is working to maintain the livestock sector for Illinois farmers.

Programs and Services Aiding the Illinois Livestock Industry

Illinois Farm Bureau has worked to develop programs and services aiding the Illinois livestock industry. During this session learn what has been implemented to assist livestock farmers including the new Black Vulture Depredation Permit Program, HACCP Training and Certification, animal health, and more.

Rules for the Road

This seminar provides farmers a great opportunity to ask their transportation questions firsthand for discussion, introduce farmers to new rules, remind them of

the current ones that still apply, and help them figure out whether exemptions are available.

Conservation, Climate Change and Carbon Markets: The Latest Developments

Climate change is the new buzzword. Come learn about the latest developments in Washington as it relates to USDA Conservation Programs, climate change mitigation efforts of the federal government, and carbon markets. More importantly, find out Illinois Farm Bureau’s role in it all.

Communication Strategies

This session will provide a mix of take-home tips and scenario role playing to help you as a CFB leader learn valuable skills to help advocate for issues in your county and local communities. This session will share real life situations involving social media engagements, media interviews and simple conversations. When it comes to issue management – the methods are endless.

ACTIVATOR 101

Attendees will learn the ins-and-outs of what ACTIVATOR is and why it works.

Water Policy Developments

Join this session to hear the latest developments in water policy including USEPA’s efforts to rewrite the definition of “Waters of the United States” and nationwide efforts regarding nutrients and water quality, and how you can get involved.




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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

What farmers do in the winter is our theme for this month and it has a lot to do with continuing education opportunities, attending conferences, networking with others within the ag industry, as well as preparations for the upcoming year. While I am not a farmer, I do have a career within the ag industry and similar actions are applicable for me as well.

As you have gathered from my previous columns, I am a goal-oriented and routine individual and one of my goals for 2022 is to step outside my comfort zone and travel more. So when the opportunity to attend American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Atlanta, Georgia was presented, I jumped on it! I was not entirely sure what to expect and slightly nervous, but I was excited to attend my first work-related conference, learn something new, and meet more professionals within the field.

Upon arrival at the airport, my nerves were high with anticipation! The last time I rode an

airplane was in the summer of 2019 and since then a lot of protocols and rules at the airport have changed. Walking through security with my coworker, both frazzled with all the rules of what all goes in the bins we found ourselves asking all of the questions. While exchanging conversations with the lady guiding us through it all, I jokingly said, "We're new here!" She laughed in response, but happily assisted us and answered our questions. From then on, the phrase "We're new here" stuck. The entire experience was something new to the both of us and we used that motto the entire weekend to try new things we normally wouldn't.

While at the convention, it was neat to see people from all over the states coming together for one common purpose. Walking through the exhibit hall alone, it was evident that the agriculture industry has a tremendous impact on all of us and how there's so many different careers beyond your "typical" agriculture job. One highlight of the trip was exploring all the different booths within the

exhibit hall. Not only did we get some tasty treats, freebies, and pamphlets, but we got to have conversations with others about their product, event, and/or initiatives they are implementing or have found successful. It's one thing to see something in a catalog or hear about it from a secondary source and another to speak directly to the people who are involved in the product or service.

As you may recall from previous Farmers, our pollinator-rain garden won an AFBF County Activity of Excellence Award. This was the first time that we have been able to celebrate and recognize the achievement in-person, as well as inform people of our exciting expansion coming later this year. Along with other farm bureau CAE winners from around the nation, we were in a specific row of the exhibit hall and it was great to be able to visit with them and discuss their project and possibly see if a similar program or event could work for our Farm Bureau too.

One of my favorite takeaways that I am excited to implement within our county was from Woodford County Farm Bureau (also in Illinois) with their idea of "Lesson in a Bucket." Just as the title suggests, in a 5-gallon chore bucket, teachers receive a variety of ag literacy resources including books, AgMags, activities and lesson plans on a partic-

ular agriculture theme or topic. We loved the simplicity of this initiative as well as the idea of teachers carrying a tangible reminder of farm life, like a chore bucket, filled with ag literacy resources. The bucket itself can be a conversation starter for others in the school building – and a great way to help promote ag literacy and the importance of agriculture every day.

