

# 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. 88 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2023

## Apply for FOUNDATION scholarships by Feb. 15

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is offering up to 20 scholarships to students pursuing college degrees for ag careers. The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2023.

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 Scholarship, 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.

Details on scholarship requirements are available by calling 630-584-8660; visiting [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com) and clicking on Getting Involved and Scholarships. Scan the QR code to apply online.

Apply online and get information for KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships by scanning this QR code or by emailing [info@kanecfb.com](mailto: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, Agriscience, Resource Development and Management, Parks, Recreations, and Tourism Resources, Packaging, Horticulture, Forestry, Food Science, and Fisheries/Wildlife.



### Farms, food & the environment

## Spring, summer education for teachers, students, public from KCFB

**Teacher Institute Day, March 3, 2023 – Kane County Farm Bureau, St. Charles**

This institute day across Kane County provides an opportunity for Kane County teachers to learn more about local agriculture, farms and food and how to incorporate that knowledge into classroom lessons. Join us at the Farm Bureau from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm for "Bee Keeping, Pollinators & Our Environment" to learn more about FREE classroom resources and lesson plan ideas, and to hear from local experts on bees, protecting water quality and building your own pollinator garden! Register through the Kane County Regional Office of Education at <https://kaneroe.org/institute-day/>. CEU's/CPDU's are available.

#### 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 planning a June Summer Ag Institute, with dates to be announced in next month's *Kane County Farmer*.

#### 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. We encourage 3rd 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 14-16 on the lawn at Kane County Farm Bureau.

## Farm toy of the month

February brings Valentine's Day and this RED tractor for junior farmers to love.

The Tomy Case IH AFS Connect Magnum 340 tractor is a 1:32 scale, sturdy little beast to help get work done on the farm. It is recommended for ages 3 and up.

Regular price is \$22.06, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau Country Store during the month

of February and receive a 10% discount on your Magnum 340 tractor purchase.

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



## February Featured Food NY Strip Steaks

This month we're offering TWO different boxes of NY Strip Steaks. The first box contains 4, 12 oz. delicious Inboden's NY Strip Steaks and the second box contains 6, 9 oz. thick NY Strip Steaks, perfect for a weekday dinner. They are a very popular, high quality meat ready for your grill. The price for the 12 oz NY Strip Steak for members is \$46.95 and \$47.95 for the 9 oz box. PLUS members always receive a 5% discount on all food products. These special steaks are available while supplies last for the month of February at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.

## Hanson, Knetl to participate in 22nd annual Shopping Spree

Newly elected 83rd District State Representative Matt Hanson and will square off with Waubensee Community College's new President Dr. Brian Knetl in the KCFB's 22nd annual Shopping Spree for hunger relief, an event that has contributed over \$40,000 in groceries to area food pantries since its inception.

The activity will be held Monday, February 20 at 10:30 am at the Batavia Jewel-Osco, our store host for the past 21 years. The public is invited to attend to watch these two public-spirited professionals race through the aisles and gather as many groceries as possible

during the 5+ minute spree to restock the shelves of local food pantries. Hanson will represent the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry of Aurora. Dr. Knetl, a new resident of Kane County who began duties as WCC President on January 30, will represent a yet to be determined local food pantry of his choosing.

Follow Kane County Farm Bureau on Facebook, where announcements and the other local food pantry that will benefit will be shared. Like the Facebook page and be sure to tune in for a Facebook live feed of the Shopping Spree on February 20!



83rd District State Representative Matt Hanson (L) will "compete" against WCC's new president, Dr. Brian Knetl in this year's Shopping Spree.

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
2022	State Senator Donald DeWitte State Representative Suzanne Ness	Salvation Army Food Pantry D300 Food Pantry

**KCFB CALENDAR  
FEBRUARY 2023**

- 9** KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm
- 13** Young Farmers, 6 pm, Dienst Farm Shop<sup>^</sup>
- 14** Valentine's Day  
IFB Government Affairs Leadership Conference<sup>^^</sup>
- IFB Statewide Legislative Reception
- 15** KCFB Foundation scholarship applications due
- 20** Shopping Spree for local food pantries, 10:30 am\*
- 20** Pick-up well water test kits at KCFB
- 23** Kane County Board Ag Cmte, 10 am\*\*

<sup>^</sup> 35 and under, 6N077 McGough Rd, Maple Park  
<sup>^^</sup> President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield  
\* Batavia Jewel-Osco, 131 S. Randall Rd.  
\*\* County Administration Building, 719 S Batavia Ave., Geneva



# Census of Agriculture deadline—Ag Census responses due in Feb.

Farmers across the U.S. may have noticed a small envelope in their mail recently. It's time for the 2022 Census of Agriculture! Farmers who are signed up to receive the survey will get a letter in the mail that contains a link to a web address and a code specific to each participant. You are encouraged to find time in the coming weeks to sit down and fill it out. You may remember that Illinois farmers had the highest response rate in the country in the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every 5 years. USDA is asking for your help to again provide the best information

about your operation in order to make fact-based decisions with confidence. For this census, you will see questions about input costs and farm expenditures. As we've seen those costs go up, it

is important to get an adequate picture to best convey the challenges in farm country, as well as possible solutions. As farmers look at other challenges, such as labor, this data will provide a great foundation for USDA, farm organizations and lawmakers to make solution based pub-

lic policy for agriculture. This once-every-five-years survey aims to capture U.S. farms and the people who operate them. If \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are raised or sold, whether from a rural or urban plot of land, you can be counted. The Census of Agriculture captures information about a variety of topics, including land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, farm income, and, important this year, farm inputs and expenditures.

