

Kane County Farmer



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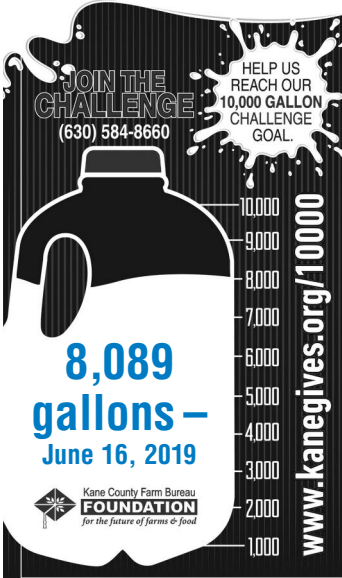
Enhance the quality of life for member families;
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Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 84 NO. 7 JULY 2019

Teachers connect the dots between Kane County farms ... and your table

If you attended KCFB's Summer Ag(riculture) Institute last month, then today you likely have mushrooms growing in a kit in a spare bedroom, a jar of honey on your counter, fresh Klein's flowers on the stoop, and have a new Buck Bros. John Deere hat on the rack in your hall.

In mid-June, KCFB held its annual Summer Ag Institute I



Contributions as of June 16 totaled 8,089 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries. To join us on our way to our dairy focused 10,000 gallon hunger relief goal, visit www.kanegives.org/10000. For more information on the initiative, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Updated results, including contributions from our June 29 at the ICE CREAM SOCIAL at the Dairy OPEN HOUSE at Lenkaitis Holsteins in Campton Hills will be reported in August.

KCFB CALENDAR JULY 2019

- 4 & 5** Office Closed/ Independence Day
- 11** Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- 13** Dairy Barn Dedication, Garfield Farm, 5 pm
- 16** Fair Set-up, Young Farmers, 6:00pm
- 18** Kane County Ag Cmte, 10 am, County Bldg.
- 18-21** Kane County Fair
- 21** WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE DRAWING, 4 pm, KC Fair
- 29, 30** IFB President's Conference, Normal
- 31** IFB Farm Income & Innovations Conf., Normal

for all area teachers interested in earning either credit toward an existing teacher license or three semester hours of credit at St. Francis University for learning about the local agricultural industry – more than just farms. Every year, the Summer Ag Institute features farm and industry tours, hands-on demonstrations, and lesson plan ideas and materials in bulk. The 6-day workshop is designed broadly for K-12 teachers and supports the integration of agricultural knowledge across all content areas.

The institute, organized by KCFB's Ag Literacy Coordinator, Suzi Myers, emphasizes relationships between society and farming, between our food and the fields. Broad and deep, KCFB's Summer Ag Institute provides a behind-the-scenes look at links between raw products, such as corn and soybeans, and the applied sciences, like nutrition and food science, things we may not learn in schools, especially where agriculture has been removed from the curriculum. Speaking to this year's teacher participants and

responding to their surprise at the technical application of genetics in farming, Nick Nagele of Whiskey Acres mused "how much science goes into [ag] and absolutely none of

it is taught."

This year, six teachers toured diverse aspects of the industry that illustrated the "dynamic diversification" of agriculture, as teacher participant Chris



Harry Patterson (left) discussing his apiary, the importance bees provide to agricultural crops, and products that can be made from their honey. He provided different examples of lessons the teachers can take back to their classrooms.

Summer Ag Institutes are offered every summer to teachers of any grade level for graduate credit CPDU's through Regional Office of Education. It is a week long course that visits a variety of agricultural-related sites from family farms to manufacturing facilities. Any questions or interest in this program can be directed to Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Myers announces retirement

Suzi Myers, Ag Literacy Coordinator for the Kane County Farm Bureau since 2004 recently announced her retirement effective August 9. She is shown here in her element, holding a piglet at Gould Farms in Maple Park.

See story on page 7



SAVE THE DATE!

Come on out to the ballpark for some FUN! Sunday, August 18th This is a fundraiser for the KCFB Foundation! Kane County Cougars vs. Clinton Lumberkings – 1:00 pm first pitch. Tickets only \$10.

