

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. 81 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2016

Northern IL Food Bank celebrates 5,000,000 milk servings

We're all familiar with the "Got Milk?" campaign of the past two decades. The fact of the matter is, though, that for the most vulnerable in our communities, a glass of milk may come as often as New Year's Day.

Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger organization, found in 2012 that dairy products made up just 5 percent of the food distributed through its network of more than 200 food banks nationally. That's the equivalent of about one gallon of milk per person in poverty.

For the past three years, Northern Illinois Food Bank has been working to change that, and recently celebrated the distribution of its 5 millionth serving of milk through its Milk2MyPlate Program.

"Milk is the most requested item our hungry neighbors ask for," said Steve Ericson, director of food procurement at Northern Illinois Food Bank. Yet, because of its shelf-life and need for refrigeration, milk is

the least donated product the Food Bank receives.

A community partnership

Realizing that milk contains

Illinois Food Bank reached out to regional dairy manufacturer (and Farm Bureau affiliate) Prairie Farms Dairy to create



Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) celebrated the distribution of its 5 millionth serving of milk to hungry neighbors in northern Illinois through its Milk2MyPlate Program on National Milk Day, January 11, 2016. Forty-two community food pantries across 12 counties participate in the Food Bank's Milk2MyPlate Program, which provides 15,000 gallons of fresh milk to hungry men, women and children each month. All cash contributions to the NIFB through Kane County Farm Bureau's Harvest for ALL program benefit Milk2MyPlate.

nutrients important at every age, and knowing the demand for milk at food pantries, Northern

the Milk2MyPlate Program. Northern Illinois Food Bank member pantries opt into the

Milk2MyPlate Program, sharing the cost of the milk with the Food Bank. Prairie Farms Dairy delivers directly to the pantries, making the milk as fresh as or more fresh than what is available at the grocery store.

Today, more than 40 community food pantries across 12 Illinois counties receive weekly deliveries of fresh gallons of 1 percent milk for distribution to hungry men, women and children through Northern Illinois Food Bank's Milk2MyPlate Program, totaling about 15,000 gallons each month.

Milk2MyPlate Program celebrates 5 millionth serving

"Partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank to implement the Milk2MyPlate program exemplifies our commitment to being good neighbors and making sure fresh, delicious and nutritious milk is available for families to enjoy every single day," said Emily Hereford, Prairie Farms public relations program manager.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Milk2MyPlate program has been nationally recognized (continued on page 8)

Fourth graders explore farming at Ag Days

Did you know the felt on a pool table comes from a sheep's wool, or that crayons can be made from soybeans? Neither do lots of kids. Many also don't realize that food comes from farms, not the store.

A snapshot of farms and farmers will be on display for two days, March 15 & 16, inside the Fieldhouse at Mooseheart Child City & School near Batavia during AG Days. For three decades this KCFB agricultural expo has been helping fourth graders walk away with a better understanding of where their food comes from. Up to 2,000 kids will learn about farm products that go into everything from fuel to clothing, baseball mitts to newspaper print.

It's the perfect time for you, as a Farm Bureau member, to get involved. You can help with activities that are all ready to go – no teaching or farm experience is needed. Or, if you have some farming know-how we'll help you turn it into a four-

minute presentation fit for a fourth grader.

Join us at AG Days March 15 & 16 as a Farm Bureau volunteer. Come from 8:30-noon both days or whichever day you're available.

Farm Bureau is the Fox Valley's largest and oldest agricultural association and the leader in education about farming. We promise you an enjoyable volunteer experience! Call 630-584-8660 with questions or to reserve a volunteer spot.



Can YOU describe biotechnology? Fourth graders who attend Ag days can, by the end of their day-long experience with agriculture.

Bring antique tractors to Touch-A-Tractor, April 8-10

Now's the time to think about knocking the dust off that antique tractor in the shed. If you only take that tractor one place this year – make it Touch-A-Tractor at the Kane County Farm Bureau!

Our 11th annual Touch-A-Tractor will be held Friday-Sunday, April 8-10, 2016. We're making preparations to bring some farm to the city for this ever-popular event that's fun for the whole family. If you have an antique tractor – whether you've spent hours restoring it or it's a still working tractor with lots of farming memories – please consider bringing it to the event.

There's nothing like the look on a child's face when they sit in the seat of a tractor they normally only see from the road or in a book. This year you'll get a special commemorative gift in appreciation for participating.

Due to space limitations and the size of modern farm machines, the Farm Bureau will again call on Sugar Grove area farmer Bruce Nagel, a long-



We need YOUR antique tractor! Bring an antique tractor to Touch-A-Tractor, April 8-10 and receive a special commemorative gift, plus we'll have dinner on the grill for you on Thursday, April 7 to show our appreciation.

time supporter of Touch-A-Tractor and Ag Days, to provide the necessary modern tractors,

combine, tillage equipment, sprayer and planter to display for our urban and suburban neighbors. But antique tractors are needed – and the more the merrier!

All tractor participants will also be treated to a free dinner at 5:30pm on Thursday, April 7 at Kane County Farm Bureau. Bring your tractor that night, or park it on the lawn anytime during the week leading up to the event.

Just clip and send in the form below or call 630-584-8660 to let us know the make and model of tractor you'll bring. We also need farmers, or retired farmers, to explain how the equipment works. So if you can be there any day of the event – please let us know!

Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

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

___ I will bring the following tractor or farm equipment to display.

Please provide a brief description of the equipment. For 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 or call 630-584-8660 and ask for Carolyn or Val.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

February 4
Board of Directors, 7:00pm

February 8
Water Test Kits Available (Through Feb. 19)

February 10
Women's Committee, 9:15am

February 15
KCFB Foundation Scholarship Applications Due

February 22
Water test kits/samples to be returned

February 26
Food Check-Out Challenge Shopping Spree, 10:30 a.m., Batavia Jewel

February Featured Product

Pork Roast

The special this month is a 24 ounce lemon-rosemary boneless pork roast cut from the tenderest part of the pork loin. You will receive a box of three, 24 ounce pork roasts, each individually wrapped. It is designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°F, sliced thin and used as an entrée. The roast is netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$19.50 to Farm Bureau Members, \$17.50 to Plus Members, and \$22.00 to non-members.

KCFB Board Meeting

January, 2016

Directors welcomed Jochen Schorler, who was one of the nine "31 Days of Christmas" raffle winners in the KCFB Foundation annual scholarship fundraiser. Schorler was presented a \$350 Cabela's gift card to begin the meeting. President Joe White thanked all who supported the Foundation by purchasing raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are an important element in funding the Foundation for future scholarship recipients.

The Board heard reports about an IFB Nutrient Stewardship Grant application submitted to Illinois Farm Bureau from KCFB and K-D SWCD, reviewed proposed staff job descriptions and briefly discussed a direct mail program for the KCFB Foundation.

The Board heard a report from the KCFB Foundation of donors to Harvest for ALL for hunger relief and to Food>Forward for scholarships and Ag-in-the-Classroom programs. Harvest for ALL donors for the month included Dale and Linda Drendel, Suzanne Myers and Marlene & Rick Pump. Food>Forward donors were Bruce & Angie Stastny, the Friday Night Dinner Group (in honor of Paul Diehl's 80th birthday) and Anonymous.

The Board reviewed dates and agendas for upcoming agri-

culture related conferences including the Illinois Specialty Growers Association's Agri-Tourism and Organic Conference, the American Farm Bureau Federations' Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL; and Illinois Farm Bureau's Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow program to be held in Northern Illinois from January-April.

In the Government Affairs & Public Policy arena, Wayne Schneider announced upcoming events including the Shopping Spree which is to be held on February 26, at 10:30 in the Jewel Osco in Batavia. Public official "contestants" were suggested for the Spree and details were discussed regarding the Lunches to Legislators program to be held on both March 11th and 14th. IFB's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference is to be held on April 6-7 in Springfield. Lastly, Schneider thanked all who participated in completing the 2015 Action Request for the end of the year tax and omnibus spending bills that contained ag friendly provisions. This included contacting U.S. Representative and Senators in making Sec. 179 small business expensing language permanent and replacing the mandatory County of Origin Labeling.

In local issues, the Board heard reports from representa-

tive to the Kane County Board, Kane County Ag Committee, Farmland Protection Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mike Kenyon, Joe White, and Beth Gehrke all reported from the most recent meeting of the Farmland Protection Commission.

In Young Farmer committee news, Manager Steve Arnold announced a Young Farmers/FFA Acquaintance and Community Service event at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on January 28 at 5pm. He also reported on registered attendees for the IFB Young Leader Conference on Jan 22-24, and the upcoming IFB Young Leader Tour in South Florida on March 1-7.

Directors also approved resolutions regarding Director terms and elections and nominations and nominating committees, and set the 2016 annual meeting date.

Correspondence circulated at the meeting included: a thank you letter for the send-off party and gift to Ryan Klassy; a thank you letter from the St. Peter's Community Food Pantry to the B. Collins family for their Harvest for ALL donation, and a thank you letter from Food for Greater Elgin for Harvest for ALL.

This next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on February 4th at 7:00 pm.

Engel to visit D.C. with Farm Bureau in March

Illinois Farm Bureau will once again organize a trip to Washington D.C. for Farm Bureau Leaders this spring. The Leaders to Washington trip is set for Monday-Wednesday, March 21-23.

Kane County Farm Bureau Director Joe Engel of Hampshire will attend. Engel recently led a tour for Congressional staffer Brandon McKee, from the office of Congressman Randy Hultgren, on the Engel family's Luck-E Holsteins dairy farm in rural Hampshire. Engel will be among the group of leaders to help implement Farm Bureau policy in this second session of the 114th Congress

The program is conducted twice each year in March and September. Because of an abundance of laws and regulations facing the farming community, it is important for farmers to build relationships in Washington D.C. This trip

will involve contacts with members of Congress and government agencies, and will be an important visit.

Farm Bureau leaders visit our nation's capital to help implement Farm Bureau policy. There, the group of men and women from across the state will meet with legislators and their staff to talk about issues important to farmers and Illinois' agriculture and economy.

Members interested in representing Kane County farmers on the future legislative visits (conducted in March and September each year) should contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.



Hampshire Dairyman Joe Engel, pictured with wife Margaret and children Hope and Blake, will represent Kane County farmers on a March trip to visit with elected officials in Washington D.C.

