

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. 83 NO. 1 JANUARY 2018

Awards abundant at IFB Annual Meeting

The Kane County Farm Bureau was once again recognized for its achievements during the annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau held in Chicago, December 2-5, 2017.

As part of its Annual Meeting, Illinois Farm Bureau presents Committee, Program, and Project awards in recognition of outstanding county Farm Bureau volunteer efforts throughout the year. As member of Membership Group V, (County Farm Bureaus with 5,516 and more members), Kane County received multiple awards, including the newly created New Horizon award for its Grain Bin Safety Display. Awards are listed in box at right.

The county was also awarded *Most Outstanding Project Recognition* in three program areas:

Local Affairs: for a local Agricultural Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee;

Ag Literacy: for SPROUTS, an in classroom reading program for third grade students; and,

Young Leaders/Young

Committees

Young Farmers	Gold
Women's Committee	Silver
Multi-County Project	Silver
County Foundation	Silver

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

Farmers: Building a Mobile Grain Bin Safety Display

Convention-goers enjoyed seminars and educational micro-talks on topics ranging from Drainage Management & the Use of Woodchip Bioreactors to Extending Your Growing Season. The meeting also featured an exhibit hall, ice cream social, silent and live auctions featuring many unique items,

including a KFCB supplied YETI cooler filled with a "craft beer advent calendar," Winter Olympics themed trivia night

Programs

Ag Literacy	Gold
Commodities & Marketing	Gold
Health & Safety	Gold
Member Relations	Gold
Policy Development	Gold
Local Affairs	Silver
Communication & Promotion	Silver
Legislative/Political Process	Bronze

Kane County Farm Bureau President, Joe White (l) accepts the Illinois Farm Bureau's first ever "New Horizon" award and a program recognition plaque from IFB Vice-President David Erickson at the Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Chicago. The first recognizes KCFB's program efforts in farm safety for constructing a mobile grain bin rescue and farm safety display in cooperation with AGCO Parts, Batavia. The second calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs and volunteer efforts in implementing the same.



fundraiser, keynote speaker John O'Leary, and the annual session of the organization's Voting Delegates to establish public policies on issues of local, state, and national importance to Illinois farmers.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization controlled by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau.

Nominations sought for KCFB Director

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

tion, inspiration, and motivation to the largest, most influential and effective farm related organization in Kane County.

Eligible candidates are regular "MM" members (farmers and farmland owners) residing in Kane County.

Five directors will be elected, by ballots mailed in March, to MM members in each respective District. KCFB has five districts each made up of three townships.

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

Kane CFB awarded IFB stewardship grant

Kane County Farm Bureau and local partners will expand on the nutrient stewardship work being done by local farmers, thanks to a grant from the Illinois Farm Bureau.

In December, IFB announced recipients in its third round of Nutrient Stewardship Grants, totaling \$100,000. Eighteen projects will be implemented by 20 county Farm Bureaus and their partners around the state. Kane County's grant will help with the installation of a bio-reactor demonstration project to help measure and remove nutrients from underground field tile. The installation will take place on land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County so it will be accessible to farmers, members and the pub-

lic. The project partners hope that it will be a useful tool for evaluating stewardship options as farmers work to meet the goals outlined in the Stste's Nutrient "This year's grants step up the level of engagement of farmer members," said IFB Director Jeff Kirwan of Mercer County. Kirwan chairs the state Nutrient Education Research Council and served on the IFB grant selection committee. "Illinois farmers are taking ownership of the future of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. We are starting to design and develop projects that allow us to test new ideas. We are creating new ways to reduce losses on our own farms."

According to IFB, the 2018 projects demonstrate county

Farm Bureaus' creativity and willingness to lead on local nutrient issues.

"We are looking for county Farm Bureaus to provide leadership for the program. This includes board members, elected leaders and active members who take a role," explained IFB Director Larry Miller of Franklin County, who served on the grant selection committee.

Lyndsey Ramsey, IFB associate director of environmental and natural resources, applauded county Farm Bureaus for their originality. "We are really excited for the innovation shown in these year three projects," Ramsey said. "Our members have great ideas, and county Farm Bureaus are taking the

(continued on page 7)

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

January 1

Office closed for holiday

January 4

Board of Directors, 7:30pm

January 6-9

AFBF Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN

January 11-13

Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, & Organic Conference, Springfield, IL

January 19, 20

2018 IFB Young Leader Conference, East Peoria, IL

January 23(tent.)

KCFB Foundation Board, 8:30 am

Jan 26-Feb 4

Argentina/Brazil Issues Tour



January SPECIAL

Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

The special this month are 3 individually wrapped 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the tenderest part of the pork loin. 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 \$20 to Farm Bureau Members, \$18 to Plus Members, and \$24 to non-members.

Food Hub Opens Doors for Farmers

Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane County's new food hub operator, The Dream Hub, invite all area farmers, and those interested in accessing healthy vegetables, fruits and proteins from across our region, to an open house on Thursday, February 8. The Open House will be held at the Dream Hub, 51 S. Grove Avenue in Elgin.

The Dream Hub will open a new door for the region's farmers to sell their products to a variety of wholesale buyers looking for healthy, locally grown foods. Come learn more about how farmers and wholesale buyers can get connected with this new local food enterprise.

**RSVP to KCFB at 630-584-8660
by February 5.**

KCFB Board meeting review

Janice Hill, Executive Planner and Farmland Protection Manager for Kane County was the guest at the December meeting held on the 7th. Hill spoke about the importance of farmers filling out and returning 2017 Census of Agriculture surveys. She also provided updates on farm and agriculture related initiatives in progress at the County through its Agriculture Committee and Growing for Kane initiative, these included; a Transfer of Development Rights study with funding provided by CMAP through a Local Technical Assistance grant; a status update on Kane County's Farmland Protection efforts; Food Hub updates including opportunities for specialized processing and a "Fresh Produce Prescription Produce Box" program; and an upcoming meeting and training for farmers on farmer readiness for wholesale growing.

Directors provided their monthly reports. These included hopes we can continue to work

with the County on initiatives like the Food HUB for local produce, TDR for Farmland Protection funding and the like. Several directors thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a delegates and alternates for the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. A memorial contribution for farmers killed and injured in a recent tragic incident in Lee County, Illinois was discussed.

In unfinished business, Directors approved a Resolution on Charitable Contributions and authorized the Executive Committee to make year-end charitable donations to area not-for-profits and agricultural groups in accordance with the Resolution.

In new business, an Agency Agreement between KCFB and the not-for-profit KCFB Foundation was approved. Directors set the 2018 Annual Meeting for Thursday, April 5th, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Farm Bureau. Directors also volunteered to assist with distribution of pre-ordered citrus to

members on December 13. Directors discussed the budget for 2018. Capital improvements to the building and grounds, office equipment needs, programming and staffing levels were topics for consideration. Among other needs, the parking lot, an electronic sign, server, desktop/laptop computers, and a color laser printer were identified. The organization has committed to funding a NLRs (Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy) demonstration project at \$6,500, Farm Safety display improvements and will consider new Professional Member services as part of the 2018 budget. Staff was also asked to investigate available options for "behind the meter" solar and wind energy power generation.