Are you or someone you know a teacher within Kane County? A volunteer willing to "deliver" "ag literacy chore buckets" to local schools? Is there a special agriculture topic you would be interested in? Give us a call at the office at 630-584-8660 and let's chat about it and see how we can help get the conversation, and the chore buckets, headed toward local classrooms!

They say the best things happen at the end of your comfort

zone and that saying couldn't be truer. If I hadn't taken the opportunity to attend the AFBF Conference, I would have missed out on the opportunity to learn more about the agricultural industry, network with other professionals, as well as gain new ideas for programs to implement within our Farm Bureau.

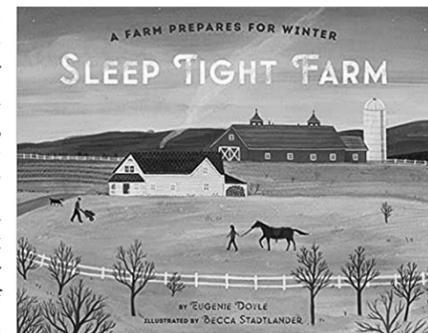
As the phrase went at the beginning of our trip, "We're new here!" propelled us into soaking up the opportunities that were presented to us during the convention to learn and grow. Oftentimes growth feels uncomfortable and scary, but we come out the other side a better and smarter person for it. We're all "new" and start somewhere, so I encourage you to remember there's always an opportunity to learn something new and to step outside your comfort zone.

Happy February!

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 Stadlander. This delightful 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 takes loves and 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 check out 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.



Sleep Tight Farm
by Eugenie Doyle,
illustrated by Becca Stadlander

Losses to the KCFB family

Our Farm Bureau family has lost two special people since we last communicated to our members through our January publication. While we are thankful for the lives that they touched, our hearts go out to family and friends grieving these losses.

Riverwoods, St. Charles, IL, www.fvca.org, or Boy Scouts of America, Troop 7, Elburn, IL, www.elburntroop7.org.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Laura Wilcox, 807 Sharp Court, Elburn, IL 60119



TODD WILCOX • 1966-2021

Todd Wilcox, 55 of Elburn, IL and Bellaire, MI, passed away Sunday, December 26, 2021. He joined the Country Companies family in 1995 as an insurance agent, and maintained an office at the Kane County Farm Bureau until the time of his passing.

Todd focused on investment, retirement planning and mentoring others and remained dedicated to his clients and colleagues for the last 26 years. He is survived by his wife Laura of Elburn.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Fox Valley Christian Action/



GUY MACHA • 1958-2022

Guy Macha, 63, of Joliet, IL, passed away Tuesday, January 18th, 2022.

Guy was employed by the University of Chicago at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont as a beamline technician and safety officer.

Guy had a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors and enjoyed traveling, hiking, camping, and exploring local and national parks.

He is survived by his wife Alice Macha, communications coordinator for Kane County Farm Bureau, his mother, and five siblings.

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



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
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Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
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Aurora
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"COUNTRY Financial®" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.
1220-509HC_20503-1/6/2022





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

What farmers do in the Winter

Late sunrises ... early twilights
 The farmhouse and barn snug and tight.
 Plow and combine are idled and still
 The fields snow blanketed against the chill
 But a farmer is busy, plans to be made
 W-2's to be mailed, taxes paid
 Grain to be hauled, cows and hens to be tended
 Equipment to be maintained and mended
 And always, a winter of thoughtful planning
 A farmer's mind wanders and is led
 Always, to the farming year ahead.

Winter is the time for farmers to attend the IFB Annual Meeting in December, the AFBF Convention (story on page 1), Rules for the Road Trucking Seminars (page 6), GALC seminars (page 2), Crop Insurance Update meetings (page 7), Certified Livestock Manager Training (page 3), and, of course, KCFB's Touch-A-Tractor (page 8), always enhanced by generous farmers who share their knowledge, farm animals and tractors new and old with YOU.

JOKES

What do snowmen call their offspring?
Chill-dren!
 How did Jack Frost get to work?
By icicle!
 What does Frosty the Snowman like to put on his iceburgers?
Chilly sauce!
 What's it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?
A meltdown!