Lunches to Legislators is 2-day event

FB members to share lunch, experiences, policy with legislators Mar.11, 14

Now in its 14th year, Farm Bureau's "Lunches to Legislators" program gives members the opportunity to meet local State Representatives, Senators and Congressmen, along with their staff, in a simple, but effective program to remind them of the importance of the farm and food sector. Through Lunches to Legislators, local Farm Bureau members deliver boxed lunches to local legislative offices and have the opportunity to visit with elected officials and their staff.

Due to the popularity of this legislative program, visits will be made on two dates this year to give more volunteers a chance to participate. On Friday, March 11 and Monday March 14, Farm Bureau members will take boxed lunches, Farm Bureau policy books and farm and food facts literature to legislators' district offices. Lunches are ordered prior to the visits and picked-up by FB members at the Kane County Farm Bureau in St. Charles before everyone heads out for a day of

getting to know local legislators, or renewing old relationships.

New faces are always welcome. Help represent KCFB and thousands of your fellow Farm Bureau members. A pre-program briefing will be held for members wishing to participate in the program on the evening of Thursday, March 10 where Farm Bureau legislative priorities and tips for meeting with local public officials will be shared over a light dinner.

To learn more or volunteer, contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



Jim Oberweis, Illinois State Senator for the 25th District, and Keith Wheeler, Illinois State Representative for the 50th District (far right) enjoy lunch and conversation with Farm Bureau volunteers as part of last year's Lunches to Legislators program.

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 other 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 resource, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the Farmer.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 2015 THRU SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Kane County Farmer

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Apply for Foundation scholarships by Feb. 15th

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering several scholarships to members or dependents of members pursuing college degrees. The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2016.

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 KCFB General Scholarships, Ag Scholarships, the KCFB President's Scholarship, Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, the John Buck Memorial

Scholarship and/or the Mary L. Heckel-Blickle Memorial Scholarship. Applications and details on scholarship requirements are available at www.kanecfb.com and at the KCFB office, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. Call 630-584-8660 with questions.

Find an application for KCFB Foundation Scholarships at www.kanecfb.com. There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields. The Agriculture industry offers hundreds of rewarding careers.

TRACTOR RAFFLE RAISES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Get your chance to win a great prize in Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle. All proceeds from the annual raffle benefit Foundation College Scholarships and Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy programs.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles), from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2, with VISA or MasterCard at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

In 2015, the Foundation awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships & internships. Your contributions to the Foundation, through the annual raffle and other events throughout the year, help students attain their degrees, reach their goals, and help secure a bright future for the Ag industry.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle to be drawn at our Touch-A-Tractor event on Sunday, April 10, 2016 can choose one of two nicely restored antique tractors: a 1953 Farmall Super C or a 1947 Farmall Super A (with belly mower). They'll also have the option of a machine that's a little easier to fit in the garage, a John Deere X300 riding lawn mower, or they can take \$2,500 cash.

There's a great lineup of food, fuel and Farm Bureau prizes that include second prize of \$500 in groceries, third prize \$500 in fuel, and fourth prize is \$250 in Kane County Farm Bureau Bucks.

For more information and rules on this year's raffle, scholarship programs or other KCFB Foundation programs and services, visit www.kanecfb.com or contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE
Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION



The Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle offers a chance to win one of these great prizes!
Grand prize: Winner's choice of a 1953 Farmall Super C, or a 1947 Farmall Super A or a John Deere X300 riding lawn mower or \$2,500 cash.
Second prize: \$500 groceries
Third prize: \$500 fuel
Fourth Prize: \$250 Farm Bureau Bucks

KCFB Foundation Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle

Please send me _____ tickets (\$10 each or 3 for \$25)

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 ____ / ____ / ____



MILK: Most Requested, Rarely Donated

\$60 helps provide a gallon of milk each week for a year to a hungry family

Help Northern Illinois Food Bank's Milk2MyPlateProgram provide nutritious, fresh milk to hungry families.

Donate at SolveHungerToday.org/Dairy



March 22 Meet the Buyer event

Illinois farmers are invited to attend a the Meet the Farmers, Meet the Buyers event on March 22, 2016. This one-day event will take place at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, 273 Dearborn Court, Geneva, IL from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Doors open at 8:30 AM).

This event is an opportunity for farmers to meet with buyers one-on-one, and learn what it takes to do business with the grocery and foodservice industries. Buyers interested in sourcing local and regional food will be available to meet with fruit and vegetable farmers as well as farmers providing meats, cheese, dairy products, eggs, artisan products, value-added products, and more. Farmers are encouraged to bring business cards and any handouts they

have about their farming operation to share with buyers.

Event registration fee is \$15 for Farm Bureau members (\$20 for non-members) and includes all event materials and lunch. Due to limited seating, registration must be completed by March 18, 2016. On-site registration is \$35.00 per person. On-site registration is first come, first served, and as space allows. Lunch is NOT guaranteed with on-site registration. This is a popular event and space fills up quickly – online registrations are encouraged.

The event is \$15 for Farm Bureau members and \$20 for nonmembers. For online registration, please visit <http://www.ilfb.org> and select the News and Events tab, Conferences and Events, then the March 22, 2016 Meet the Buyers Event.

Get peace of mind with water test

Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District will cooperate to offer a water testing program in February. A high quality water supply is vital for families. This program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas.

Kits are available at KCFB from Monday, Feb. 8-19. Pick up test kits from Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30-5pm or from the Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8:00-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Collect the water sample on Sunday, Feb. 21 and return it to KCFB on Monday, Feb. 22.