A motion for a holiday donation of \$1,000 to the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB), as part of the KCFB's Harvest for ALL initiative, was made by Pitstick, seconded by Gaitsch and carried unanimously. All KCFB Harvest for ALL cash

donations are used by NIFB for its Milk2MyPLate initiative. President White dispensed with his monthly report to allow time for attendees at the recently concluded Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago to report on policy resolutions and their experiences at the meeting. KCFB Manager Steve Arnold reported on recent meetings with Kane County staff on topics related to the Food Hub and solar energy. He circulated handouts on solar energy and the County Agriculture Committee agenda and reviewed the performance of KCFB investments for the year. Arnold also reported on a tour that took place earlier in the day of the studios of 22 Creative

Group in Batavia, and announced a shipment of new farm toys for the KCFB Country Store/Gift Shop. Directors reported on activities at the IFB annual meeting held December 2-5 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. White announced awards for Kane County Farm Bureau including Top Young Farmer County Program Award and Harvest for All Program for the YF Committee and representation in the Discussion Meet "Sweet 16" by Sarah Lenkaitis and Carolyn Gehrke. KCFB also won the IFB's newest award, the New Horizon Award, for its Grain Bin Safety display, developed in cooperation of the studios of 22 Creative

(continued on page 8)

IFB members set policy, elect new officers during annual meeting

Delegates to the Illinois Farm Bureau's (IFB) Annual Meeting, held in Chicago Dec. 2-5, took part in one of the meeting's most honored and respected traditions: grassroots, member-driven discussion to set the organization's policy for the coming year.

Two of the most important actions by the delegate body were to pass their sense of the delegate body resolutions, including resolutions which dealt with the cost of healthcare and the importance of trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"Healthcare is a major concern because it's a major cost issue for our membership," said Mark Gebhards, executive director, Governmental Affairs and Commodities, IFB. "What the delegate body asked for in this particular resolution was for our board of directors to look for options that might be out there. As an organization, are there opportunities where we

can try to provide some choices or options in this health insurance area for our membership to look at?"

Delegates also passed a sense of the delegate body resolution expressing strong support for NAFTA and trade agreements.

"We are concerned, to say the least, with the administration's focus on potentially withdrawing from NAFTA," Gebhards said. "There's a lot of talk about bilateral and unilateral agreements with countries and that's great - we hope they come about. But we have a trade agreement here with NAFTA that is significantly important to agriculture and if we withdraw, we will see some negative impact on commodity prices and demand."

Gebhards said the resolution emphasized remaining in NAFTA and ensuring there's a plan in place for agriculture if the U.S. would happen to withdraw. To underscore support for the 23-year-old trade deal, members sent more than 1,100 text messages to members of Congress during annual meeting in support of NAFTA.

Delegates also focused their energy on several important policy submissions and changes, including solar energy. To start the business session Monday, delegates voted on and passed comprehensive policy to guide the organization in both

the legislative and regulatory arena as more solar farms are installed in the state.

"Solar farms are a new policy for us, a new area," Gebhards said. "The new policy will help landowners with some of the property rights issues, the assessment of these units for tax purposes, and how they will be decommissioned when their useful life is over."

Delegates also discussed conservation programs and the 2018 farm bill, putting policy in place which ensures there is opportunity for new acreage to be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, and that funding is maintained for crop insurance.

"There was extensive policy rewording and additions with

(continued on page 8)



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.

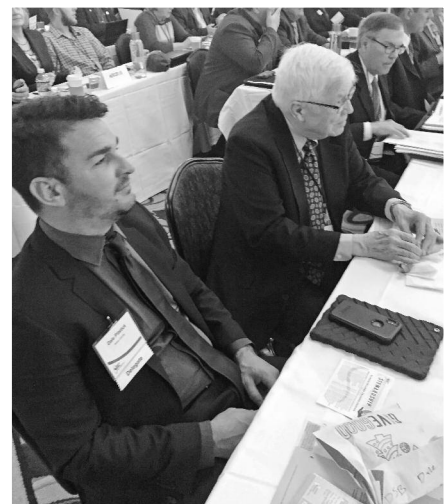
If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many other benefits of one of Illinois' premier 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												
JANUARY 2017 THRU DECEMBER 2017												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
F. CARLSON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. KECK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
 Steven J. Arnold, Editor
 Suzi Myers, Ag Literacy Coordinator
 Audre Pack, Training Specialist
 Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator
 Valerie Johnson, Administrative & Program Assistant
 Marty Keltner, Communications Specialist
OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38
Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles
PHONE: 630-584-8660
 info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday
(USPS No. 289700)
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kane County Farmer
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174
Periodical Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174
Year Subscription: \$2.00

<p>■ DISTRICT 1 Aurora, Sugar Grove, Big Rock Twnshp. Nan Long 11461 E. County Line Rd. Big Rock, IL 60511 815-693-7214 Donna Lehrer 7S027 Jericho Rd. Big Rock, IL 60511 630-556-3476 William Keck P.O. Box 281 Sugar Grove, IL 60554 630-466-4668</p>	<p>Joe White President 47W727 Main St. Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-557-2517 ■ DISTRICT 3 Virgil, Campton, St. Charles Twnshp. Frank Carlson 104 Sumac Court St. Charles, IL 60174 630-513-9980 Chris Collins 1143 Anderson Elburn, IL 60119 630-934-4642</p>	<p>Mike Kenyon Secretary/Treasurer 1250 E. Main St. South Elgin, IL 60177 847-741-1818 Craig Bradley 37W791 Orchard Lane Elgin, IL 60124 847-888-2380 ■ DISTRICT 5 Hampshire, Rutland, Dundee Twnshp. Joe Engel 516 Sawgrass Ln. Hampshire, IL 60140 847-347-5561</p>
<p>■ DISTRICT 2 Kaneville, Blackberry, Gen./Bat. Twnshp. Bill Collins 1125 Lewis Rd. Geneva, IL 60134 630-484-6852 Karl Kettelkamp OS860 Rowe Rd. Elburn, IL 60119 630-365-2713</p>	<p>Dale Pitstick 128 N Hadsall St. Genoa, IL 60135 630-816-0223 ■ DISTRICT 4 Burlington, Plato Elgin Twnshp. Beth Gehrke 12N860 US Hwy. 20 Elgin, IL 60124 847-697-2538</p>	<p>Gerald Gaitsch 10613 Brittany Ave. Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-2003 Wayne Schneider Vice President 721 Lindsay Lane West Dundee, IL 60118 847-428-0488</p>



Beef store is now open!
By appointment only

farmdirect **BLACKANGUS.com**

100% hormone free beef.
 Selling individual cuts. Buy as little or as much as you want.

815.895.4691
 Mark & Linda Schramer, Owners
 8N840 Lakin Road, Maple Park

Sample Packs make great gifts!

From Batavia... 'This Week in Agribusiness'

In November, KCFB member and *Kane County Farmer* reader Timothy Lowe reached out to the Kane County Farm Bureau office to see if staff would be interested in knowing that the nationally syndicated TV show, "This Week in Agribusiness" was produced here in Kane County. Lowe offered staff the opportunity, literally not far down the road, for a studio tour, to watch a recording of the weekly show, and to interview Max Armstrong and Orion Samuelson. Of course we said yes!