Winter work

B	I	O	F	U	E	L	S	R	C	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	I	N	G	Biofuels
S	O	S	K	H	O	V	D	E	M	O	C	S	S	Y	L	V	F	Y	P	Commodity
K	O	U	S	X	D	N	C	M	G	F	M	V	E	F	W	P	U	A	L	Conference
Q	V	I	X	Y	A	O	S	R	K	T	W	M	W	U	L	D	G	J	A	Consumer
Q	O	R	L	L	N	G	Z	A	K	W	G	O	O	I	L	K	T	Y	N	Evaluation
X	S	D	M	S	N	L	A	F	M	F	A	I	Q	D	B	A	A	V	N	Family
G	L	R	U	I	N	O	I	T	A	U	L	A	V	E	I	K	V	J	I	Farmer
H	A	M	T	N	I	A	H	C	Y	L	P	P	U	S	B	T	B	F	N	Farmland
F	E	E	S	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	D	E	M	A	N	D	Y	U	G	Financial
R	E	S	O	E	Y	O	L	D	D	V	S	M	G	O	R	L	K	T	E	Food
M	O	M	L	C	O	X	W	N	O	I	T	A	V	O	N	N	I	U	C	Future
W	G	E	U	O	J	S	V	R	O	E	T	W	F	G	M	Z	C	R	A	Improve
Q	I	L	T	N	S	E	I	C	I	L	O	P	L	O	S	K	A	E	L	Innovation
Q	G	B	I	F	Y	K	J	E	H	X	J	W	J	D	O	R	W	I	P	Marketplace
V	B	O	O	E	I	L	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	D	M	S	T	Meetings
Y	V	R	N	R	K	C	I	V	J	C	B	P	R	W	B	P	K	K	E	Networking
S	T	P	S	E	T	D	Q	M	E	N	T	L	B	N	R	C	P	V	K	Planning
C	Z	O	C	N	E	B	H	Z	A	N	S	F	P	O	F	X	F	T	R	Policies
H	X	U	X	C	H	Y	B	S	E	F	T	M	V	A	X	T	U	K	A	Problems
T	G	N	Y	E	J	T	J	J	O	A	R	E	W	C	C	P	X	F	M	Protein Demand
																				Soil
																				Solutions
																				Supply Chain
																				Values

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by February 15, 2022 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

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

Winter mornings call for cherry overnight oats

A good day starts with a nutritious breakfast! Prepare for the day ahead and celebrate National Cherry Month with this quick, easy, and tasty breakfast treat that can be eaten at home or on the road!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup old fashioned oOats
- 1/2 cup milk of choice
- 1/2 cup frozen pitted sweet cherries
- 1 tablespoon almond butter
- 1-2 teaspoons maple syrup
- 1/2 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, optional
- 1/8 teaspoon almond extract, optional

Directions:

Thaw the cherries in the refrigerator overnight or in the microwave. If using the microwave, let them cool before adding to the rest of the ingredients.

Smash the thawed cherries in a bowl with the back of a fork

In a jar or a container with a lid, combine all of the ingredients and stir.

Store covered overnight or at least 2 hours to thicken and enjoy the next morning!

Optional: top with yogurt, chocolate chips, or sliced almonds

Recipe found at: <https://www.threelittlechickpeas.com/cherry-overnight-oats/>



Melting snowmen a winter science craft

Supplies

- Baking soda
- White vinegar
- Water



- Black beads or googly eyes
- Orange foam paper
- Basters, eyedroppers, or spoons
- Glitter or sequins

Instructions:

Start by slowly adding water to a good amount of baking soda. You want to add just enough until you get a crumbly but pack-able dough. It should not be runny or soupy.

Pack the mixture together to make into snowballs

Gently press two beads or google eyes and an orange triangle

nose into the snowball for the snowman's face and sprinkle glitter or sequins to your liking!

Place in the freezer for as long as you like – the more frozen the snowmen are, the longer it will take to melt them.



Time to melt and evaluate:

Take your frozen snowmen, baster, eyedropper, or spoon and a bowl of white vinegar. You will want to make sure to put your snowmen on a tray or dish that will hold the liquid. You can even add a drop of blue food coloring to the vinegar for an icy blue wintry look!

Take baster, eyedropper, or spoon full of white vinegar and begin to add to the baking soda snowmen and watch what happens!

What happened to the snowmen?

Instead of melting, a chemical reaction occurs between the baking soda and the vinegar. It produces a new substance called carbon dioxide gas. This happens when a base (baking soda) and an acid (vinegar) mix. That's all the bubbling and fizzing you can hear, see, smell, and touch!