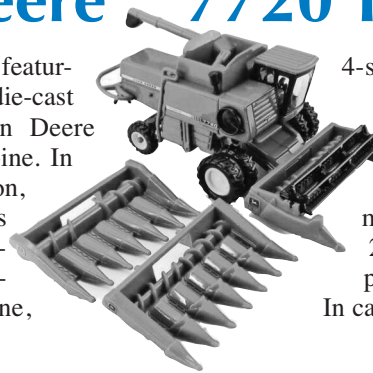
JULY FEATURED PRODUCT Lemon-Rosemary Pork Roast

Back by popular demand! The special this month is 3 individually wrapped, 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the tenderest part of the pork loin. They are designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°-160°F, sliced and used as an entrée. The roasts are netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$18.94 to Farm Bureau Members. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Offered while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd and Oak Street in St. Charles.

Farm Toy of the Month

John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine

For July, we are featuring a 1/64th metal die-cast replica of the John Deere 7720 Titan II Combine. In the full size version, this combine comes standard with a turbocharged, six cylinder diesel engine,



4-speed transmission, and weighs approximately 20,000 pounds.

In case your little

one has lots of corn fields to harvest, this farm toy comes with not one, but two corn heads in addition to a grain head. Regular price is \$20.99, but Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount and when you stop by, feel free to tell us your favorite combine story!

WIN THIS TRUCK!

The Grand Prize for the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's "Winner's Choice Raffle" this year is a red and white 1966 FORD F100 pickup truck, and boy is it a beauty! Tickets are 1/\$20, 3/\$50, and you can be the lucky winner of this truck OR one of two other Grand Prizes – a 1956 MASSEY HARRIS MODEL 333 or \$3,500 in cash.

Don't dilly dally as the drawing date, July 21st at 4pm, right after the 4-H Blue Ribbon sale, will be here before you know it. Other prizes include \$500 in groceries for 2nd place, \$500 in fuel for 3rd place. If you win, you can't lose!

Call us at 630-584-8660 or stop by our office* or building at the fair to buy your tickets – we take cash, check, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover) and with all proceeds benefiting Ag in the Classroom and Ag-related career scholarships, you'll win in more ways than one.



Farmers travel to Washington to discuss planting, trade

Illinois Farm Bureau's farmer leaders stepped away from their planters for 48 hours in mid-June to give Washington lawmakers a real-time account of the planting situation and discuss pressing issues impacting their profitability.

Trade, trade mitigation payments, crop insurance, rural broadband access and planting challenges dominated the conversations at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Advocacy Fly-In to Washington, D.C.

Illinois Farm Bureau leaders joined more than 150 other state Farm Bureau representatives in a series of sessions on policy and the political climate.

Illinois' delegation also met with the Risk Management Agency, multiple members of Congress, and U.S. Democratic Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois.

IFB District 8 Director David Serven returned to his Knox County farm most concerned about the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

"I feel USMCA is going to take a Herculean effort from the White House to get this passed," he said. "The politics are there that don't want to give Trump what they deem as a victory. It looks like it is going to be a hard issue to get passed."

During the short trip,

Guebert frequently told lawmakers that agriculture needed a "quick win" with ratification of USMCA, said Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau director of national legislation.

"I don't know how quick it's going to be," Nielsen said. "There is a lot caught up in politics right now, but we're going to keep talking about USMCA until it passes, or they say it's not going to be considered."

In addition to a push for USMCA, Farm Bureau representatives made frequent asks to extend the crop insurance premium payment deadline from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1. Guebert found agency representatives and law-

makers receptive, as IFB directors explained how spring's planting challenges will carry into fall harvest.

"As late as this planting season has been, most of the state is not going to be into harvest until maybe the first of October," Guebert said. "These payments are pretty good-sized checks. If we can harvest some of the crop, we can have access to cash to make payments the first of December."

District 14 Director Ken Cripe's family in Fayette County handled planting soybeans while he attended his first

Advocacy Fly-In as IFB's newest director. Cripe talked to lawmakers about the toughest spring in his 40-plus-year farming career and expressed a need for farmers to know details of the new Market Facilitation Program soon.

"The fly-in was very good, very well organized and all the people who were there that we talked to were very helpful, and they all got our message," Cripe said. "We're hoping that they do everything we talked to them about, but it's still down to politics. That was the indication that we got."