Lowe is a Producer and Director of Sales at 22 Creative Group Studios on Fabyan Parkway east of Kirk Road. After attending college in Atlanta and attaining a degree in communications/broadcasting, he found that he was most interested in the visual storytelling of broadcasting. Lowe worked for 28 years at a TV studio in Aurora until its closure in 2017.

While working in Aurora, Lowe met and worked with fellow Producers/Directors Angelo Lazzara and Ryan Ruh.

Following the closure of the Aurora studio, Ruh and Lazzara paired up to form 22 Creative Group, as a location to produce "This Week in Agribusiness" with Max Armstrong and Orion Samuelson and serve other clients.

The production work includes lots of travel, like a recent trip to Frankenmuth, MI, to film a portion of the Christmas edition of "This Week in Agribusiness." Lowe travels to other locations for projects, often with Ryan Ruh, Producer, Director, Co-Owner and a native Kane County "farm kid." One of his favorites is the annual pilgrimage to Farm Progress Show. "I love agriculture and the business of farming, it is such an integral part of our country," said Lowe.

On December 7th, KCFB staffers Steve Arnold and Marty Keltner were guests of the 22 Creative Group Studios team. The pair were on set to experience what it's like behind the scenes of producing a nationally syndicated television show and

what it takes to put it all together. They met Max Armstrong, Orion Samuelson, Meteorologist Greg Soulje, Jamie Johansen, Communications Catalyst at Honey Creek Media,



Angelo Lazzara

and Naomi Blohm, Sr. Market Advisor at Stewart-Peterson. All were recording segments to be aired November 9, in the year-end special and combined into the "Best of" airing the first week of January.

From the control room, FB staff watched Lazzara direct the work in front of the camera, checking in with and providing instruction to the crew on the set, calling out for microphones, wires, and cameras to be adjust-

ed, positioning Max, Orion, Greg, Naomi, or Jamie, and adjusting the sound boards ready at his fingertips. They watched, quietly, as Max and Orion performed their well-rehearsed, familiar "dance" of who will speak when and what for each story, all without Teleprompters. A call in from NAFB President Elect Tom Cassidy from New York proved interesting as he spoke on topics like immigration – the need for labor – and the urgency of produce harvesting. Ripening crops wait for no one. Occasionally Orion Samuelson would excuse himself from the set (at the half an hour mark) to broadcast, live, his market report on WGN using a portable broadcasting system.

Lazzara and Ruh provided a demonstration of putting video together using offline editing. The video was then uploaded and sent to a contact in the industry who provides a captioning and transcription service. The next day it was returned

to the studio for quality control by the team before the roughly 22 gigabyte file is sent by File Transfer Protocol, which takes approximately 45 minutes. The last step is to be uploaded to the web, so the file must be compressed.

The morning flew by and before they knew it, the opportunity to interview Max Armstrong and Orion Samuelson was upon them. Each iconic broadcaster set the tone, making them feel as though they were simply having a conversation about agriculture, discussing farming concerns, and exploring their past, present, and future as ag broadcasters. In the coming months, on the pages of the *Kane County Farmer*, those thoughts will be shared with our readers. Stay tuned!

Kane County Farm Bureau extends a hearty "Thank You" to all those involved in making the visit a great learning experience. We know just how busy everyone is and we appreciate the time given to us to share our experience with our Kane County community.

A REFLECTION OF MY FIRST 30 DAYS

By Marty Keltner



Some people believe in fate, some people believe in luck. I don't believe in either, as neither have ever seemed to work in my favor. I do, however, believe in signs, literal and figurative. The day I drove by the KCFB building and finally "saw" the sign is the day that I knew working for an organization that makes a difference in people's lives was indeed a sign. The rest is now history and believe it or not, I have just over two months under my belt as Communications Specialist here at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

What have I been doing in my first 60 days you ask? If you're reading this article, then you've most likely read about many of the monthly happenings I've been involved in, however, what you don't know is that many aspects are not only new to me, but terribly exciting to fresh eyes like mine!

I grew up on a beef cattle ranch in Eastern Montana that also raised AQHA registered horses and a few pigs and sheep

for my 4-H projects. In addition to animals, we also grew oats, barley, and wheat – all via dry-land farming on our ranch. Along the Yellowstone River we have an irrigated farm where we still grow alfalfa and corn for feed. After arriving at the Kane County Farm Bureau and learning that nearly all of Illinois farming is dry-land, I was shocked! Annual rainfall in Eastern Montana ranges from 10-15", whereas St. Charles averages 34"! This alone has given me an entirely new perspective on dry-land farming. Because our operation for farming is secondary to our cattle ranching, we also don't have the newest technology I have witnessed like GPS application, auto-steer, and even soil sampling.

To get back to what I've been doing, a few of the highlights since I arrived have been listening to thought-provoking speakers such as Temple Grandin and John O'Leary, meeting broadcasting icons Orion Samuelson

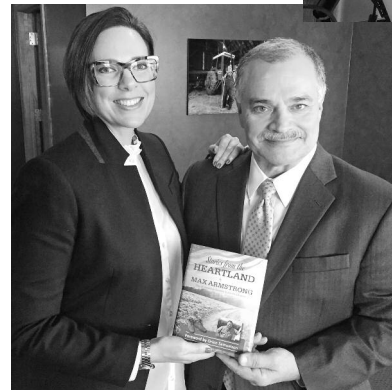
and Max Armstrong while touring 22 Creative Group studios, and participating in a sustainability tour on a local farm with McDonald's corporate, thus familiarizing myself with current farming practices. These are just a few of the experiences I've had and not only learned valuable lessons from, but truly appreciate and can apply newfound knowledge to my work here at the KCFB.

Attending the IAA Annual Meeting held at the Palmer House in Downtown Chicago was instrumental in my Farm Bureau "education." While there, I went out of my way to introduce myself to fellow Farm Bureau'ers from different counties and speak to them about their role in the organization, their experience, and how many years they had been attending the conference. Whether they had attended only a few years or 30+ years, each person was a pleasure to meet. Being introduced to the processes, the policies, and being exposed to the true meaning of the organization has further solidified my immediate impression that the Farm Bureau plays a critical role in not only "Farm. Family. Food.", but life. Life does not exist without food grown on farms by families who care about not only their family, but yours.

Top photo: Angelo Lazzara demonstrates how separate video footage is combined into a single episode of "This Week in Agribusiness."



Above: Taking a break from taping, Orion Samuelson gives his on-air WGN market report on the half hour. Using a portable broadcasting system, Orion is able to give reports anywhere he goes which is conducive to his varied travel schedule.



Left: Max Armstrong presents his book, Stories from the Heartland, to Marty Keltner of the KCFB. This book will be added to the Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy library, which is open to the public. Stop by to check out our signed copy!

Top: On December 8th, the National Dairy Association held a work day and holiday party at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva. KCFB staff Steve Arnold, Liz Polovin, and Marty Keltner had the great pleasure of presenting a check for \$1,000, courtesy of the Kane County Farm Bureau, to Julie Yurko, CEO of the NIFB, as a donation to the Milk2MyPlate program in the presence of the National Dairy Association.