In the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Illinois farmers had the highest participation rate of

all U.S. states.

You can visit the Illinois Farm Bureau's Census of Ag webpage <http://www.ilfb.org/censusofag> for an overview or,

the USDA Census of Agriculture webpage <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php> for complete details and reporting instructions.



#AgCensus



*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*.

## 40 new conservation planner positions

As producer demand for conservation grows, resources and staff for our federal and local conservation workforces are often stretched thin. Over the past decade, USDA and their conservation partners have struggled to keep staffing levels on pace with attrition.

To address the need, IDOA in partnership with its Partners for Conservation program is taking action to bolster the conservation workforce pipeline. With funding from the state legislature, IDOA is positioned to work with NRCS and conservation districts as employers of 40 new Conservation Planner positions in Illinois, including in the counties of Kane, McHenry and Boone. This will allow the Natural Resource Conservation

Service (NRCS) and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to tackle the conservation staffing capacity challenges

**Job Details:**  
40 positions statewide  
**Employment type:**  
Contractual position with benefit package  
For more information or to apply, contact:  
Dr. Michael Woods, Manager  
Division of Natural Resources  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
[Michael.Woods@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.Woods@illinois.gov)  
217-785-5478

and expand Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy efforts in Illinois, increase Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) techni-

cal assistance to Illinois CRP participants, and to increase general conservation planning assistance to Illinois landowners, users, and producers.

Conservation planners will be recruited and supervised by IDOA and hired by a subcontract hiring agent (the local SWCD). The staff will be located in NRCS or IDOA offices across the state. Staff locations will be evaluated based on NRCS and IDOA conservation planning workload needs, space availability, and the local office's capacity to engage the additional staff.

The conservation planners will increase CRP technical assistance for planning, implementation, and maintenance.

*(continued on page 3)*

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2023 THRU DECEMBER 2023												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X											
B. COLLINS	X											
C. COLLINS	X											
K. ENGEL												
J. ENGEL												
G. GAITSCH	X											
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK	X											
M. KENYON	X											
K. KETTLEKAMP	X											
D. LEHRER	*											
A. LENKAITIS												
D. PITSTICK												
W. SCHNEIDER	X											
J. WHITE	X											

*\* Attendance by electronic means.*

**Kane County Farmer**  
**KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
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Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator  
Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator  
Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator  
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## Polovin promoted

The Board of Directors and Management of the Kane County Farm Bureau are pleased to announce the promotion of Liz Polovin of Elgin to the position of Office Manager. In approving the promotion, the Board of Directors recognized her willingness to take on additional responsibilities and her determination to see projects through to successful conclusion. Polovin joined the Farm Bureau team in 2014 and has served as an Administrative Assistant and Member Services

Coordinator. In her new role Polovin will oversee office and commercial operations, manage staff workloads and assignments, assist Management in office adminis-



Liz Polovin



Jenna Rowe

tration, program planning and special projects and work with Committees and the Board of Directors. She will remain the primary contact for members and the public who visit the Farm Bureau office on Randall Road.

With the promotion, Jenna Rowe of South Elgin will assume day-to-day responsibilities for administration of membership records. Rowe joined the organization in July of 2022 as an Administrative Assistant and is working towards a degree in Business.

## Director candidates sought

The Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking eligible candidates for election to the association's Board of Directors. A Farm Bureau director is an individual who helps provide governance, set policies, and supports the philosophy and actions of the organization. Directors should be willing to dedicate time to make a difference in agriculture and to provide direction, inspiration, and motivation to the largest, most influential and effective farm related organization in Kane County.

Eligible candidates are those classified as "regular" (farmers and farmland owners) and "professional" (those with professions directly related to production agriculture) members residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in the

spring of 2023 to voting members in Kane County.

To suggest potential candi-

dates for election, members should call 630-584-8660, or fill out the form below.

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

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Form completed and returned by:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to this form to: Kane County Farm Bureau,  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Return on or before February 15.

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

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for feed, supplies,  
and so much more!

St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024



## Help wanted

The KCFB Foundation is seeking opinions and/or assistance with various annual fundraising activities it undertakes to raise funds for college scholarships, agricultural literacy, support for FFA and Extension, and for new ideas that bring together our supporters and donors. If you'd like to offer opinions or assistance, or gather with like-minded supporters of our Foundation to discuss new fundraising ideas or initiatives, please contact Steve, Liz or Kelcee at 630-584-8660.

## Save the date

The annual 4-H Pork Chop Dinner fundraiser will be held Saturday, April 15 at the Kane County Fairgrounds. Due to space limitations, details on tickets, pricing and times will be shared with readers in next month's *Kane County Farmer*.