IFB President Rich Guebert, four IFB farmer directors and several IFB staff members joined more than 150 other state Farm Bureau representatives in a series of sessions in mid-June. IFB leaders are pictured here meeting with Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Hoffman Estates, in Washington. (Photo courtesy of Duckworth office)

New faces at the Farm Bureau

The Kane County Farm Bureau has welcomed four new faces to its office on Randall Road in St. Charles over the past several weeks. As we gear up for summer educational programs, farm tours, the County Fair and member programs, this mix of permanent and temporary, full time and part time employees will help us fulfill our obligation to members and the community.

We invite members, friends and neighbors to stop by our office and introduce themselves, meet our newest additions, shop our Country Store and suggest programs, benefits and services the Farm Bureau should consider to add more value to your membership.

Catherine Gorenz, Administrative Assistant – A senior at Illinois State University majoring in Agricultural Communications, Catherine grew up in Maple Park. She was an active member in her school's FFA program and her local 4-H. When not at school or in the office she can be found at her family's farm and entering rodeos with her horses. Once graduated Catherine hopes to continue her work in the Ag field and is excited to see where her degree will take her.

Jim Reynolds, Bookkeeper – A familiar face to staff and the Board of Directors, Jim served

as an Auditor for the Farm Bureau affiliated Illinois Agricultural Auditing Association (IAAA) for many years before his retirement, providing audit services for county Farm Bureaus and agricultural supply and service cooperatives in Northern Illinois. Following his retirement from IAAA, Jim worked part time for CliftonLarsonAllen, a nationwide accounting, audit and tax firm and also worked as a part-time consultant for the KCFB from 2012-2015.

Vanessa Gould, KCFB Foundation Summer Intern – Vanessa Gould is the summer intern this year. In the fall she will be a senior majoring in Agricultural Leadership Education with a minor in Animal Sciences from University of Illinois. She's a member of several clubs on campus and is a member of the

recently formed Friends of Kaneland FFA Alumni Association. With this internship, she hopes to have a more hands-on experience with local agriculture and to get a feel for what she'd like to pursue as a career upon graduation.

Erin Real, Communications Coordinator – Raised in Kane County, Erin previously showed 4-H market lambs, studied journalism and Spanish at Western Illinois University, and served as a bilingual educator in School District U-46. She arrived recently from a university teaching position and continues to pursue the PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. She lives in Elburn with her dog. KCFB now puts to use Erin's background in language and education to continue its tradition of representing farm families, advocating for agriculture, and promoting national well-being.



Catherine Gorenz Jim Reynolds Vanessa Gould Erin Real

Reporting flooding crop loss may reduce taxes

Crop losses caused by flooding should be considered when cropland is assessed for taxes, according to Brenda Matherly, Illinois Farm Bureau assistant director of local government. "Get out and safely get photo documentation of the flooding on your farm fields," Matherly said. "This documentation can be used to show crop loss and, in some cases, prevented planting due to this year's long-term and extensive flooding."

Crop loss from flooding is an opportunity for farmers to receive a reduced per-acre assessed value on flooded farmland, Matherly said. The adjust-

ment is based on documentation a farmer provides to the chief county assessment officer.

When a chief county assessment officer reduces the assessed value of cropland, it is called an adjustment or a debasement. When actual crop loss is due to flooding, an adjustment, known as a flood debasement, may be applied to those acres where the loss occurred, Matherly explained.

To receive a flood debasement, a farmer must document crop loss percentages and report that information to the chief county assessment officer.

(continued on page 3)

Welcome new members

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

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

Kane County Farmer
KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
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KCFB members recount Germany ag tour experiences

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following perspectives were shared by Kane County Farm Bureau members Ellen Kamps, an organic farming consultant from St. Charles, and Carolyn Gehrke, a farmer from Elgin. Both participated in a "transatlantic dialogue" of farmers. The exchange was sponsored in part by the Illinois Farm*

Bureau and organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest.