New Milk2MyPlate Logo



Bottom: Because milk is rarely donated, in 2012, Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. and the Northern Illinois Food Bank teamed up to create the Milk2MyPlate program where milk is delivered directly to local food pantries every week. All cash donations to KCFB Harvest for ALL program are used to support Milk2MyPlate.



2nd Location

in Wasco

40W296 Wasco Rd. Wasco, IL
2N492 Kirk Rd. St Charles, IL
630-584-2024

**Locally Owned & Operated
Feed Store where everyone
is treated like family**










DONALD J. FEE, DDS

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

26 W. CROSS ST. SUGAR GROVE DONALDFEEDDS.COM

630-466-4511

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Recently, I returned from a trip to four different countries in Eastern Europe that used to make up the dissolved country of Yugoslavia. While there, I would send a few photos to family and friends showing

what I had been up to that day. My sister commented once, "You find agriculture every place you go."

She hit the nail on the head with this comment, as I do look for agriculture on every trip I

Book of the month

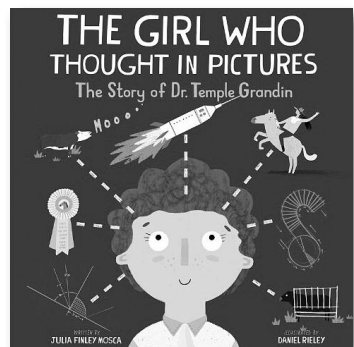
Having been lucky enough to attend two of Temple Grandin's lectures and visit a farm that has incorporated some of her ideas for moving cattle, I was so excited to see this book.

The book is a treasure house of information, tracking the life of Temple from birth to the present. It tells of the trials she encountered being autistic and how seeing the world through pictures was her greatest asset. Some reasons to check out this book: helping a child see that being different is a good thing, finding what you're good at and pursuing it, and that science is cool.

The end of the book has a time line, some good informa-

tion about Temple and a letter to children from Temple Grandin.

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures is available for loan from our library. Stop by and browse anytime.



The Girl Who Thought in Pictures – The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca

Livestock and antique tractors sought for Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau's 13th annual Touch-A-Tractor will be held Friday – Sunday, April 6-8 and preparations are in full swing. Our goal is to make this year the best one yet, and would love your help. We are currently seeking person(s) interested in bringing antique tractors or farm animals to the event. This is a great way to show the community what you or your business has to offer.

The farm to city event is widely populated by the entire northern Illinois area, as it provides kids with the opportunity to touch and even sit in seats of big machines they normally only see from the road. They can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and visit animals such as baby chickens, sheep, a calf and a miniature

horse at the farm zoo.

Please call us if you have an antique tractor or farm animals that you could bring to the event. We also need farmers, or



Touch-A-Tractor – the name says it all! Well almost. There are dozens of hands-on activities and fun for the family. Come on out to the Farm Bureau to celebrate the coming of spring, April 6-8, 2018.

retired farmers, to explain how the equipment works, volunteers to take tickets and staff kids games, make popcorn, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or have tractors or equipment to share, please complete and return the form below.

Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

____ Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Saturday, April 7 or Sunday, April 8)

____ I would like to bring the following farm equipment or livestock to display for your guests

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/livestock. 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



Touch-A-Tractor

KANE COUNTY FARMER

take. This was a new aspect of my travel when I first started in this job, now I'm always curious about agriculture and foods in whatever place I visit.

During the trip, I saw many fields of corn, wheat, barley, oats and even some with a cover crop, while some were left open to wind and rain erosion. We spent a day amongst what used to be a great agricultural area, where combines were busy harvesting the crops. However, most harvests I saw were small enough areas to be done by hand. If the hay was harvested with machines, it was baled into squares, rectangles or circles. If the hay had been manually harvested, it was stacked into a covered bin or around a stick that went from the floor of the stack to about a foot above the top into a rounded teepee type structure. This stick was supposed to keep the hay dry.

People with small gardens or fields hung corn from their eaves to have it dry and ready to grind when needed. Some had large narrow bins for the corn storage. I did see one large set of grain bins like we see around here.

Markets sold all sorts of grains in small packets. The markets also had a public scale close by so people could weigh their purchases to see that they hadn't been cheated by the vendor.

Whole cleaned chickens

were on display with their feet in the cavity, where the half chickens had only one foot on top of them. I asked why the feet were included and was told that it makes a delicious stock. All the soup I ate was delicious, maybe that's part of the reason.

Another thing found in the market in Slovenia was a raw milk dispenser. You could buy a fresh and clean container or bring your own, then put it under the spout and out would come fresh raw milk. (These machines reminded me of the water dispensers in our grocery stores.) They also used the whey from making cheese to make soaps; drinking it for health, or feeding their animals.

The vegetables, fruits, seafood, meats, sausages, cheeses, all varieties of fresh foods were available in the markets. I found it interesting where some of the vendors had long lines for their wares and others none. I asked about this and was told that the lines meant the vendor had good produce and was an honest person. My thoughts went to the public scales to check accuracy and also being a new vendor that hadn't proved themselves yet, how did they get customers? More unanswered questions.

Breads of all kinds were also in the market or in bakery shops. The sandwiches were

huge – as long as a double hamburger bun full of cheese, meat, cabbage and the famous roasted red pepper sauce.

A visit to a few local homes supported the fact that foods were mostly prepared by the housewife. She made pickled vegetables, cabbage and turnip kraut, cheeses, sausages, brandy, wine, and countless jams and jellies. Soups were simple, yet delicious. Folks didn't go out to restaurants, they ate at home.

We did visit a couple of agritourism spots. One was a winery that had wine tasting and explained the process of making their wines. Another was a restaurant with only home grown foods served ... this is a requirement of agritourism in Croatia, all products had to be grown on that particular farm. Another was a bed and breakfast type business. Each of these establishments began because the people could not make enough money in agriculture, so they diversified. The villages were losing farmers to jobs in the city or even moving to another country. Many of the farmers have been losing money for years, so tough decisions have had to be made.

My trip was a mixture of agriculture, history, culture, scenic beauty and interesting, friendly people. I'm left with many wonderful memories.