This wintry craft experiment found here: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/snowman-baking-soda-science-activity-melting-snowman-sensory-play>.

Who is Frosty's favorite relative?

Aunt Arctica!



Congratulations

Barbara Geisen of Maple Park. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a farm themed product! Thank you, Barbara, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

February is ... National

Dark Chocolate Day	1
Groundhog Day	2
Tater Tot Day	2
Hedgehog Day	2
Carrot Cake Day	3
Golden Retriever Day	3
Homemade Soup Day	4
Bubble Gum Day	4
Chocolate Fondue Day	5
World Nutella Day	5
Frozen Yogurt Day	6
Fettuccine Alfredo Day	7
Pizza Day	9
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	12
Plum Pudding Day	12
Super Bowl Sunday	13
Valentine's Day	14
Almond Day	16
Cabbage Day	17
Random Act of Kindness Day	17
FFA Week	19-26
Chocolate Mint Day	19
Muffin Day	20
Cherry Pie Day	20
Sticky Bun Day	21
Banana Bread Day	23
Chili Day	24
Clam Chowder Day	25
Chocolate Covered Nut Day	25
Pistachio Day	26
Strawberry Day	27
Floral Design Day	28
Chocolate Souffle Day	28

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

Farms, food and the environment – Spring & summer education from KCFB for teachers, students and the public

Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute beginning June 6, 2022.

The 2022 Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 3 days, June 6th, 7th, and 9th. 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.

Participants will also have the opportunity to share a breakfast with area farmers. On tours and in a classroom like setting, they will 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, carbon capture, cover crops, pollinators, global populations and other current topics in agriculture. For more

information on the June Summer ag Institute, contact Kelcee Miller at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or aitc@kanecfb.com.

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

The Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students brings volunteers into area 3rd grade classrooms to read an agriculture-themed book to students and share their knowledge about rural life and farming. The book is then donated to the school library. We are looking for volunteers for this activity, traditionally conducted in April. 2022 activities may be restricted by COVID-19 procedures, but we still encourage 3rd grade

teachers, and volunteers, to contact our office at 630-584-8660 to register those interest in participating. Ask for Kelcee.

Story time added to Touch-a-Tractor line-up

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 farm-themed activities, games and the chance to play like farm kids. Touch-A-Tractor is scheduled for April 8-10 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

New this year will be "Story Time", with volunteers reading farm-themed books to children at the top of every hour on Saturday and Sunday. Books featured will be from the Farm Bureau's Ag Literacy Library, a collection of farm themed books for all ages located in the lobby of the KCFB on Randall Road. These titles are available

for free check-out by Farm Bureau members and area teachers. The library is supported by the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen. A companion activity by our Young Farmers group to erect an outdoor "Little Free Library" of farm-themed books will be completed this spring, hopefully at Touch-A-Tractor, to make these title more available to all audiences.

Groups and organizations 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.

Volunteers willing to assist with Story Time or other Touch-A-Tractor activities are encourage to contact Steve or Kelcee at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660, or to return the form on page 8.



this winter season, traditionally a time for self-evaluation on the farm. Farmers, perhaps, evaluate more this year than in recent

ones. The pandemic has been the annoying rock in our boot and record-high costs a rockslide challenging our path to profitability. Fertilizer prices have more than doubled in a year. Roundup prices are up 300%. And while anyone who drives can relate to the pain at the pump, imagine filling up a 300-gallon tank in a combine. Supply shortages and soaring input costs challenge farm families like ours everywhere this winter, prompting us to store herbicide like toilet paper in case of a shortage. Our breakeven spreadsheets evolve and include approximate costs on products that retailers can't even price yet.

Thankfully, crop values are strong, and we take comfort in surrounding ourselves at these conferences with people who understand and possess the faith to persevere. The recent conference offered perspective on the future of food and farming and the anticipated disrupters in the marketplace. Expert panelists discussed biofuels, global protein demand, soil microbials and carbon. They shared dialogue on commodity and financial markets, supply chain issues, cryptocurrency, farmland values and consumer mindset about food. Between sessions we met with vendors of innovative farm products and further quizzed experts on the topics most impacting our family farm.