Tickets are available now and will be available at the Kane County Farm Bureau. For those who just can't wait to secure their tickets, or to make donations for the silent and live auctions, contact Bill Collins at 630-484-6852!



## Conservation

(continued from page 2)

They will increase capacity to develop new conservation plans and to conduct conservation implementation follow-up to improve conservation successes. The conservation planners

## 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 2023. 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 20 – Friday, March 3, 2023

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 5, 2023

Collect the water sample.

### Step 3. Monday, March 6, 2023

Return water sample to Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District.

Unlike previous programs for well water testing, our winter 2023 tests offer only one option as described below:

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

Tests for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, sol-

uble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

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.



## IFB documentary: Sustaining Our Future

Farmers throughout Illinois go to great lengths to preserve our soil and protect water quality. Illinois Farm Bureau staff wanted to go to those same great lengths to produce a video that showcases these efforts, the farmer spirit and the collaboration required to achieve the goals of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Centered around the Ganschow family farm in Bureau County, the documentary called "Sustaining our Future: A Farm Family Story" illustrates how three generations of farmers have approached sustainability. To create this docu-

mentary, IFB video and environmental teams partnered with farmers, county Farm Bureaus, researchers, and other key stakeholders.

To see the documentary, scan the QR code in the graphic or use this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zQ04\\_Qn5a0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zQ04_Qn5a0).

After its release, we hope all Farm Bureau members will help amplify this story by sharing the video from the documentary.

Episode 1: *The Skin of the Earth, Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story*

Visit our Facebook page for updates and information about upcoming programs.

will also support the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) efforts.

In addition, the new planners will be able to assist with the IDOA conservation programs to increase overall producer opportunities to participate in state and federal conservation programs.

## KCFB to host 'Rules for the Road'

Kane County Farm Bureau will host a two-hour trucking seminar 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 14 at 5:30 pm at the More Brewery, 13980 Automall Drive in Huntley.

"There are some trucking laws that have been reshaped in recent years, such as the Entry Level Driver Training Requirement that went into effect in 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."

### Trucking seminar for farmers in NE IL at Huntley

This 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. It is one in a series of 12 to be held throughout Illinois. A March 1 meeting will also be

offered virtually.

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 Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to reserve your place at the in-person Rules for the Road Seminar by March 7.

For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau, [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com) or Rodney Knittel at [rknittel@ifb.org](mailto:rknittel@ifb.org).

## College, Careers & Wellness Fair at West Aurora High School

Improving agricultural literacy involves more than elementary classrooms. It's a whole of K-12 education and a communi-

ty outreach effort. KCFB Development and Ag Literacy Coordinator Kelcee Miller took AITC on the road in January to

talk to high school students about opportunities and career paths in Agriculture. According to USDA there are 59,400 job

opportunities for new college graduates each year in food, agriculture, renewable resources and the environment, and only 61% of those are filled by students with degrees in those fields. Miller shared these statistics, career opportunities and scholarship offerings from the KCFB Foundation towards careers in Agriculture with Kane County High School students.

Kelcee prepares for the January career fair at West Aurora High School.



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

**MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 6 PM**  
 HOSTED BY: KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
 MORE Brewing Company | 13980 Automall Drive  
 Huntley, IL | Doors Open at 5:30 pm | Meal at 5:45 pm  
 Register by March 7, 2023

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members.  
 Please contact Kane Co. FB to register – 630-584-8660.

Happy Valentine's Day from Kane County Farm Bureau



### AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



#### Hello, Kane County!

Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, "Am I setting a good example?" Or, "Am I setting an example that I would want to look up to?"

After attending the College and Career Fair last month at the West Aurora High School, this was a question that was reoccurring in my mind upon taking notice of other vendors, guests, and students. There were a variety of booths about businesses, colleges, and wellness

programs with hundreds in attendance.

I believe we all have this responsibility of setting a good example. Whether you notice it or not, someone, somewhere is studying the example you display such as how you dress, how you hold yourself, your mannerisms, your mindset, your work ethic, replies to emails, how you answer the phone, etc. And they may be potentially using it for inspiration in their own life, whether it is good

or bad.

What kind of example are you setting? Are you setting a good example and showing the people you lead and surround yourself with what it really takes to be successful and flourish in life? Or, are you setting an example that will mislead them to a life of mediocrity and possibly wasted potential?

Nobody is perfect. We make mistakes and we all have our struggles. However, if we view those imperfections as opportunities and gifts to makes us better, stronger, and smarter we show those who are watching us what is possible. When we start becoming more aware that people can be learning from us at all times, it begins to raise our standards in almost every area of our lives. Knowing our daily

actions, thoughts, and behaviors are being watched by those around us makes us want to leave a positive impact.

I believe we all have a moral obligation to set the best example we can for those around us. The urge to to make a big impact and leave this world a little better than we found it begins with us. Do the very best we can to set a good example

each and every day and to show setbacks, tough times, and difficulties are opportunities to learn something new and grow. The people following in your footsteps and look up to you will thank you for leading the way and setting a good example.

Keep leading by example, Kane County and...

Happy February!

## 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 2023 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 community service, education and promotional programs in 2023 which will promote leadership development skills in FFA members. They are 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 three 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.