Helping you protect what matters most



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



Bob Effner, CLF®, LUTCF
 St. Charles – Elgin
 Agency Manager
 St. Charles
 630-584-0001



Edward Stuehm
 Geneva
 630-845-8245



Ashraf Gerges
 Aurora
 630-898-3750



Todd Wilcox
 St. Charles
 630-762-1326



Michael O'Brien
 Geneva
 630-762-0852



Sherri Schramer
 Elburn
 630-365-9500



Bobbi Boston
 St. Charles
 630-485-5155



Luke Fawkes
 Elgin
 847-742-0001



Dominick Davero
 Elburn
 630-365-3737



Keith Eakins
 St. Charles
 630-762-1324



Jonathan Gonzalez
 Elgin
 847-742-0001



Chuck Quick
 Hampshire
 847-683-2100



Kelly Landorf
 St. Charles
 630-762-1328



Sherry Lochen
 Elgin
 847-742-0001



Josh Austin
 Hampshire
 847-683-2100



Donna Tonovitz
 St. Charles
 630-549-7694



Bob Riedel
 West Dundee
 847-428-5434



Dan Cooper
 Sugar Grove
 630-466-9600



Orazio Difruscolo
 St. Charles
 630-549-7696



Gary Bolger
 West Dundee
 847-531-6110



Ted Schuster
 Sugar Grove
 630-466-9600



Bob Kearns
 S. Elgin
 847-888-3200



David Murray
 Montgomery
 630-897-2364



Sonny Ellen
 Sugar Grove
 630-466-9600

Auto, home and business insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. Fixed annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®. All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Tasty tidbits about canned goods

- **1795** – the French government, led by Napoleon, offered a prize of 12,000 francs to anyone who could invent a method of preserving food for its army and navy.
- **1809** Nicolas Appert, “Father of canning,” received the 12,000 franc prize from the French government for preserving food by sterilization.
- **August 25, 1810** – Peter Durand, a British merchant, received the first patent for the idea of preserving food using tin cans. The patent was granted on August 25, 1810 by King George III of England.
- **1818** – Peter Durand introduced the tin-plated can in America.
- **1819** – Thomas Kensett, Sr. and Ezra Daggett of England canned oysters, fruits, meats and vegetables in New York.
- **1825** – Kensett patented the tinplated can in America.
- **1847** – Allen Taylor, an American, patented a machine-stamped tin can with extension edges.
- **1849** – The pendulum press which, when combined with a die device, could make a can end in a single operation. Machinery increased individual worker production from five or six cans per hour to 50 or 60 per hour.
- **1864-1920** – The can industry developed rapidly in this era in order to take advantage of the burgeoning market. While canning had previously existed as a cottage industry, where can making and canning were undertaken by the same company at the same location, growing demand and automation technology gave birth to separate enterprises.
- **1870** – The can opener was invented, before that, hammers and wedges were used to open cans.
- **1930-1985** – An advertising campaign for carbonated beverages advised consumers in 1956 to “Enjoy Sparkling Soft Drinks!” and “Life is Great When You Carbonate!” Soft drinks were being marketed as a digestive aid.
- **1965-1975** – The most critical element in the aluminum can’s success was its recycling value.
- **2004** – Easy open lids for food products eliminate the need of a can opener and are touted as the top packaging innovation of the last 100 years.
- **2006** – Single-serve bowl shaped cans with easy open lids enable convenient access to ready-to-eat meals or snacks.
- **2010** – America celebrates the 200th anniversary of the can and the 75th anniversary of the beverage can.

How to make Banana Bread in a Can

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3/4 c vegetable oil | 1 tsp baking powder | 1/2 c milk or buttermilk |
| 2 large eggs, beaten | 1 tsp baking soda | 3 medium/large ripe bananas, mashed |
| 1 tsp vanilla extract | 1/2 tsp salt | 1/2 c walnut pieces |
| 2 c all purpose flour | 1 1/2 c sugar | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray 4 (15 oz.) or 3 (26 oz.) cans with non-stick spray. Mash bananas in separate bowl and set aside.

In large bowl, beat eggs. Add oil and vanilla, mix well. In a separate bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, soda, salt and sugar. Add to wet ingredients alternately with the milk. Add bananas. Beat until smooth, fold in walnuts.

Fill cans 1/2 full. Set cans on cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 60 minutes OR UNTIL DONE (toothpick inserted in center should come out clean). They will be a nice golden brown. Time depends on the size of the can. Cool in cans on rack until you can touch, at least 5 minutes. Remove from cans and cool completely on rack. Wrap in plastic. Very moist! Freezes well. You can mail the bread in the can to family far away ... arrives intact and yummy.



To store Canned Food wisely, follow these guidelines:

- Store in a cool, clean, dry place where temperatures are below 85° F but not freezing temperatures.
- Rotate foods so the oldest is used first.
- Use canned meats and seafood within 3 years of the date on the package.
- Use low-acid canned foods like vegetables and soup within 3 years of the date on the package.
- Use high-acid foods like fruit, pickles and tomatoes within 2 years of the date on the package.
- Canned fruit juices can be stored up to 1 years.
- Foods stored longer will be safe to eat if the cans do not show signs of spoilage or damage, but the foods may deteriorate in color, flavor and nutritional value.

Never use foods from containers with these spoilage warning signs:

- Loose or bulging lids on jars
- Bulging, leaking or badly dented cans (especially along the top, side and bottom seams)

Canning

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

AFFORDABLE
 ALUMINUM
 APPERT
 CARBONATED
 DURAND
 ECONOMICAL
 ENGLAND
 FOOD
 FRENCH
 FRUIT
 KENSETT
 MEAT
 METAL
 NAPOLEON
 NUTRITION
 PRESERVE
 PRODUCTION
 RECYCLE
 SOUP
 SPAM
 STEEL
 STILTS
 TIN
 VEGETABLES
 WASTE

January is...

National

- Bath Safety Month
- Blood Donor Month
- Braille Literacy Month
- Hobby Month
- Hot Tea Month
- Oatmeal Month
- Soup Month

January 2018 Daily Holidays

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 Fruitcake Toss Day
- 4 National Spaghetti Day and Trivia Day
- 5 National Bird Day
- 6 Bean Day
- 10 National Take the Stairs Day – second Wednesday of month.
- 13 Friday the 13th
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, celebrated on the third Monday
- 19 National Popcorn Day and National Tin Can Day
- 20 National Cheese Lover Day
- 23 National Pie Day
- 24 Beer Can Appreciation Day
- 27 Chocolate Cake Day
- 29 National Puzzle Day
- 31 Backward Day and New Year's Eve

A CAN OF CORNY JOKES

Q: Why did the can crusher quit his job?

A: Because it was soda pressing.

Q: Why did the man stare at the can of orange juice?

A: Because it said “concentrate”

Q: What do you call a pig that gets fired from his job?

A: Canned ham!

When we put vegetables up for the winter, we use jars, but we call it canning. I find that jarring. And uncanny.

– Greg Tamblyn

Congratulations

Carol Coon! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month’s Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a basket of holiday themed goodies. Thank you, Carol, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by January 15, 2018 to be entered in our drawing for a canned goods themed prize.

The importance of NAFTA to agriculture in the States—2016

As modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA 2.0, continues, concerns from the agricultural community over a potential NAFTA withdrawal have intensified. NAFTA supporters point toward the tens of billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural exports delivered to our NAFTA partners each year, or point out that exports to Mexico and Canada represent 30 percent of all U.S. agricultural exports. Put simply, Mexico and Canada are among our top three export markets.

Total withdrawal from NAFTA would make U.S. farmers and ranchers less competitive in our top export markets – and could result in billions of dollars of agricultural products accumulating in inventories – further weakening the U.S. farm economy. The integration of the North American agricultural market that has occurred over the last quarter century is at risk.

Which States Would be Hit Hardest?

During 2016 \$38 billion in U.S. agricultural products were delivered to our NAFTA partners, with approximately \$20.3 billion going to Canada and \$17.8 billion to Mexico. Already, through September 2017, exports to Mexico are up 6 percent over year-ago levels and total NAFTA exports are up 3 percent.