Costs vary 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. 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 only because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested. Testing will be offered in February only. For more information, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



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Book of the month

The Illinois Farm Bureau has its hundredth anniversary this year. To celebrate, Mr. Leifel has written a book about the organization's history. This is an update of past historical books on the Farm Bureau written in a very readable manner. It covers in depth the years from 1971-2015. Many historical photos are included in the book.

There is also an appendix that covers many details, such

as recipients of various awards, a description of Board of Directors' duties and a complete list of these board members from 1919-2014.

We have a copy of the book available for check out from our agricultural library here at the KCFB.



A Voice for Illinois Agriculture—The Centennial History of Illinois Farm Bureau by Dan Leifel

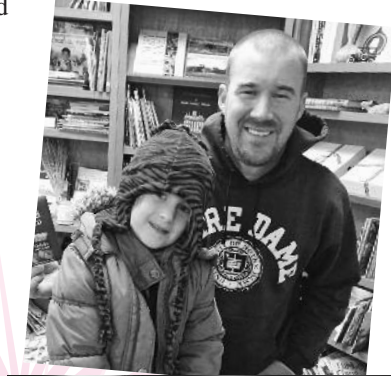
'31 Days' raffle winners

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation extends its thanks to everyone who purchased and sold tickets for the second "31 Days of Christmas" college scholarship raffle and fundraiser. After expenses, the raffle will provide nearly \$3,000 for college scholarship to students pursuing higher education in 2016-17, toward farm and food related careers.

With roughly one-third of the available tickets purchased, 9 lucky winners had their holiday brightened with gifts ranging from \$220 to \$500 in value. In lieu of actual prizes as depicted

in the "31 Days" calendar, winners were provided with gift cards to Cabela's for the actual value of the prize won, allowing, for example, the winner of a shotgun to purchase a BBQ grill, tent, kayak, hammock, etc.

The following got an exact match to their ticket on the Illinois lottery evening Pick 3 numbers during December: Denise Busboom, Lou Vorgais, Donald Rodholm, Jeff Jamroz, Steven Nardi, Todd Wilcox, Mark Anderson, Joseph Turk and Jochen Schorler. Congratulations!



Clockwise from top left: COUNTRY Financial Representative Todd Wilcox of Elburn, a faithful supporter of Foundation fundraisers, said he will forego the December 21 prize of a wine and cider press in favor of a NorthFace squall jacket from Cabela's.

Jeff Jamroz of Aurora, pictured with daughter Alexia, has already put in an order for a new rifle using the \$500 he won in the 31 Days raffle.

Jochen Schorler(I) claimed his prize at the January meeting of the KCFB Board of Directors from President Joe White. Schorler reported that the winning ticket was purchased for him by his wife.

State colleges report ag grads getting jobs

Agriculture graduates from Illinois universities found tremendous demand in their fields, Illinois Agricultural Legislative Roundtable participants heard. The four state universities with ag programs reported from 75 percent to 100 percent of seniors found jobs by graduation or shortly after.

"It's a great time to be a student in agriculture," said Rob Rhykerd, chair of Illinois State University's (ISU) Agriculture Department. "We've got areas of high demand. The challenge is - ñ we're in Illinois and we have funding and budget challenges."

Rhykerd gave reports from ISU, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU-C), University of Illinois and Western Illinois University (WIU).

All four universities reported strong or increased enrollment

in agriculture programs. For example, WIU's School of Agriculture experienced a 3 percent overall enrollment increase, including a 75 percent increase in freshmen enrollment, making agriculture the fourth largest major on the Macomb campus.

Likewise, the universities described strong demand for their ag graduates. SIU-C and ISU reported nearly 100 percent of graduates secured jobs. The U of I noted 76 percent of its ag graduates started careers in Illinois.

Each of the universities reported a shortage of agriculture education majors as the demand for ag teachers continues to outstrip the number of graduates. Other fields in high demand included urban forestry (WIU), and forestry, human nutrition and dietetics, and hospitality and tourism (SIU-C).

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Welcome February ... the month that is usually so dreary with grey skies, dirty snow, and cold. It is the month that we look for the groundhog's shadow to let us know how much longer we need to wait till the spring blooming. It's also the month that we show our love and affection for each other on Valentine's Day. Take it from this retired teacher, kids get really excited about this holiday called Valentine's Day ... the warm fuzzies they get from others make them so happy, as do the candy hearts, chocolate and other forms of sugar.

February is also the month of going through seed catalogs and revamping the mental images of our gardens. We pick out the tried and true seeds and even get a bit adventurous with the choices of new varieties. Oh, if my garden in reality looked like my February mental image ...

Many folks take off in search of the sun during February. They tire of snow, ice, cold

weather and head south. One year I visited my daughter in Florida during February and commented on how nice it was to be able to enjoy being outside, unlike when I visit her in the summer. She reminded me that many "snow birds" agreed with me and wintered over in Florida, enjoying the best it has to offer. I completely understand their thought process.

Remodeling projects also pop into my head in February, maybe because I spend more time indoors. I'm notorious for rearranging furniture after watching the latest show on HGTV ... sometimes in the wee hours of the night. Then there's always the proverbial basement which can always use more organizing, throwing out of stuff, and cleaning. Hurry, spring, let me get outside again to work in my yard, this inside stuff is too much for me.