FFA Advisors report that the unrestricted grants give students the chance to do bigger projects in the community. "Service-oriented activities, such as working with food pantries or sending care packages to troops overseas, teach the students good citizenship skills," said Ryan Robinson, Central FFA Advisor. "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 Foundation is seeking similar local ag-education volunteer projects in need of financial assistance

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. In 2022 each Chapter earned the full \$500 grant.

## Book of the month

The book of the month for February is *A Year on the Farm with Casey & Friends*, written by Holly Dufek and illustrated by Paul E. Nunn. This delightful and informative story introduces young readers to the world of modern day farming. Readers will learn all about tractors, combines, and other farm equipment needed to plant and harvest crops throughout the year.

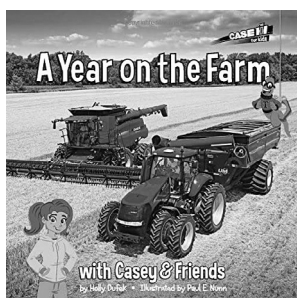
Casey, the farmer, Tillus the worm, and their team of farm equipment friends teach young readers about the different jobs

farmers do each season as well as all of the planning, preparation, and teamwork that farm work requires. Readers will even have the opportunity to learn about farming vocabulary and other fun farm facts at the end of the story!

To view the excitement and preparations for yourself, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and check out our FREE KCFB Library and *A Year on the Farm with Casey & Friends*.

The Ag Literacy was made possible by the effort of Bob

Konen and Dean Dunn, and is supported by the Konen Family Foundation.



*A Year on the Farm with Casey & Friends*, written by Holly Dufek and illustrated by Paul E. Nunn

## Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman  
St Charles  
630-584-0001



Bob Effner  
St. Charles  
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf  
St. Charles  
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones  
St. Charles  
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Norma Grathoff  
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Laura Osters  
St. Charles  
630-762-1326



Miryam Cabrera  
St. Charles  
630-762-1329



Donna Tonovitz  
St. Charles  
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes  
Elgin  
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen  
Elgin  
847-742-0004



Bob Riedel  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer  
Elburn  
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero  
Elburn  
630-365-3737



Charles Quick  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



David Berreles  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

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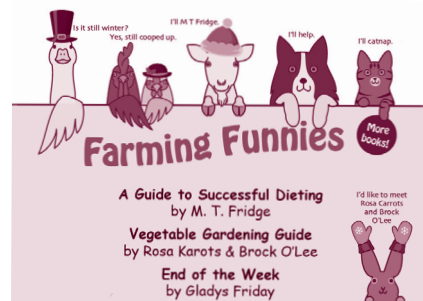
## IAA Foundation scholarship program

This year, the IAA Foundation is pleased to offer 100 scholarships totaling \$201,501 in support for students pursuing agriculture related degrees and certificates. Application and eligibility guidelines can be found at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). All application components must be completed by end of day Wednesday, February 15, no

exceptions. Please remind current and college-bound members not to wait until the last minute!

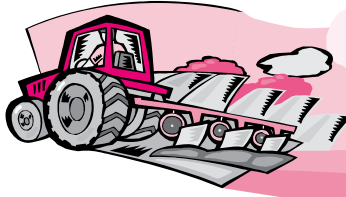
County Farm Bureau scholarship applications are often available in a similar timeframe and can be found linked on our website.

Together, state and county scholarships total more one million dollars each year!



Like us on Facebook for a weekly helping of humor – our Friday Farming Funnies. You'll also find the latest info about our new Little Lending Library, Touch-A-Tractor, and so much more!





# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



## Illinois farms are family farms

WE ARE THE 96%

**D**id you know that today, nearly all Illinois farms – 96 percent – are family owned? While Illinois farms may come in different shapes and sizes, all Illinois farmers value the same thing: responsibly growing safe, healthy food for your table and theirs.

### Hogs & kisses

**Supplies**

- Pink paint
- Black sharpie
- Pink paper
- Googly eyes
- Glue

**Instructions**

Have kids paint their own four fingers pink, excluding their thumb.

Next have them stamp their hand on a piece of white paper. Once you've cleaned off their hand, have them paint a pink circle for the pig's head (where their thumb would have been) and add two ears.

After the paint dries, add some

hooves, a heart nose with the pink paper, and some googly eyes.

Write on the side "Hogs & Kisses!" for a Valentine's Day spin!

This craft idea and more found here: <https://www.craftymorning.com/handprint-pig-valentine-craft-kids/>



### Congratulations

To **Linda Conard** of Aurora. 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, Linda, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

### Grandma Mabel's apple sauce cookies

Farmers spend hours on end away from their homes, especially during planting and harvest seasons. With that come meals on the go and/or field delivered meals. Kelcee's grandparents, who reside in Sycamore, have been farming since 1960! In 62 years, plenty of meals have been consumed in the tractor cab or a quick bite between fields. One thing that my grandpa always looks forward to, whether the meal is on-the-go or at the dinner table, is grandma's homemade sweet treats! A family favorite and specialty that has been handed down are Grandma Mabel French's Apple Sauce Cookies. From my family to yours, enjoy!

- 1 3/4 cup sifted flour
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup nuts

**Directions:**

Mix in order down the ingredient list. Drop from spoon onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes.