One would expect the value of agricultural exports to be the highest in areas densely concentrated with agricultural production of grains, oilseeds, livestock, dairy and horticultural products. However, the value of agricultural exports does not communicate the relative importance of NAFTA to each state.

Several states depend heavily on NAFTA for a share of their total export volume. On average, 30 percent of U.S. agricultural exports are delivered to our NAFTA partners. However, during 2016 two-thirds of states had a higher

export percentage to NAFTA than the U.S. average. An additional 13 states had more than 50 percent of their agricultural exports go to NAFTA partners.

During 2016, 80 percent of all agricultural exports from Vermont went to NAFTA partners. The top five states in terms of percentage of agricultural exports to NAFTA partners were Vermont, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware and Missouri. These states would be

hit the hardest in the event of a NAFTA withdrawal. Of the contiguous 48 states, the least reliant on NAFTA for agricultural exports was Washington at 10 percent.

Implications

The drumbeat of a NAFTA withdrawal has become louder – despite resistance from U.S. farmers and ranchers and agricultural industry stakeholders. As the rhetoric increases it's important for policymakers,

industry stakeholders and farmers and ranchers to know that every single state in the U.S. benefits from exporting agricultural products to our NAFTA partners. Agriculture is not the only beneficiary. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that nearly 13 million jobs depend on NAFTA, representing approximately 8 percent of the U.S. labor force. Jobs that depend on NAFTA are all across rural – and urban, America.



Coaxing kids to be cool with the 'uncool'

Love doesn't keep a tally, so I'll just say that our nine-year-old son frequently tells me, "My friends don't have to do that."

Chores, yard work, extra division practice, typing tutorials ... the reference to what his friends are doing (or not doing) provides the universal excuse to negotiate or avoid Mom's assigned task. At bedtime, I analyze my day as a mother and often pray for help to be better at my role. In these days of instant communication, slipping work ethic, decreased privacy and increasing conceitedness, I face persistent challenges to keep my kids grounded in values of hard work, self-sufficiency, humbleness and consideration for others. We can't escape these cultural influences out

here in farm country, and I assume we share these challenges with our urban and suburban counterparts who have similar values. Contrary to our son's belief, I think some kids do "have to do that."

But, I'm afraid not enough. Popular culture and mainstream media consistently throw darts at my day. They tell kids it's cool to be athletic, own a cell phone at a young age, and voice their opinion on social media rather than possess the self-control to remain reserved. It's cool to publicly showcase private moments. It's cool to be entertained and on-the-go all the time. It's cool to be successful, with success measured by fame, wealth and materialism.

Mike Rowe, former host of the TV Show "Dirty Jobs," deserves credit for publicly associating lack of coolness with the skills gap: Our culture generally lacks interest in and respect for physically demanding careers and thus don't train for these jobs that now have employee shortages. I find that the analogy applies not only to uncelebrated blue-collar jobs, but that some accomplishments and values also

consistently fall short of the societal praise and celebration they deserve. Like privacy rather than publicizing your day on Facebook or Twitter. Like diving deep into a talent or 4-H project rather than playing every single sport that's glorified in our nation's school systems. Like work ethic, at-home parenting, domestic responsibilities or owning a minivan.

Individually, we give value to what we prioritize. Often, I find that popular culture does not always align with our household's values, which is fine except when counter opinions publicly marginalize our choices. I want our kids to uphold values that speak to them without society speaking for them. I want them to feel appreciated when there is no engraved trophy or even financial gain to recognize what they set out to accomplish. In the end, only they can be cool with what society deems uncool, and I hope they live a fulfilling life with chosen values that will shape who they want to become.

About the author: Joanie Stiers is a mother of two farm kids in West-Central Illinois.

Potential Effects of a U.S. NAFTA Withdrawal: Agricultural Markets:

"In general, the application of MFN tariffs on U.S. agricultural imports would likely raise prices both to U.S. consumers and other end users, such as manufacturers of value-added food products. MFN tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports would, in turn, likely make U.S. products in those markets less price-competitive and more costly to foreign buyers, which could result in reduced quantities sold. Given that certain agricultural products dominate U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico – such as meat products, grains and feed, and processed foods – these products could become more costly and less competitive as MFN tariffs are imposed and other trade preferences are removed under a NAFTA withdrawal. This could result in reduced market share for U.S. products in these markets."

— Congressional Research Service

80 years of grain moving



Alvah Withey Jr., a property owner in Kaneville, recently donated a number 16 scoop shovel to the Kane County Farm Bureau. Although it doesn't look like much, this wooden handled, steel grain scoop was part of a 1937 membership drive for Kane County Farm Bureau's 25th Anniversary. Each member who signed a new member in 1937 received a similar shovel, an essential tool for farmers 80 years ago.

In a 2012, KCFB renewed the membership recruitment offer and a dozen members received "grain scoops" as part of our Centennial, albeit this time with fiberglass handles and aluminum scoops. The shovel was originally presented to Withey's father, Alvah Withey Sr. "I remembered holding this shovel when I was 8 year old," said Alvah Withey Jr.

Alvah Withey, Jr. posing with a KCFB 25th Anniversary membership recruitment prize from 1937.

Alvah Withey, we thank you for your donation and for helping us remember our history!



The "Kane County Kiss Me's" teamed up to participate in the 2017 Winter Olympics themed Trivia Night at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, held December 2-5 at the Palmer House, Downtown Chicago. Although a "win" wasn't in the cards, all had a great time competing.

Back row, L-R: Bill Keck, Craig Bradley, Gladys Arnold, Frank Carlson, Beth Gehrke, Joe White, Steve Arnold, Louise Johnson. Front row, L-R: Marty Keltner, Bonnie White

Lucky's ENERGY SERVICE

"Fuel Is Our Life"

We offer wet hosing, bulk tank fills and package lubricants – D.E.F, Oil, Hydraulic, Diesel and Gas for all your needs.

We are a 24/7 Fuel Supplier servicing Illinois – Wisconsin – Indiana
Call us today at 847-994-3010 or visit us online at www.luckysenergy.com
Growing To Serve You Better

johnson
Water Conditioning Co.

Free Water Analysis

Kane County Farm Bureau members receive 10% discount on all service work.

Water Softeners
Iron & Sulphur Filters
Drinking Water Systems
Sales-Rentals-Service
All Makes

FACTORY DIRECT PRICES
◆◆◆◆ NO FIX - NO CHARGE ◆◆◆◆

VISA MasterCard
630-584-5559
www.johnsonwater.com

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
MEMBER Water Quality ASSOCIATION

Young Farmers update

The Young Farmers met November 15th to hold elections and discuss upcoming activities and recent events. The Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

was discussed, including attendees, a group dinner, and events specifically for the Young Farmers.

There was only one item of

old business to discuss – modifying the grain bin/farm safety display to add a larger viewing platform. It was decided that the Young Farmers could make the needed plans and changes to the current display at John Biddle's Farm Shop in February.