This year we are celebrating a Leap Year, which always makes for a fun time. My buddy

will be able to celebrate his actual birthday, I think he's 12 now. It must be nice to only age every four years. Since Leap Year Day is on a Monday, most of us will be enjoying an extra day of work, an interesting thought.

Speaking of work, during February, I'm busy preparing for spring and summer programs. It seems to be non-stop from end of February till August with Teacher Work Days, Ag Days, Touch a Tractor, SPROUTS, Library Week, SAI one and two, national AITC conference ... all of which is sprinkled over the normal activities. A busy time, but one I find exciting. If you have spare time and want to volunteer in any of these programs, please feel free to give me a call ... I'm sure we can find a spot for you.

So, I guess February is a time of planning, organizing, and preparing for the much anticipated spring and all that goes with it. Once the sap starts running in the trees, a farewell to winter becomes a reality. I, for one, will be watching for that sap to begin flowing ... I'll be out educating folks about making maple syrup, one of my favorite things. Hope to see you around the maple trees or the tractors.

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Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155	Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852	Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110
Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326	Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001	Sonny Ellen Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694	Jonathan Gonzalez Elgin 847-742-0001	Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696	Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	Josh Austin Hampshire 847-683-2100
Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750	Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500	Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245	Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737	David Murray Montgomery 630-897-2364
Rowena Ortac Geneva 630-262-1059	<small>Auto, Home, and Commercial policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Fixed Annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.</small>	

1115-505HO

Garfield Farm Museum's 2016 calendar

The newly released calendar of events continues to reflect Garfield Farm Museum's three themes of history, farming, and the environment. This nonprofit museum supported by donors and volunteers depends upon its activities to generate awareness and new friends to support these themes of concern. To view the calendar for yourself visit www.garfieldfarm.org or www.facebook.com/GarfieldFarmMuseum/events.

Staff and volunteers are happy to announce a few new events to the calendar. Among them is a class produced by volunteer Judith Broggie on early American farm traditions that influenced the revolution and Illinois settlement. To assist the public with the growing trend of having chickens, Special Projects Manager Dave Bauer will host a workshop on backyard chickens in February and for more advanced student there will be a lecture on chicken genetics in March.

The first annual event of the year, on February 20, the Natural Areas Management Seminar features methods to establish, restore, and manage native

prairie plants from garden plots to large scale acreage. Throughout the season various woodland and prairie walks will be offered. Horticulture and agriculture are emphasized through the year, starting in March with the Antique Apple Tree Grafting Seminar. Our annual celebration of the gardens bounty is held August 28 at the annual Heirloom Garden Show.

Agriculture is not just plants, as the museum holds the ever popular Rare Breeds Show in May featuring historic breeds of livestock and poultry and their increasingly rare breeders/owners. In July, children can have a 3 morning hands-on animal experience as two sessions of Garfield Farm Camps will be offered. Harvest Days in October, one for students and one for the general public, brings traditional farm and household chores to light in the tradition of fall observance of the harvest.

Classes are offered to help discover this era and help preserve our American heritage. Crystal Hollis' Creative Writing Workshop in January uses the farm's setting to inspire writers at all experience levels. Join

assistant site manager Joseph Coleman for two blacksmith classes in October, or the next week's course offering by Dave Bauer on the history and construction of barns. Heritage extends beyond the classroom at the 59th Annual Fox Valley Antique Show hosted at the Kane County Fairgrounds or at the Antique Tool Show & Sale at the museum in August.

The December open house, Candlelight at the Inn, welcomes new friends to discover this nearly four decade old project. A local favorite, experience a historic home lit with candles while enjoying a cup of spiced tea and cakes.

Throughout the year, visitors can receive personalized guided tours of the museum by simply calling to set an appointment. For more casual spur of the moment tours, visitors are welcome between 1-4 pm on Wednesdays and Sundays June through September.

For further information call 630-584-8485 or email info@garfieldfarm.org. Garfield Farm Museum is located 5 miles west of Geneva off Route 38 on Garfield Road in Campton Hills.

FARMING & FOOD

By Val Johnson



Val Johnson was a participant in the 2013 Illinois Farm Families Field Mom Program. This program exposed her to the field of agriculture and about topics discussed in the news lately. Val now spends her time working for the Kane County Farm Bureau in continuation of her agriculture learning experience.

Back Then

The Illinois Agriculture Association was formed in 1916 by a group of soil scientists, technicians, and farmers. Their primary job was to help the productivity of Illinois farmers. One of their first tasks was to buy fertilizer and legumes at the lowest possible price. Farming was a hard life back then, and the IAA was in business to keep the farmers in business – and ultimately so the public could eat. You can read more about

this topic in February's book of the month – *A Voice for Illinois Agriculture*, by Dan Leifel.

Today and the Future

We all have our own opinions about food. Our opinions vary not only from taste and where we purchase our foods but now how they are grown, and if we believe they are healthy or not. Opinions based on science about our food's health are becoming more important. The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering scholarships to students interested in pursuing higher education. Maybe some of our county's scholarship winners will become future scientists and/or leaders in agriculture. Their opinions could help assure that we are eating healthy and nutritious foods grown from high-yielding farmer's fields.