Recipe provided by Grandma Mabel French, who passed it to down to Kelcee's Grandma Miller, who passed it down to Kelcee.



**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup sweetened apple sauce
- 1 cup bran flakes

### February is ...

National			
Dark Chocolate Day	1	Cabbage Day	17
Tater Tot Day	2	Random Act of Kindness Day	17
Carrot Cake Day	3	FFA Week (Feb 18-25)	
Homemade Soup Day	4	Chocolate Mint Day	19
Stuffed Mushroom Day	4	Muffin Day	20
Chocolate Fondue Day	5	Cherry Pie Day	20
Frozen Yogurt Day	6	Pancake Day	21
Pizza Day	9	Banana Bread Day	23
Super Bowl Sunday	12	Chili Day	23
Cheddar Day	13	Chocolate Covered Nut Day	25
Tortellini Day	13	Pistachio Day	26
Valentine's Day	14	Strawberry Day	27
Almond Day	16	American Heart Month	
		Dog Training Education Month	

### Family Farms

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

- Animals
- Beef
- Combines
- Commitment
- Community
- Corn
- Dairy
- Dominate
- Expansion
- Families
- Farm
- Generations
- Grain
- Hay
- Illinois
- Land
- Operate
- Owned
- Pork
- Soybeans
- Spirit
- Technology
- Tractors
- Wisdom

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by February 15, 2023 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.



We're declaring 2023 as the Year of the Farmer to show our appreciation to you, and to show consumers exactly who's behind their food. During the biggest game in football, watch for the ad featuring Illinois farmers and one powerful message: 96% of Illinois farms are still owned and operated by families, just like yours.

**ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES**  
 Growing your food with care.

Why the 96%? Scan the code to learn more.

**ILLINOIS BEEF ASSOCIATION** **ILL CORN** **ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU** **Illinois Pork Producers' Generations of Commitment** **ILLINOIS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION** **MIDWEST DAIRY**





### We are the 96% Families dominate Illinois farms

My mental pauses on the farm often arrive at sunrise, sunset and the moments when family is most accentuated on the farm. Harvest brings those experiences together: My dad and brother run the combines. My son and I operate the tractors with grain auger carts. A long-time employee who watched me grow up on the farm hauls grain, as does his son, a cousin and a local truck driver, all who now watch my kids grow up on the farm.

My daughter takes turns with our cousin's wife to weigh grain trucks at our storage facility. My nephew replaces me in the tractor after football practice, and my mom manages the bills and delivers meals around sun-

set to keep our farm running and bodies fueled.

Family defines the farm. Family members make the decisions that care for the land and animals. They carry out the work, uphold the commitment to community and plan for the next generation.

We are the 96%. Families like ours operate 96% of farms in the state, and Illinois agriculture groups have designated 2023 the "Year of the Farmer" to proclaim this statistic. The celebration intends to debunk a disconcerting myth: A consumer survey indicates that people believe corporations run most farms and that families only run 47% of the Illinois farms they see.

To the contrary, I see Matt grow grain and beef with his brother and nephews, Kevin farm with his brother and their wives, and Alan with his dad and sister. Lori farms with her husband, Ron with his daughter and brothers, and Jay with his mom, wife, brother and teenage kids.

## Register today for GALC

Make plans to attend Illinois Farm Bureau's annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) and become more involved at the local, state and national level and advocate for agriculture issues.

The event will bring together more than 400 farmers, IFB members, leaders and industry experts across the state on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at the Bank of Springfield Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza.

This year's conference, themed "Charting the Course," identifies the obstacles agriculture may face in the coming years. Attendees will learn about how IFB builds relationships with local, state and federal elected officials. It also provides opportunities for IFB members to share their perspectives with IFB leadership and staff.

This one-day event will highlight Illinois Farm Bureau legislative priorities and provide insights from nationally recognized speakers. Issue sessions include expert presenters covering local government, rural development, transportation, livestock and environment.

Political columnist and co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and former senior editor of National Review magazine, Jonah Goldberg will serve as the keynote speaker. Goldberg seeks to provide thoughtful and nuanced political commentary that sparks dialogue and debate. He is also a former FOX News and CNN contributor and was named Top 50 Political Commentators in America by The Atlantic magazine.

The day's event will end with the annual Illinois Legislative Reception with members of the Illinois General Assembly where IFB members can advocate firsthand with Illinois policy makers.

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.

To sign up, call Steve or Liz at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.

Families dominate farm ownership across Illinois, home to more than 70,000 family farms of all sizes. Some farms support small families; some big families. Regardless of size, most will tell you that welcoming the next generation requires careful planning and often profitable expansion to provide a livelihood for another household.

Family farms look different than decades ago. Our tractors are bigger. Adoption of technology has evolved. Metal-sided buildings replace wood barns. But families still run farms and carry the wisdom and spirit of generations that worked the land before them to grow our food.

When people visit the grocery store in 2023, we want at

least 96% of them to shop confidently, knowing that families operate almost every farm in Illinois.