The 2018 IFB Young Leader Conference, January 19-20 in East Peoria. Registration is due December 20. \$625 in award checks from IFB for leading the state in Harvest for ALL contributions and for the Outstanding County YL Program were presented. To celebrate the holidays, a Christmas dinner will be held at ZaZa's in early January. An FFA Acquaintance Day will be scheduled as a volunteer service event at Northern Illinois Food Bank on March 1st from 5-7pm. The last item of new business was to set up the Annual Euchre Tournament on March 2nd at 6:30 pm. Everyone looks forward to the competition again this year!

The election of officers was then held. Carolyn Gehrke was elected chairman and Michael Long was elected Secretary. Congrats to both individuals!

Annual Meeting report: on Saturday, December 2, Sarah

Farmer's Dinner downtown at Seven Lions on Michigan Avenue. They had a wonderful evening, and would like to thank everyone who joined them. The Young Farmers received a Most Outstanding Project award at the IFB Annual Meeting for building a Mobile Grain Bin Safety Display (in cooperation with AGCO Parts, Batavia) and Gold award in the Committee Excellence category.

Young Farmers meetings are open to KCFB members age 18-35 and new faces are always welcome. Check Kane County Farm Bureau's Facebook page for upcoming meeting dates and outings or call 630-584-8660.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

TODD WILCOX has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for November 2017 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Todd has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Todd's expertise help you! You may reach Todd at 630-762-1326, todd.wilcox@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.country

financial.com/todd.wilcox/. Congratulations, Todd!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Alicia Giglione, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for November 2017. Alicia began her career with COUNTRY Financial in October of 2016 and services clients out of her office located at: 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542- (630) 423-9888. Alicia's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, and commercial products make her a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Alicia!

Future Young Leader Events:

Jan 19th & 20th: ILFB Young Leader's Conference in East Peoria

March 1st: FFA Acquaintance Day volunteer at NIFB

March 2nd: Euchre Tournament at the Kane County Farm Bureau

Lenkaitis and Carolyn Gehrke represented District 1 in the 2017 Young Leader's Discussion Meet. Both advanced to the "Sweet 16" round of competition. Jesse Faber of Livingston County won the meet and will represent Illinois Farm Bureau in competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Nashville in January.

That same evening, a group of 11 members and guests enjoyed the annual Young

Grant

(continued from page 1)

lead on nutrient loss. They are trying new practices and forming new partnerships in their local communities to tackle this important issue."

In addition to Kane, Farm Bureau grant recipients include: Bureau, Clinton, Franklin, Fulton, Hancock, Jo Daviess, Knox, Lee, Livingston, McDonough, McLean, Pike, Stark, Washington, Wayne, Winnebago-Boone and a tri-county partnership of Henry, Mercer and Rock Island County Farm Bureaus.

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Sherry Lochen! Sherry has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since November 2012. Her office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl., Suite 20, Elgin. As a token of our appreciation, Sherry receives two tickets to Charlestowne Movie Theater. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Sherry Lochen

Special thanks

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to thank Jay Schrock and the staff at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse in St. Charles for the use of their greenhouse and assistance with the KCFB annual citrus sale distribution in December. The Schrock family has allowed Farm Bureau to use its warm and inviting greenhouses for citrus distribution to our members on cold December days for a quarter century. We appreciate their generosity in helping to provide this service to Kane County Farm Bureau members.

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 November 15-December 15, 2017.



KCFB FOUNDATION

Donor
Harold & Denise Marks,
Marks Christmas Trees
Suzon Scott

Beneficiary

FOUNDATION Scholarships
FOUNDATION Scholarships



HARVEST FOR ALL

Donor
Karl & Julie Kettelkamp and
Paul "Griz" Stover
Jon DeRaedt – DeRaedt
Grain Farms
Mike & Carol Kenyon
Suzi Myers
Wayne Schneider & Lisa Geisler
Alan and Gayle Volpp

Beneficiary

Elburn Food Pantry

Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry
Food for Greater Elgin
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry

FB ACT—Act today, win tomorrow

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

Members are invited to join FB ACT by texting FARM to 52886. Follow the prompts to sign up and IFB will send occasional alerts (approximately

4-8 per year) when action is requested of you to contact state and national official on policy issues of importance to farms and farmers. Your decision to follow-up on each issue is voluntary.

For more information on FB ACT or other was to influence policy in Springfield, Washington, D.C. or locally in Geneva, Illinois, contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660. And if you're in the area, stop by our office to pick up a FB ACT credit-card holder for your cell phone.

Text to act!
Text "FARM" to 52886

Text "FARM" to 52886

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

CONNECT WITH US



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

SERVICES

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

DnJ Heating & Cooling & Services – Furnace clean & check \$60 for KCFB members residing in Kane County. Water heater, sump pumps, dryer vent cleaning, home maintenance, electrical, plumbing, gas, sinks, toilets, garage doors, sliding doors, home generators. Service area: Kane, DeKalb, Kendall, DuPage, Will & NW Cook County. Schedule today – Call: 630 788 1184

WANTED

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

HELP WANTED, MULTIPLE ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE Position, 30-35 hours weekly, applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. Some over-night travel required.

Part-time CUSTOMER SERVICE position, perfect for the parent with child in school. Applicant must be computer literate with pleasant phone voice and manner. This day-time position may include over-night travel.

SHOP ASSOCIATE position, 15-20 hours weekly depending on available work; Basic computer skills necessary to use engravers and other equipment.

All applicants must be self-starters and able to work as part of a team. Our office is located on East side of St. Charles. We work occasional Saturdays as required and do not work Sunday. We offer paid vacation, a Self-Directed Saving Plan, and Partial Tuition Reimbursement. Call: Bob at: 630 377 5807

FOR RENT

Country cottage charm farmhouse for rent. 3 bedrooms with walk-in closets. 1.5 baths, Eat-in kitchen with new appliances, full basement/porch, new washer & dryer. 2 car garage. Includes: electric, lawn maintenance & snow plowing. West of Aurora, near I-88. No smoking or pets. Good credit. Call: 630 308 4363



Recycle Scrap for CASH

Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars

Trucking & Dumpster Service Available

"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

Zimmerman Recycling, Inc.
301 Industrial Drive, DeKalb
(815) 756.8600

16th annual Shopping Spree to be held in February

KCFB's 16th annual shopping spree, where public officials race to collect food for local food pantries, will be held next month. Legislative and Public Relations Committee volunteers are making arrangements with potential contestants and hope to hold the event at the Batavia Jewel-Osco, host for the first 15 such events.

The public will be invited to come watch the two local public officials chosen by the Committees as they race to collect food to help restock the shelves of two area food

pantries.

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 tens of thousands of dollars in groceries for local food pantries.

Through this and other hunger relief efforts including Harvest for ALL and the related Million Meal Challenge, KCFB members have donated the equivalent of nearly 2 million meals to area food pantries.

Touch-A-Tractor returns in April

Kane County Farm Bureau's 13th Annual Touch-A-Tractor event brings a little bit of the farm to the city April 6 – 8 at Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Road at Oak Street, in St. Charles. Hours are Friday, noon to 4pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

This event is fun and educational for people of all ages and makes a great family outing. Kids can participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors,

shell corn, see farm animals, sit in the seat of a real tractor or combine, and enter for a FREE chance to win their very own pedal tractor.