Agricultural exchange in Germany offers inspiration for Illinois farmers

by Ellen Kamps

Between April 8-12, 2019, over 20 delegates comprised of farmers from Illinois, Michigan

and Iowa traveled to Bavaria, Germany to study international markets, exchange practical ideas and build relationships in



Ellen Kamps (L) and Carolyn Gehrke



tional markets, premium pricing, public acceptance, regulations, farm succession and changing commodity prices. The trip offered contrasting views and inspirational opportunities, making the Trans Atlantic Agricultural Dialogue a once in a life-

time experience. Our group was able to eat dinner in their fabulous restaurant. The Peter family farm diversified their dairy by opening an on-farm store where they sell dairy products they produce. They also produce waygu beef and have wooly pigs. Erzabtei/Kloster Sankt Ottilien Farm is a farm in a monastery that is very diversified – they have wheat, dairy, cattle, laying hens, bees, a biogas plant, a farm store and more. A monk gave us the tour, and it was very interesting to learn what a typical day working on the monastery farm is.

KCFB hires Communications Coordinator, Kane Co. native Erin Real

KCFB welcomed Erin Real as its new Communications Coordinator in June. Raised in Kane County, Real showed 4-H market lambs, studied journalism and Spanish at Western Illinois University, earned a graduate degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison, and later served as a bilingual teacher in School District U-46.



Erin Real
Kane County FB
Communications
Coordinator

Spanish and directed the university's Spanish Program until very recently. At a distance, she

continues pursuing the PhD at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

And while the poet Robert Frost said two roads diverged in a yellow wood, he failed to learn one of those paths often loops back to the crossroads for a second chance. Real's experi-

ence as Spanish professor highlighted issues of geography, culture, labor, and food production, pointing her back to agriculture repeatedly. On summer break in 2010, she volunteered for one month in the Chimaltenango region of Guatemala, teaching the national curriculum in Spanish to sixth graders who visibly suffered from undernutrition although surrounded by produce growing in cultivated fields of rich volcanic soil. Returned home, Real increasingly sought ways to merge her interests in language, agriculture and education, landing her precisely on the doorstep of KCFB.

The KCFB Communications Coordinator is charged with improving public understanding of the role of agriculture in the county and society. KCFB plans to capitalize on Real's language and education background for the sake of its own mission to advocate for a stable, profitable, and permanent agricultural sector. Real personally hopes to serve as a helpful and friendly liaison between local farm families and the community as we all strive to be good stewards of land and resources. And, while our new hire cannot say the road she takes has been necessarily less traveled, she is excited to follow the path ahead.

After graduation from WIU, Real immediately pursued the MA in Spanish at UW Madison where she discovered she had a knack for teaching. She returned home to unincorporated Elgin in 2004, and taught bilingual fourth and gifted fifth grades at Garfield and Sheridan schools, respectively, until joining the full-time faculty of Concordia University Chicago in 2006, where she taught all levels of

agricultural direct marketing. This week-long program began in the small village of Schliersee, touring the production facility of a second-generation jam and preservation company, and concluded in downtown Munich at the Bavarian Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

With nearly 83 million of the world's wealthiest consumers, Germany is by far the biggest market for food and beverage in the European Union. According to the German Food Industry Association, the top five growth products are pistachios, sweet potatoes, salmon, lentils and vermouth.

Eleven stops were made in Bavaria, including visits to diverse farming operations, production facilities and agricultural associations. The variety of agricultural niches included the largest meat processing facility, Toennies Produce Group. With new renovations implemented under the guidance of esteemed animal expert Dr. Temple Grandin, Toennies is now regarded as a pioneer in the field of animal welfare and transparency. The very next day, Illinois, Iowa and Michigan farmers were transported to a monastery in the town of Eresing, whose monks produce wheat, dairy, eggs, honey, vegetables, a biogas plant and manage a retail farm store.

I would be negligent not to mention the amazing meals and beverages shared when traveling around Bavaria. We enjoyed many memorable meals together while touring the south of Germany. We sat down to a lovely farm-to-table dinner with our hosts at Schoere Farm after touring their hop fields and brewery near the border of Switzerland. Conversing about direct-to-consumer farming over a weiss beer and schnitzel was an unforgettable experience.