For decades, farm meetings and conferences have sparked the adoption of innovation on the farm, helping operations of all sizes attain the ideal of continuous improvement. At these places, we discover new solutions to complex problems and make choices to advance methods for growing crops and raising animals. That said, the winter season provides limited time to chill.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and a crop of farm kids.

No time to chill: Winter a season of evaluation

On the six-hour drive home, we jotted down action items to improve the family farm. The list added to the workload that had accumulated while away from the farm office for the better part of three days. But nothing seemed unattainable. We had just left a farm conference packed with a lineup of brilliant speakers and creative thinkers, the type who can re-ignite the motivation that the pandemic and its policies had temporarily siphoned from us.

Farm conferences and annual meetings return this winter at hotels and conference centers across the nation after a two-year hiatus. The face-to-face networking, the sharing of knowledge and the trips south to warmer locations rejuvenate souls in the agriculture industry

and include approximate costs on products that retailers can't even price yet.

Thankfully, crop values are strong, and we take comfort in surrounding ourselves at these conferences with people who understand and possess the faith to persevere. The recent conference

IFB to host 'Rules for the Road' Trucking Seminar for farmers in NE IL at Harvard

Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour trucking focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

A session for farmers in Northeast Illinois will be held on March 8 at 10 am at the Harvard Moose Lodge, 22500 IL- Rt. 173, Harvard, IL 60033.

"There are some trucking laws that have been reshaped in recent years, such as the Entry Level Driver Training Requirement that goes into effect on Feb. 7, 2022," said Rodney Knittel, IFB assistant director of transportation and infrastructure. "These presentations are designed to take a closer look at these latest rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask those ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to

find clear answers for."

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes and some of the more established but still misunderstood rules, such as the USDOT Number, UCR registrations and driver's license classifications, to name a few. In addition, two of the events will also be broadcasted virtually on Feb. 22 and 24, 2022.

Knittel specializes in farm transportation issues and will lead the seminar series, and he will be joined by Illinois

enforcement agencies.

Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free, courtesy of your County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is requested. Please call your Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to reserve your place at the in-person Rules for the Road Seminar by March 1.

For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau, steve@kanecfb.com or Rodney Knittel at rknittel@ifb.org.

MARCH 8TH AT 10 AM MCHENRY CFB
Hosted by: McHenry County Farm Bureau
Moose Lodge, 22500 IL-173 Harvard
Lunch at 12:00 pm
Register by March 1, 2022

Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members
REGISTRATION OPENS MON., JAN. 17TH. Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm, Family, Food

Your ticket to family fun

Get your chance to win in our 2022 Vintage Truck Raffle and get FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor to boot. Help yourself save money and help our community of college scholarship applicants in the process.

Our "2022 Vintage Truck Raffle" does both – you can save \$\$ when you buy 3 tickets/\$50 (reg. price is \$20 each) and you are helping your community 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 Grand Prize this year is a 1971 Chevrolet C/10 pickup truck. As in past years, Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stubs will provide FREE admission to Touch-A-Tractor, April 8-10, 2022 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

Winning tickets will be drawn on October 13th, 2022 at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

Visa MC # _____ Exp ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____



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Growing To Serve You Better

COUNTRY, IFB final Crop Insurance Update

There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring. COUNTRY Financial® and Illinois Farm Bureau remain ready to assist farmers through every season. The organizations have teamed up for regional meetings across Illinois to share updates on

improved opportunities for farmers to protect their farms and crops in 2022. The last session, are virtual offering, will be February 9.

“Every farm operation is different, and our goal is always to help our farm clients and Farm Bureau members reach their

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

The meeting, co-hosted by

COUNTRY Financial and Illinois Farm Bureau, will include:

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

- Opportunity for Audience Q&A with presenters

The last meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9 at noon. It is open to any Illinois farmer. To register, farmers should call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Farm Bureau members can also login at www.myifb.org to register online.

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

Meeting Date and Start Time: Virtual #2 www.myifb.org (open to everyone) Wednesday, February 09, 2022 12:00 PM

What’s new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Charles Quick has been named the Rep of the Month for December 2021 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Chuck has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial’s diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Chuck’s expertise help you! You may reach Chuck at 847-683-2100, charles.quick@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/charles.quick/>. Congratulations, Chuck!