Touch-A-Tractor admission is \$2 for adults or \$5 for families. All proceeds are used to support agricultural literacy and college scholarship programs of the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION. FREE admission is provided to all holders of a Raffle ticket stub for the

Foundation annual Winner's Choice Raffle.

At the conclusion of the events on Sunday, April 8, the KCFB Foundation will recognize 2018 Scholarship award winners.

If you'd like to bring an antique tractor or other farm equipment to Touch-A-Tractor, to add to the ambiance and enhance the learning environment for our city neighbors, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660.

Volunteer at Ag Days

This March, Kane County Farm Bureau and dozens of Ag Literacy volunteers will organize the 35th annual Ag Days at Mooseheart. Please consider being a part of this great tradition by volunteering your time on any of the days listed below.

For more than three decades, hundreds of Kane County 4th grade students have been gathering at Mooseheart Fieldhouse in March to learn about agriculture from farmers and represen-

tatives from local agribusinesses. This year's event will take place March 20-21 and the Farm Bureau would like your assistance with this Ag in the Classroom event.

Your help is needed during the following times chaperoning groups of students and teachers or providing 4-minute agricultural lessons.

Tuesday, March 20	9:00am-noon
Wednesday, March 21	9:00am-noon

Students rotate through a series of more than a dozen presentations on agricultural topics. This is one of the Farm Bureau's longest running and most popular programs. Students will learn about crops, livestock, natural resources, farm machinery and more.

Call 630-584-8660 to sign up for specific dates and times when volunteers are most needed.

Board meeting

(continued from page 2)

tion with AGCO Parts of Batavia. The County Farm Bureau won 3 Most Outstanding Project awards, again for the Safety Display, the SPROUTS reading program and the Stormwater Ag Advisory Committee and received recognition in 9 program areas:

Directors heard reports from the KC Board, Forest Preserve District and County Ag Committee. Bill Collins reported on donations thru the KCFB Foundation's Harvest for ALL program from: Jon DeRaedt, DeRaedt Grain Farm to Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry and Karl & Julie Kettel-

kamp & Paul "Griz" Stover to the Elburn Food Pantry.

In other reports, Schneider circulated State Legislative Voting Records for 2017 and reminded directors to Text FARM to 52886 to register for Farm Bureau action alerts. ACTIVATOR Trustee appointments at the January meeting. ACTIVATOR is the Illinois Farm Bureau's Political Action Committee.

White announced that Wayne Gehrke was appointed as District 1 IFB Young Farmers representative.

Correspondence was circulated from: Illinois Farm Bureau – announcing KCFB Young Farmers winners of the Harvest for ALL award & \$125 prize as well as the M.O.P. award & \$500 prize; Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry – thanks to KCFB

for a \$300 Harvest for ALL contribution; Fayette County Farm Bureau – announcing the discontinuation of the County Dental Plan member benefit; Garfield Farm Museum – thanking KCFB for a \$500 ICECF Challenge Grant contribution; and Florida Farm Bureau FOUNDATION – thanks for the contribution to Hurricane Irma Relief Fund. Correspondence to the following was circulated: County of Kane – enclosing an invoice for Professional Services per contract, and County of Kane – a letter of support for a USDA Farm to School Grant for raised bed gardens at the Juvenile Justice Center.

The board convened in Executive Session. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, January 4th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

to make sure any costs savings don't come out of those programs."

To finish the delegate business, the delegates re-elected President Richard Guebert, Jr., of Ellis Grove in Randolph County. They also elected a new vice president in Brian Duncan of Polo in Ogle County.

IFB policy

(continued from page 2)

respect to the 2018 farm bill, focusing on making sure that crop insurance remains our top priority, as well as conservation issues," Gebhards said. "The battle is going to be the funding side of this issue and we're going to do everything we can

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FARMERS!
Text FARM to 52886

Scholarship Corner

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION – 2018 scholarship applications are now available. Several scholarships are available to members or dependents of members pursuing higher education in an agricultural related field. Visit www.kanecfb.com to download an application. You'll also find scholarship requirements and a brochure to help in identifying careers and areas of study. Last year, the Foundation awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships and internships to area students. The application deadline is February 15, 2018, and recipients will be named in April. Call 630-584-8660 with questions. Below is a list of all scholarships offered by the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

KCFB FOUNDATION President's Scholarship (\$1,500 minimum)

The most outstanding application for a KCFB Foundation Scholarship from a high school senior will receive this award.

KCFB FOUNDATION Agriculture Scholarship (\$1,000 minimum)

For students pursuing degrees in agriculture related career fields whose parents are, and have been for the past two years, members of the Kane County Farm Bureau.

KCFB FOUNDATION General Scholarship (\$1,000 minimum)

For high school seniors only whose parents are, and have been for the past two years, members of the Kane County Farm Bureau.

John Buck Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

For college education are available to students from Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, DuPage, Lake, or Will counties pursuing higher education in agriculture related fields.

Blickle Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000 minimum)

A family memorial to support young people's agriculture aspirations, this scholarship provides one award for a student residing in Kane or Macon County, IL pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field.

AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship (\$2,500)

One award for the most outstanding applicant currently enrolled and who has completed at least one full year of college education, pursuing a degree in

an agriculture related field of study, residing in the state of Illinois.

AGCO Parts – 2 Scholarships each (\$1,000 minimum)

AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarship

For the college education of a woman pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field, who resides in the state of Illinois.

AGCO Parts Division Scholarship

For the college education of a student pursuing a degree in an agriculture related career field, who resides in the state of Illinois.

IAA Foundation – Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members and their children are encouraged to apply for 76 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, will be awarded in total of \$144,800 for the 2018-2019 school years.

A full listing of available scholarships, eligibility guidelines, and application documents are available at the respective Foundation websites, <http://www.kanecfb.com/scholarships.html> or www.iaafoundation.org. Application deadlines are February 15, 2018 for KCFB Foundation scholarships and Feb. 1, 2018 for IAA Foundation scholarships.

For more information, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation at 630 584-8660, or e-mail Steve Arnold, Executive Director at steve@kanecfb.com.

Private well testing offered 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 2018. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and this program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners in Kane County.

The program works simply as follows:

Step 1. Monday, February 12 – Friday, February 23, 2018

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, February 25, 2018

Collect the water sample.

Step 3. Monday, February 26, 2018

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

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

A. Basic Package (Nitrate

Package) – \$45.00

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

B. Pesticide Screen – \$80.00
Indicates the presence of triazine herbicides, Lasso, Dual or Harness.

C. Metals – \$95.00

Tests for 23 different metals.

More detailed sampling instructions will be included in each kit and additional information on how each test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation's District offices. Testing will be performed by Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, a certified lab that has been nationally recognized for its work in testing rivers and lakes, and results are mailed directly to your home. We are able to provide these deeply discounted testing fees because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested.

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

Didn't get your citrus this year?

Watch the *Kane County Farmer* for information on "truckload" sales on citrus, fresh Illinois peaches, local turkeys, hams and other foods throughout the year, or call us at 630 584-8660 to be added to a mailing list for all our food specials.