The program provided multiple occasions for farmers from both countries to discuss interna-

Travel and ag passions fulfilled by tour

By Carolyn Gehrke

International travel and agriculture are two of my biggest passions. Combine that with the fact that my college major was Agricultural Economics with a concentration in Policy, International Trade, and Development, and it makes sense that I was immediately interested in participating in the Direct Marketing trip to Germany with the German American Chamber of Commerce.

The trip was an intense week of visiting various farms and agricultural businesses, as well as agricultural and governmental organizations. We started our week with a visit to Essendorfer GenussSchmelzerei – a second generation family business that produces jams, dips and spreads. The current CEO, Andy, has added many new recipes inspired from his world travels. Andy's golden rule in his business is, "Do nothing without a story. Behind every jar there is a story, and a story behind every product." Andy has worked hard, and his products are now available in a few locations in the United States.

Our next tour was through a beef slaughterhouse that is part of Toennies Produce Group. We were able to actually walk inside the slaughterhouse and see the entire process from start to finish. One of the most interesting things for me to learn was that this company hired Temple Grandin (an expert on animal behavior and advocate for humane livestock handling) to help them design their facility.

We visited several diversified farms during the week. Brauereigasthof Schöre is a family-owned farm that raises cattle, pigs and hops, and operates their own brewery and distillery. They also run a restaurant and beer garden on their farm where they sell their prod-

ucts. Besides increasing our agricultural knowledge, we also were able to visit a few popular tourist sites – Neuschwanstein Castle, which was the inspiration for the Disney castle, and the city of Ulm. During a tour of the famous cathedral in Ulm, the tallest church in the world, some participants heard memories about WWII from a tour guide.

While I enjoyed visiting all of these sites and learning more about Bavarian agriculture, I also really enjoyed learning about the farms and businesses of my fellow tour participants. We were able to share many ideas among ourselves, and it was fun to see various participants become excited about prospective new ideas. Several of them have already implemented those ideas both from Germany and from each other on their own farms. Andy Essendorfer was in the USA for a conference a few weeks after our tour and he visited the farms of two participants. This is my favorite part of international travel – the networks and friendships that are formed, seeing other successful ways of accomplishing things and learning about other cultures.

Thank you to Illinois Farm Bureau for their support of this program!

Crop loss

(continued from page 2)

Matherly said. Given this year's flooding and widespread loss of planting options, farmers would be wise to photograph flooded fields, she advised. Providing ongoing photo documentation to the chief county assessment officer will help show the extent of loss due to persistent flooding.

The Illinois Department of Revenue's (IDOR) statewide guidelines mention the need for farmer documentation. These particular guidelines outline the process chief county assessment officers should use when applying local flood debasements.

To accurately calculate flood debasements, only areas with actual flood-related crop loss will be considered, Matherly pointed out. This will require a farmer provide input on the property's crop history.

Matherly listed steps a farmer should take to comply with IDOR guidelines. These include:

- Identify the actual acres affected by flooding;
- Determine from yield data the extent of crop loss in bushels caused in each flood situation;
- Establish a parcel's flooding history by compiling 10 years of damage caused by flooding; and
- File the information and doc-

umentation with the chief county assessment officer.

In addition to photo documentation, proof of flooding may include crop insurance actual production history reports, loss appraisals, and/or disaster payment records from the local Farm Service Agency office. Direct any questions about flood debasement documentation in your county with the chief county assessment officer on local practices.

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Welcome to July, the month of summer fun. Hopefully, all the torrential rains of the spring are finished, the flooding a thing of the past, farmers have been able to plant, and the river is open so water fun can be had once again.

As I think of July, a slew of memories flit across my brain. I remember going to Wing Park for the 4th of July fireworks, sitting on the golf course on my blanket amazed by the beauty of the sky full of bursts of light. This wonder still fills me as I now sit at Pottowatomi Park witnessing the festivities.

OK, I'll confess, when I was really young, I thought the huge

fireworks display was done to honor my cousin's and my birthdays. Not hard to believe, as her birthday was the 3rd and mine the 7th, so we always had a family party on the 4th to celebrate, followed by going to the fireworks. Was quite the bummer for me when this belief was bashed with the hard truth.