[cial.com/charles.quick/](https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/charles.quick/). Congratulations, Chuck!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Stan Butler, Insurance Agent with the Aurora Agency, is our Representative of the Month for December 2021. Stan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January 1993 and services clients out of his office located at: 450 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora, IL 60506-(630) 801-0946. Stan’s professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Stan!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August, 2011. His office



Felipe Rocha

is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746.

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

Welcome to the next level

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

Regular Members

Anthony Pesch	St. Charles
Dan Wells	St. Charles
Kelsy Minalga	Elburn

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

education and hunger relief:

- Professional networking opportunities & engagement with farmers
- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to *FarmWeekNow.com*
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
- Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
- 302,000 member discounts,

including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel

- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods

*KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in “next level” membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.

Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received December 16, 2021 – January 14, 2022.

Donor	Beneficiary
Independence Pork, LLC & Pipestone Veterinary Services	KCFB Foundation
Charles & Mary Ellen Heidgen	KCFB Agricultural Literacy
Mark Tuttle	KCFB Foundation-AITC
	KCFB Foundation

Harvest for All

Craig & Angie Bradley

Food for Greater Elgin

The KCFB staff also extends a grateful *Thank You* to member and donor Tom Richter for the thoughtful and delicious Chi-Cuterie charcuterie basket!



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

WANTED

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

Want to purchase old chainsaws: 1960’s or older. Do not need to work. Call Drew, 630-514-2153

CUSTOMER SERVICE-30-35 hours weekly, M-F. Applicant

must be a computer literate, self-starter, with pleasant voice and manner. Some travel possible. Office located east side of St. Charles. We offer vacation pay, self-directed savings plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for stay-at-home mom or college student. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview.

FOR SALE

Barn wood for sale, barn siding and beams available and misc. Located in Burlington. Call: 847-652-6339

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

AFBF policies

(continued from page 2)

project is concluded.”

IFB delegate and former District 13 Director Dennis Green helped to defeat an amendment from Iowa and Kansas to risk management and crop insurance policy. It would have cut language supporting making permanent the per-acre cover crop discount on crop insurance premiums.

“We look at this as a way to encourage producers to help conserve the soil and the nutrients on it,” Green said, advocating for the language to be retained. “This is one way to help the producer get started and continue with it.”

Other IFB policies adopted by voting delegates include support for:

- insurance companies offering coverage for damage from terrorist events.
- disaster coverage for crop losses due to governmental restrictions, pest infestations or cyberattacks.
- allowing a producer who elects to include a Harvest Price Option (HPO) to receive the harvest price if it

is higher on prevented plant acres.

Livestock marketing

While IFB did not submit its own policy on the topic, delegates did contribute to a 1.5 hour debate over amendments to livestock marketing policies.

IFB Vice President Brian Duncan, who manages an independent hog operation in Ogle County, spoke in support of an amendment from Iowa to eliminate language opposing government mandates that “force any livestock slaughter facility to purchase a set percentage of their animal supply via cash bids.”

Duncan said that cutting the language doesn’t necessarily translate to support or opposition to mandates, it just keeps silent on the issue.

“I’m not a big fan of mandating this, but ... I don’t think we should take the bullet out of the gun as we try to get packers to do something that’s fair for price discovery,” Duncan said of the amendment, which ultimately failed.

Guebert later described livestock market reform as a “huge topic,” one that will continue to drive “diverse conversation all over the country.”

Energy policies adopted by vot-

ing delegates include:

- supporting a federal (USDA or DOE) program to incentivize solar panel installation on farm buildings and bins.
 - supporting requiring a comprehensive drainage plan to be developed for farmland where surface or subsurface drainage will be impacted from construction, deconstruction or maintenance or a proposed commercial solar energy conversion system.
 - opposing solar or wind energy conversion systems that create negative impacts to surface or subsurface soil productivity from construction, deconstruction or maintenance activities.
- Additional adopted IFB policies include support for:
- efforts to improve industrial hemp contracts between growers and processors.
 - multiple sources and increased levels for funding for developing and expanding broadband and cellular network access to rural areas.
 - improved programs for agricultural guestworkers that assist in finding, hiring and retaining an adequate, legal and cost-competitive labor supply.