Farmers receiving USDA ag survey

About 1,800 Illinois farmers can expect to find USDA's annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) in their mailboxes this month. USDA uses information obtained from the survey to estimate net farm income, agricultural productivity and the cost of production of 15 commodities including corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the survey to understand the financial condition, production practices and resource use of America's farm businesses and the economic well-being of America's farm households.

As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents remains confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state and national

level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

USDA uses information obtained from the survey to estimate net farm income, agricultural productivity and the cost of production of 15 commodities including corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs.

"Without good data, you can't make good policy nor can you measure with any reliability whether farm policy is actually working," said Mike Doherty, Illinois Farm Bureau senior economist and policy analyst. "Commodity prices are projected to remain low. That means it's even more important that farm programs accomplish what

they're intended to do. Illinois Farm Bureau's ability to defend those programs rests on having credible farm-level financial statistics at hand."

NASS will publish results from the ARMS survey on Aug. 4 in the Production Expenditures report. Reports like ARMS help ensure federal, state, local and industry decision makers have accurate and objective information, and all decisions affecting farmers and their families across the United States are based on facts.

View NASS reports online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Illinois Field Office at 800-551-1014.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Lauren Freebern, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for December 2015. Lauren began her career with COUNTRY Financial in October of 2013 and services clients out of her

office located at 1161 Oak Street North Aurora, 60542 – (630) 907-1231.

Lauren's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make her a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Lauren!

Recruiter of the Month

Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Deb Stob, who signed 4 new members. Deb has been a financial representative with COUNTRY® Financial since July 2001. She serves clients from her office at 425 Williamsburg Ave, Geneva and may be reached at 630-208-0890. As a token of our appreciation, Deb will receive two tickets to the Charlestowne Movie Theater. Thank you, Deb for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Deb Stob

Who's Running in the March Primary? Clerk's Office Website Has the Skinny

The Kane County Clerk's Office website has published the list of candidates who will be on the ballot for the March 15 primary. You can see the full list of Republican Candidates and Democratic Candidates who will be running.

The website allows you to read any or all of those documents in English or Spanish or get a printable version of those lists by clicking links on the kanecountyelections.org website.

Residents with questions are asked to call the Kane County Election Authority at (630) 232-5990.

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New dietary guidelines stress variety, lean meats

Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia M. Burwell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack have released updated nutritional guidelines that encourage Americans to adopt a series of science-based recommendations to improve how they eat to reduce obesity and prevent chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

Bob Stallman, then President of the American Farm Bureau Federation issued a statement, on January 7, 2016 regarding the USDA's New Dietary Guidelines. "America's farmers and ranchers are proud to produce an abundant, nutritious and affordable food supply for our fellow citizens and the world. We believe the 2015 Dietary Guidelines provide a useful framework for

Americans to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.

"We are pleased that the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments listened to our concerns and remained true to their mission of helping Americans achieve a well-balanced diet. The Advisory Committee's original recommendations on sustainability were clearly outside the scope of public health and showed little understanding of the work farmers and ranchers do to protect the environment. USDA and HHS agreed in the end and published guidelines consistent with their focus on overall nutrition.

"Dairy and lean meats remain key sources of important nutrients in a healthy, balanced diet.



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WOMEN'S CORNER

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



Sleet – Ugh! To clear your driveway of several inches of ice, use your hoe to chunk the ice for removal with your shovel. A hoe is made specially for breaking up hard dirt or clumps of dirt. It worked better than the shovel when breaking up the ice on my driveway at the end of December.

Boil your potatoes with the skin on for more flavor and vitamins. First wash the potatoes and cut out the eyes and spots. Then score the potato one time, just through the skin, around the circumference, meeting the start of your cut with the end of your cut. Then boil the potatoes until they are done. After your potatoes are boiled the skin will just slip off of the ends, in two pieces. I saw this hint online and tried it. It is great!

My husband's sweater-vest was full of pilling after he wore

it on Amtrak, from Boston to Chicago, in coach. In the past I've tried sticky rollers that are supposed to be good for this. NO. I've tried the fuzz-shavers. NO. I've tried regular, hair and clothes brushes with mixed results. This time I used a thick plastic-bristled (with no end bumps) hair brush. YES! A slightly damp towel, where brush comes off of sweater, will catch the "flying-fuzz." Pick out the accumulated fuzz from the brush as it builds up.

Here are two versions of a recipe which I gave you in the May 2015 *Farmer*. I was asked if it was missing one ingredient. It was correct; however, there is another version of my recipe with more ingredients. Both versions are below.

Catalina Chicken – version 1
2 to 4 boneless, skinless, chicken breasts

KANE COUNTY FARMER

1/2 c. Italian dressing
1 T. catsup
1/4 c. soy sauce
vegetables: 1 pkg. frozen mixed vegetables or any of your choice; or 3 c. chopped fresh vegetables
Completely cook chicken in the liquids. At least once while cooking, stir or turn over the pieces. You can let the meat simmer after it is done, to increase the flavor-blending; however, check occasionally to see if water needs to be added. Add vegetables and cook until tender. Serve over rice.

Catalina Chicken – version 2
2 to 4 boneless, skinless, chicken breasts
1 can diced tomatoes
1/2 c. Italian dressing
1/4 c. Worcestershire sauce
1 T. catsup
1/3 c. (more or less) water to rinse tomato can
1 can green beans, with the liquid (instead of fresh/frozen vegetables)

Directions as above, except after all is done, cook approximately 1/3 to 1/2 c. regular rice with the chicken to soak up the delicious broth.