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

## Lesson in a Bucket

Are you or a loved one a teacher in Kane County? Have you been searching for new ways to inspire your students? Then you NEED Lesson-In-A-Bucket! KCFB has monthly themed ag-lessons in a 5-gallon chore bucket – yes, like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, dairy, and corn.

February's Lesson-in-a-Bucket theme is Illinois History. Stimulate students with a bucket of lessons about Illinois' rich history

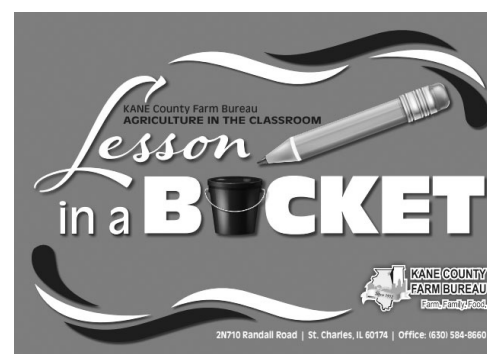
including a classroom set of Illinois History Ag-Mags and Illinois History Ag-Ventures. Teachers will find history themed activities like "A Trip Through Illinois," that is designed to help students learn the names of Illinois counties in

a fun and entertaining way.

Also included is a Multidisciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lesson in which students will learn about "the Father of the Peanut Industry," George Washington Carver, and Carver's discoveries and innovations.

Bring agriculture and a bucket full of Illinois History into your classroom this February with Lesson-in-a-Bucket. Call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve your bucket today.

Next month, students will learn all about soil and agriculture!



## 2023 Certified Livestock Manager workshops, online training

The Livestock Management Facilities Act, requires livestock facilities in Illinois that house 300 or more animal units to have at least one person certified in the environmental protection aspects of manure management. The certificate is administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and is valid for three years.

Requirements to become a certified livestock manager vary by the capacity of the facility:

- 300-999 animal units: attend a workshop or complete online training
- ≥1,000 animal units: attend a workshop and pass IDoA's paper-based test offered immediately following each workshop or complete online training and pass the online test.

For 2023 the test has been updated and a Spanish version of the test is now available. *Ahora ya est disponible una versión en español del examen para CLMT!*

CLMT workshops are offered every winter, usually between January and March. If you cannot make a workshop or

need certification in the off-season, online training modules that will meet CLM certification requirements are available.

University of Illinois Extension local CLMT workshops dates and locations are listed below. On the day of the workshop, registration will open at 8:30 a.m. with training program starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. A range of topics related to the operation, management, and utilization of livestock waste and waste facilities will be covered. Additionally, the latest regulations, best management practices, and research for manure-related issues will be discussed. Registration is requested and now open.

Register at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26734>.

- **February 9, 2023 – Sycamore, IL**  
U of I Extension office, DeKalb County Farm Bureau Bldg., 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore
- **February 10, 2023 – Freeport, IL**  
Stephenson County Farm Bureau Bldg., 210 W. Spring

St, Freeport  
• **February 24, 2023 – Springfield, IL**

Illinois Department of Ag Bldg. Auditorium, State Fair Grounds, 801 E Sangamon Avenue, Springfield

The workshop fee is \$40 (each additional participant \$30 from an operation), and IDoA's certification fee is \$30. All workshops start at 9 a.m. In case a workshop is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, pre-registered attendees will be notified via email and registration fees refunded. Please check your email or our website for updates.

**Online CLMT; open all year round**

Create a new account at: <https://learn.extension.illinois.edu/login/index.php>.

This new version of online training follows the same format as in-person workshops. There are nine modules (10-20 min videos), and you can work through these modules at your own pace. If you have more than 1,000 animal units, you may take the test online at the end of the training.

## Kane Co. Young Farmers recap

On a warm January evening, the Young Farmers gathered at the Kane County Farm Bureau for sandwiches, savory soup, salad and conversation about Farm Bureau updates as well as upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

Updates included the recent installation of the Little Lending Library filled with agriculture friendly books and resources. It stands along the sidewalk near the windmill in the KCFB parking lot. The Little Lending Library was constructed and donated by Mike Meuer of Elburn. Also dis-

cussed was the completion of the expansion project of the Illinois Prairie Pollinator-Rain Garden.

A small group of our Young Leaders attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference in East Peoria on January 20-21, 2023 and more details about the conference will be shared next month!

Other topics discussed included educational, volunteer, and social program ideas for 2023. These included a Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance; Euchre Tournament, Friday, March 24th at KCFB; and annual Kane County Farm Bureau

programs, activities and events. Tentative dates and details were discussed and will be shared in the upcoming months.

The Young Leaders plan to meet again on Monday, February 13th at 6:00pm at the Dienst Farm in Maple Park, so if you or someone you know is between the ages of 18-35 with an interest in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agriculture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet stop on by the office to become a member and join the fun today!

*Get your water tested – see page 3 for details*



# 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:

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:

### Regular Members

- Jim Kafer** Geneva
- Rustic Road Farm, LLC** Elburn
- Leslie Juby** Geneva

- 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 15, 2022 – January 16, 2023.