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Happy Valentine’s Day from Kane County Farm Bureau

Certified Livestock

(continued from page 3)

Springfield Center, Springfield. These will have the same format as previous workshops starting at 9:00 am., except the February 23 session at the Illinois Pork Expo, which will start at noon. The training lasts 3 1/2 hours, and after the workshop, those with over 1,000 animal units (AUs) will be required to take a paper exam. The training manual "Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum" is available for free

at go.illinois.edu/manual.

Producers also have the option of taking online training that consists of nine modules of 10- to 20-minute videos that can be viewed at an individual's own pace. Those who have more than 1,000 animal units may take the exam online. Multiple attempts on the online exam are allowed. Producers with less than 1,000 AUs will work through the lessons only. Having more than 1,000 AUs requires completing the lessons and passing the online exam. The certification exam has

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been updated for the 2022 season with 50 questions on both the paper-based and online exams. An individual must answer 70% of the questions correctly to pass.

You can create an account and get access to the online training at go.illinois.edu/CLMT.

University of Illinois Extension's in-person or online training fee is \$40 and IDOA's certification fee is \$30. Any questions relating to the CLMT program can be directed to Nesli Akdeniz at neslihan@illinois.edu or (217) 300-2644.

The Livestock Management Facilities Act of 1997 requires:

- Facilities with 300 or more animal units to have at least one employee certified in proper manure handling procedures.
- Facilities with 300 to 999 animal units, the employee either must complete online CLM training or workshop or pass the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Manager online exam.
- The employee of facilities with more than 1,000 or more units must complete one of the training options and pass the Certified Livestock Manager online exam to achieve certification.

KCFB Foundation scholarships

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

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

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

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

John Buck Memorial Scholarships (2) @ \$1,500, through an endowment to the Foundation and supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, the fund provides for two (2) \$1,500 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Students in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will County are eligible to apply.

Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively. The family & friends of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.

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

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

AGCO Parts Division Scholarships (2) @ \$1,000, for students residing in Illinois, pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields. Local AGCO Parts division employees in Batavia raise funds to support this scholarship effort.

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

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

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

Application deadline is February 15, 2022.

Farm toy of the month

A repeat from January, cooped up, cold weather kids will appreciate the Tractor Mac series of books, our farm "toy" of the month.

This series of books, written and richly illustrated by Billy Steers, are geared toward 4-8 year olds, and are engaging read-aloud bedtime stories. We follow the activities of Tractor Mac, an anthropomorphic red tractor, and his animal farm mates as they live, work and interact on the farm. Each book gives simple illustrations and

diagrams of farm equipment featured in the book.

Regular price for each title is \$8.99, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month of February and receive a 10% discount on your Tractor Mac book purchase.

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



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 21 – Friday, March 4, 2022

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 6, 2022

Collect the water sample.

Step 3. Monday, March 7, 2022

Return water sample to KCFB 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 8-10

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 16th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will be held Friday - Sunday, April 8-10. 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 typically 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.

Parents tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2022 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2022, 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!

New this year will be "Story

collection of farm themed books for all ages located in the lobby of the KCFB on Randall Road. These titles are available for free check-out by Farm Bureau members and area teachers. The library is supported by the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen. A companion activity by our Young Farmers group to erect an outdoor "Little Free Library" of farm-themed books will be completed this spring, hopefully at Touch-A-Tractor, to make these titles more available to all audiences.

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.

Volunteers willing to assist with Story time or other Touch-A-Tractor activities are encouraged to contact Steve or Kelcee at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660, or to return the form at right.



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 8-10, 2022.

Time", with volunteers reading farm-themed books to children at the top of every hour on Saturday and Sunday. Books featured will be from the Farm Bureau's Ag Literacy Library, a

Touch-A-Tractor ALL Farm & Food Education Welcome!

We will be hosting Touch-A-Tractor April 8-10, 2022 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau! 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!

family-friendly event, or have tractors or equipment to share, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve.

Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.



Touch-A-Tractor

If you are interested in volunteering for this

Touch-A-Tractor

___ Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 9 or Sunday, April 10)

___ I would like to bring the following farm equipment, vintage truck, educational display or livestock to T-A-T for the education and enjoyment of your guests.

___ I would like to participate in Story Time readings of farm friendly books to kids.

Sat. _____ am / pm Sun. _____ am / pm

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/display/livestock. For truck or tractors, include year, make, and model.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174