Illinois can be proud of Our state's ag industry

By Raymond Poe,
Illinois Department of
Agriculture Director

- #1 in soybean production
- #2 in corn production
- #4 in pork production

Illinois has something to be proud of and it's our state's agriculture industry! This wouldn't be possible without the hard working farmers, ranchers, and producers who call Illinois home.

Agriculture is our state's number one industry. Illinois has over 2,300 food companies – more than all but four states – and hundreds of commodities, from seed, chemical and feed

companies to equipment manufacturers and implement dealers. 27 million acres in Illinois are devoted to production in agriculture, and over 74,000 farms in Illinois are the foundation of this multi-billion dollar industry. Illinois agriculture is a beacon of light for the state's economy. Every year, our state sells more than half of its corn and soybean crops overseas. We need to do everything we can to protect our state's exports. That's why it's vitally important that we invest in our nation's infrastructure. Illinois exports depend on the durability and efficiency of our nation's roads, railways, and rivers.

Transparency data shows what consumers want

By Jana McGuire,
The Center for Food Integrity

A new study proves that improved transparency increases consumer trust in food. The Center for Food Integrity's (CFI) latest research, *A Clear View of Transparency and How it Builds Consumer Trust*, provides proof that transparency builds trust and identifies the most effective practices for building consumer trust.

"Transparency works," said Charlie Arnot, CFI CEO. "We have statistical data to show that increasing transparency in farming, food production and processing will increase consumer trust."

The 2015 research focused on areas that are important to consumers:

- Impact of Food on Health
- Food Safety

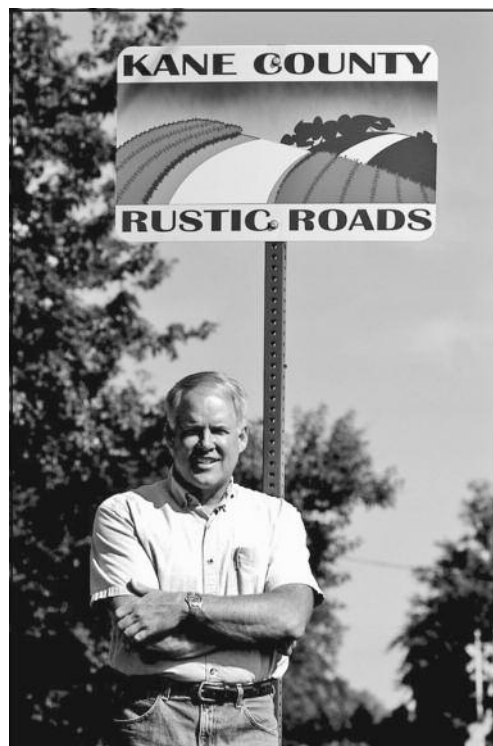
- Impact on the Environment
- Human/Labor Rights
- Treatment of Animals Raised for Food
- Business Ethics in Food Production

An online survey of 2,000 people explored which attributes are most important to consumers when it comes to trust-building transparency – policies, practices, performance or verification.

"The survey shows an organization's practices are most important in five of the six topic areas," said Arnot. "Consumers want to know more about what you are actually doing in these important areas. They also want the ability to engage by asking questions through the company website and they expect straight answers in a timely fashion."



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Volunteers are backbone of Kane County 4-H program

Community Members Honored at Appreciation and Awards Event

Kane County 4-H and University of Illinois Extension staff honored dozens of 4-H program volunteers at the 2015 annual 4-H Appreciation Dinner in St. Charles.

"We thank 4-H volunteers for sharing their time and expertise to develop generous, independent and skilled young people," said Doris Braddock, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator. "Our amazing volunteers lead our community and special interest clubs, give time at the annual county fair, provide positive learning opportunities throughout the year, and so much more. This annual appreciation night allows us to recognize the volunteers, alumni and supporters who make our 4-H program a success."

At the event, University of Illinois Extension named the annual 4-H Alumni and Friend of 4-H Award recipients for 2015. Each year, 4-H clubs are given the opportunity to nominate an individual for the Kane County 4-H Alumni Award. This year, two winners were recognized – Norm Skala of Elgin and Kelli DeDina of Hampshire.

A Cook County 4-H alum, Skala has been a fixture at the Kane County 4-H Horse Show, where he serves as the ring announcer. "He is willing to help each year and always has a smile and a warm greeting for

4-H members, parents, and leaders," Braddock said.

DeDina, who serves as one of the poultry superintendents and helps with annual rabbit show preparations, is a McHenry County 4-H alum and has been a volunteer in Kane County since 2008. "She is a hard-working individual who is willing to lend a helping hand anywhere it is needed," said Braddock.

Each year, 4-H members and leaders also may submit nominations for the Friend of 4-H Award.

This year, Gerry DeDina of Hampshire earned the honor for his work at the Kane County Fair. "He and his family coordinate the set-up of the barn, check-in, and judging day in the poultry barn. In addition, he offers his time to conduct poultry testing each year prior to the fair," Braddock said.

During the evening, Braddock also recognized individuals who have reached volunteer milestones with 4-H. Marking 30 years were: Ron Alms of Maple Park, Rosemarie Krause of Hampshire and Marvin Straub of Elgin. Celebrating a silver anniversary as 4-H volunteers were Bonnie Kararo of Elgin and Rosalie McCafferty of Geneva.