Donor	Program	Beneficiary
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp, Elburn	Harvest for ALL	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Paul "Griz" Stover, Kaneville	Harvest for ALL	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Wayne Schneider & Lisa Geisler	Harvest for ALL	Northern Illinois Food Bank
CHS Elburn	Harvest for ALL	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Henry & Joan Shafer	in Memory of Edwin P. Brummel	KCFB Foundation
Mary Ann Brummel	in Memory of Edwin P. Brummel	KCFB Foundation
Mark Tuttle	Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Thomas Richter	Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Diane Christian	S.P.R.O.U.T.S.	S.P.R.O.U.T.S.

### AGCO Parts, Batavia employees

Donor	Program	Beneficiary
Sean & Amanda Dieter	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Frank Achermann	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Helen & Greg Taptic	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Kevin & Pamela Bolander	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Rita D. Williams	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
David & Patricia Rotolo	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Anthony & Belinda Meyer	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Juventino & Laurie Cantu	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Vanessa A. Zamiar	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Lisa Wendt	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Bertha & David Solis	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Siriphone Torres	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Harshana Reyhart	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
John Sloan	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Valerie England	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Lynn Riggi & Lorie Kurowski	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Terrance Santelli	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Joshua & Stephanie Converse	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Benjamin & Allison Matthies	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Phyllis Lessen	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Tamara & Michael Olson	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
TC Dies	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
Martin Gonzalez-Villavazo & Patricia Gregorio-Rojas	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation
AGCO Parts, Batavia	AGCO Scholarships	KCFB Foundation

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to help support agricultural education, scholarships, leadership training, and community youth education. We could not do it without your support!

**Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation**  
Educational & Community Service Programs

**I want to help support:**

 Foundation Scholarships  
 Ag Literacy Library  
 SPROUTS  
 Little Lending Library  
 FFA Chapter Grants  
 Touch-A-Tractor  
 Other (indicate below)

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to KCFB Foundation OR please charge my donation to my:**

VISA  MC  Discover

Name (as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please accept my donation in the amount of:**

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

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Surprise us!**

Please dedicate my donation to:

**Kane Co. Farm Bureau FOUNDATION**  
2N710 Randall Rd.,  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
By phone at 630-584-8660

**For information on other ways to support the work of our not-for-profit Foundation, establish a memorial scholarship, honor a loved one, or establish a new agricultural or community service program, effort, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director, at 630-584-8660 or [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com).**

# Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month go to **Elizabeth Dorn** of St. Charles, the February winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time she stops in our office, Elizabeth will receive a FREE box of NY strip steaks from the fine offerings we feature each month from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb.

Elizabeth and ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered each month in a drawing for the monthly Kane County Farmer featured food product or seasonal prize, as well as receiving the discounts and premiums displayed on the left. For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

### PLUS (+ PACKAGE) STATUS

**Upgrade your membership to PLUS STATUS for just \$25 more to get additional savings & benefits.**

#### PLUS (+ PACKAGE) STATUS

Includes all Kane County & Illinois Farm Bureau programs, benefits & services PLUS ...

- 1 FREE 9" FALL MUM\*
- FREE ENTRY EACH MONTH IN DRAWING FOR KCFB "MONTHLY SPECIAL" FOOD PRODUCT OR SEASONAL PRIZE.
- FREE TOUCH-A-TRACTOR ADMISSION
- 10% DISCOUNT AT KCFB'S COUNTRY STORE
- 5% discount on seasonal food offers (fresh peaches, local turkeys, citrus & more)
- 5% discount on monthly food specials & year-round items like pork chops, chicken breasts, burgers & steaks
- \$20 discount on meeting room rental for professional/organizational/club meetings
- 40% off *Kane County Farmer* classifieds & 10% off display ads
- 10% discount on soil testing – the best way to a healthy lawn or garden

*\*While supplies last. Pick-up at KCFB. Mums available Oct. 1-31. Offers subject to change w/o notice.*

# What's new at COUNTRY?

### St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to **David Berreles**, who has been named the December Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency office, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. David is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let David's expertise help you! You may reach David at 847-683-2100, or [david.berreles@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:david.berreles@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/David>.

*Berreles!* Congratulations, David!

### Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

**Ryan Mizgate**, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month of December 2022. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at: 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

# Recruiter of the Month

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



**Felipe Rocha**

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

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**SERVICES**  
MASSAGE THERAPY: Treat yourself to 60 or 90 minutes of relaxation, pain relief, or both. Deep tissue, acupressure, or Swedish. Certified, experienced. Call Susanne Marshall, L.M.T. 630-699-5610

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

**FOR SALE**  
Grass hay, first and second cut small, and 3x3x8 bales for sale. Alfalfa grass bales in same sizes also available. Call: 847-436-2538



# Touch-A-Tractor set for April 14-16

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 17th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will be held Friday - Sunday, April 14-16. It could be your first chance to get cooped-up kids out of the house this spring! Families have a blast at this farm-to-city event bringing the best in Kane County farming to the public.

Kids scramble to touch antique tractors and even sit in the seats of massive farm machinery they typically only see from the road. They can ask questions of Kane County farmers, 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 2023 calendar.

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

biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2023, 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!

Touch-A-Tractor will again feature "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 indoor Ag Literacy Library, a collection of farm themed books for all ages located in the lobby of the KCFB on Randall Road, or

its outdoor Little Lending Library. Books in both the indoor and outdoor locations are available for free check-out or loan to Farm Bureau members, area teachers and the public. Both libraries are supported by the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen.