Extension also honored for 15 years – Darlene Hanks of Maple Park, Scott Horton of St.

Charles, Carol McKellar of Elgin and Michelle Ochs of Carpentersville; and for 10 years – Melissa Daufenbach of Elgin, Stephen Haas of Elburn, Diana Holmer of Hampshire, Matthew Kararo of Lafayette, Ind., Michael Ochs of Carpentersville, and Tina Wackerlin of Hinckley. Five-year and first-year volunteers also were recognized.

Each year, several Kane County 4-H volunteers also take on large countywide events or programs, and devote time and effort to making them successful. Acknowledged for these projects were: Mark Einwich of St. Charles for the pork chop dinner, Anne Carson of Maple Park for beef weigh-in and the pork chop dinner, Kim Halverson of DeKalb for the pork chop dinner, Mary Herra of Elburn for the Japanese Exchange Program, and Melissa Daufenbach of Elgin, Sandy Klinkey of St. Charles and Amber Wesner of Hampshire, all for coaching the Horse Bowl teams.

"With the help of our outstanding, trained volunteers, 4-H provides youth an opportunity to explore many areas, including animal science, horticulture, robotics, visual arts and more," Braddock said. "Around the state, 4-H Youth Development programs provide hands-on learning, and build leadership, citizenship and life skills."

Shopping Spree to provide hunger relief



KCFB sponsors a shopping spree where public officials race to collect food for local food pantries. In this file photo from 2015, State Representative Keith Wheeler of Yorkville poses with a KCFB check for \$1249.53, representing the value of the groceries he collected for the Elburn Food Pantry. The public is invited to watch the 2015 "Food Check-Out Challenge" at 10:30am on Monday, Feb. 26 at the Batavia Jewel-Osco.

On Monday, February 26, Kane County Farm Bureau will host its 15th annual Food Check-Out "Challenge," a Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries. The public is invited to come watch two legislators or local officials race to collect food to help restock the shelves of two area food pantries. The contest will once again be held at the Batavia Jewel-Osco, on Randall Road at Main Street in Batavia.

Food Check-Out Week teaches Americans how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. Typically, consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food. This low number is thanks to the efficient efforts by America's farmers and ranchers,

who work hard every day to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food supply.

All of the groceries collected during the 5-minute spree are purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the respective pantries. Many State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County, local Mayors and elected officials have competed in the event, raising thousands of dollars in groceries for local food pantries.

Through this and other recent hunger relief efforts including Harvest for ALL and the related Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of more than 1.4 million meals to area food pantries.

Thanks to our donors...

The KCFB Foundation offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received December 15 through January 15, 2016.



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County Farm Bureaus, COUNTRY Financial® hold crop insurance seminars

Farmers and other landowners looking to learn about changes coming to the 2016 crop insurance program as part of the federal farm bill can attend a free local seminar at The Barsema Alumni Center at Northern Illinois University on 2/25/2016 at 6:00pm.

Tom Hegna, best selling author & retirement expert – Farm Continuation and Legacy Planning, will be speaking on providing keys to a successful retirement.

For a full list of seminar locations and additional information, dates and times visit www.countrycrop.com.

NIFB celebrates

(continued from page 1)

by The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy® and serves as a model for Feeding America food banks across the nation.

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Funds, Kane County Farm Bureau, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. A \$60 donation helps Northern Illinois Food Bank provide a gallon of milk every week for a year to a local family in need.

To donate, visit www.solvehungertoday.org/dairy.

Thanks to FB ACT members

Thanks in part to Farm Bureau members making calls in support of crucial agricultural provisions in year-end budget bills in the United States Congress, the U.S. House passed two bills with broad bipartisan support in December. The U.S. Senate voted 65-33 on 12/18/15 to pass the combined bill, with Illinois's US Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin both voting yes.

Among the provision of those bills was permanent extension of Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code, which allows immediate expense deduction for purchases of depreciable business equipment, instead of capitalizing and depreciating the asset. Section 179 expensing allows farmers to grow their businesses

with the purchase of new equipment. Also included was repeal of mandatory County of Origin Labeling (COOL).

Making Section 179 permanent is a major win for agriculture to ensure consistency in planning for capital improvements on the farm. Additionally, repealing COOL eliminates more than \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs on agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico.

The Kane County Farm Bureau thank the following for reporting contacts with our two US Senators and their Congressman, to pass these measures for the betterment of the farm economy, Beth Engel of Hampshire, Bob Gehrke and Beth Gehrke of Elgin, Louise Johnson of St Charles, Dale Pitstick of Genoa and Joe White

of Kaneville.

These 6, and many other like them, are members of Farm Bureau's Agricultural Contact Team, or FB ACT for short. Through FB ACT, they are helping to expand the influence of farmers in Washington and Springfield, from their home, tractor cabs or own backyards.

When actions or votes important to farmers are scheduled, they have chosen to be contacted one of several different ways: by phone, email, or text message and they have the ability to quickly and easily respond to the proper elected official prior to votes on important issues.

FB ACT is the final step in Farm Bureau's grassroots policy process, putting policy into action. To join FB ACT and learn more about issues and votes that affect your livelihood, fill out and return the form below to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N170 Randall Rd., St Charles, IL 60174.

Yes, I want to act for FB ACT!

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Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team



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