As well as tractors and farm equipment for display, Farm Bureau also welcomes groups and organizations to set-up informational booths that provide education about farms and farmers to families and the public, or to arrange for farm themed games, activities or learning. The event attracts 1,000-1,500 visitors over the 3-day weekend.

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

on. December and January are appropriate winter months, white Christmas, short days and long shadows feel right. By mid-February, snowdrops and crocuses should be blooming in the slowly lengthening days. But no, winter limps along, usually socking us with a February snowstorm or two and March chills and gusty winds. So I sit on cold evenings under a pool of yellow lamp light, cat curled in my lap, thumbing through plant catalogs, planning and dreaming of my 2023 garden.

I'm also dreaming of KCFB's Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden, which has had a mild winter for the native perennials to root and settle into their new habitat. I am excited for the emergence of nodding wild onion, spiderwort, golden alexanders and all the other new plants that will become old friends over time. Should be a bright, blooming summer.

Good stuff for a cooped-up, slightly seedy, self-proclaimed garden junkie.

*Happy February, everyone!*



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 14-16, 2023.

## Little Lending Library spotlight - Feb. 2023

Every month our Little Lending Library features a special book or resource, or all of the above! This is our way of helping connect with the community whether they are KCFB members or not. No matter who you are or where you are from, agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. It is our hope that through our (not so) Little Lending Library we can help bridge the gap between consumers and farmers and help to make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.



Little Lending Library

The book spotlight for our young readers will be *John Deere That's Who!* by Tracey Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner. This book is an entertaining look at the life of Illinoisan John Deere, who invented the plow that changed agriculture.

In addition, we will have copies of our Illinois History AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy at their leisure. Supplies are limited and there are no guarantees, so make like a tree and leaf the house today because it may be gone tomorrow!

## Young Farmers euchre tournament

The 18th annual Young Farmers Euchre Tournament promises a competitive, fun evening for young farmers 18-35 from Kane, Winnebago-Boone, McHenry, DeKalb and Kendall-Grundy counties.

The evening will begin at Kane County Farm Bureau at 6:00pm with pizza and snacks, and then the cards will be dealt and the competition starts at 6:30. A \$5.00 buy-in gets pizza, snacks and free lessons. No experience or partner necessary - just an appetite for fun and competition

with peers. The winners of this highly competitive event will take home the coveted title of Euchre Champs 2023. RSVP by Thursday, March 23rd.

Those interested in becoming a Kane County Young Farmer or a Professional Member, ages 18-35, please contact Steve Arnold or Kelcee Miller by calling 630-584-8660 or emailing us at [aic@kanecfb.com](mailto:aic@kanecfb.com). Or please feel reach out and ask any current Young Farmer member!

**Friday  
March 24th  
at 6:00pm  
at KCFB**

### PLANTING THOUGHTS OF SPRING

By Alice Macha  
Communications Coordinator



February is the month for Valentine's Day, Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12), George Washington's birthday (February 22), and longer daylight (the sun is now setting after 5 pm). And, most importantly, my mailbox is overgrown with plant and seed catalogs. Plant porn, as I call it.

It has been a mild, but dreary winter, and the later sunsets are welcome as I wander out to the mailbox to gather the day's mail. The cat threads himself around and between my legs as I enter the house, but I'm too engrossed in plant porn to notice.

Oooh ... glossy photos of patio and dinnerplate dahlias, monarda and phlox bristling with bees, summer bulbs (gladiolas, begonias, lilies), ground-

covers, roses, annuals, perennials. My mind scrambles as I thumb through Bluestone Perennials, Breck's, Spring Hill Nursery, White Flower Farm and on and on. It is such a delight to drool over dahlias and delphin-



Amazing that these little seeds will provide sustenance for pollinators and my soul all summer long.

ums when we're still three months away from planting.

The pent-up gardener in me chafes at the way winter hangs

### Touch-A-Tractor ALL Tractors, Farm Equipment and Farm & Food Education Welcome!

We will be hosting Touch-A-Tractor April 14-16, 2023 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!

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

#### Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

- \_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Friday, April 14, Saturday, April 15 or Sunday, April 16)
- \_\_\_ I would like to bring the following farm equipment, vintage truck, educational display or livestock for the education and enjoyment of T-A-T 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**18th Annual**

## Young Farmers Euchre Tourney

For Young Farmers in IFB Districts 1 & 5

### Friday, March 24th, 6:00pm

Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles  
(6:00 pizza/lessons/socialize, 6:30 start)

For Young Farmers and anyone 18-35 years old in Northern Illinois with an interest in agriculture, farms and food.

Cash Prizes  
Lessons  
Refreshments  
B.Y.O.B.

**euchre**  
  
**TOURNAMENT**

\$5 entry fee  
Cash prizes  
Pizza, Snacks, & Sodas  
Euchre refresher lessons

RSVP to Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or [aic@kanecfb.com](mailto:aic@kanecfb.com), Brett Dienst (815) 693-6888 or Michael Long (815) 508-7119 by Thursday, March 23rd