July was also a time of picnics, we'd pack a lunch and take off to some place that was by water, either a creek, lake or pool. One time, we were out in the country, my sister and I were strolling through the grassy area when suddenly we were way too close to a bull. Talk about quick, we were up a

KANE COUNTY FARMER

tree faster than lightning screaming for our parents, much to the bull's displeasure.

July was also a time for our annual trek to a Wisconsin lake. Many times, I'd drive the second car and have to follow my Dad's car for HOURS till we arrived at the cabin. We'd spend a week catching fish, boating and enjoying the outside world. Nowadays, as I've stated before, the family goes to reunite on Washington Island for a week of bonding ... a time we all cherish. This year, my kids, grandkids and I will be spending a week together on a lake in Tennessee, nothing I enjoy more than to see this group of my favorite people in the world interacting and having fun together. A mom and grandma's moments of joy.

July is also the time of bonfires, hot dogs, s'mores and star gazing. Catching/counting lightning bugs, watching for special birds, insects and all the wonders of our natural world. It is the beginning of my yearly Monarch Butterfly rearing, my favorite wonder of the year.

July is also the start of harvesting the yummy veggies from the garden, making fruit jams, compotes, cobblers and more. Such a bounty of goodies that are available. My peas and beans never seem to get to the pot, as I eat them on the run straight from the garden.

July is also a time to sit on my swing in the shade enjoying a popsicle after mowing the lawn. That's my reward for finishing the never ending chore ... something to look forward to

each week. Simple pleasures of life.

July is also a time for taking my kayak and lazily floating down the river after going against the current for the first part of my journeys. Seeing the turtles, fish, Great blue herons, frogs, egrets, eagles, comorants, ducks and more help make the float even more enjoyable.

Yes, July is month of just being ... school is over, not ready to start again soon. It's hot, but usually not to the extreme, and folks seem to be happy with the non-scheduled life. Vacations abound, books are read, nature is rediscovered, basically, life is good. I'm hoping to enjoy the beauty July has to offer, hopefully you can also.

Students learn about farming during SPROUTS

During Kane County Farm Bureau's annual Spring Program of Reading & Outreach to Teachers and Students, or SPROUTS, four Farm Bureau volunteers and one KCFB staff member read the book, *Heartland* in area third grade classrooms. The book, written by Diane Siebert and illustrated by Wendell Minor of Aurora, gives students a look at life on a farm from the perspective of the land. Some of the SPROUTS volunteers have farming experiences that help students relate to farm life in America's Heartland.

This year SPROUTS reached 900 students in 30 classrooms. Each teacher received a copy of the book *John Deere, That's Who*, written by Tracy Nelson Maurer, along with a set of 30 Illinois History Ag Mags, and follow-up activities to use in the classroom.

A memorial fund established

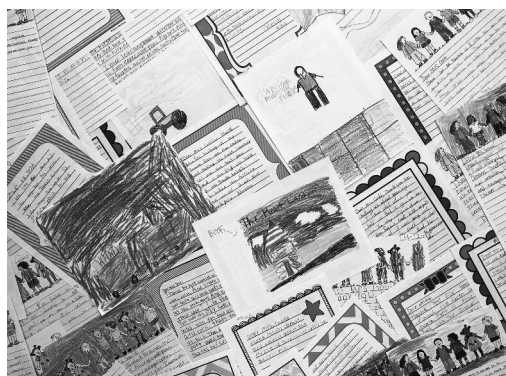
by the family of long-time Farm Bureau volunteers Bob & Alyce Konen, has been designated to fund SPROUTS.

Thanks to the following volunteers who made this year's SPROUTS program a success:

- Sandy Gould**
- Beth Gehrke**
- Suzi Myers**
- Ryan Klassy**
- Jan Strauss**

Thanks to the third-grade teachers at these schools for welcoming our SPROUTS volunteers to learn about farming and food:

- Rollins School, Aurora
- Greenman School, Aurora
- Hillcrest School, Elgin
- Fox Meadow, South Elgin
- Prairieview, South Elgin
- John Stewart Elem., Elburn
- McDole Elem., Montgomery
- John Shields Elem., Sugar Grove
- Wayne Elem., Wayne



Sandy Gould, a regular SPROUTS and Farm Bureau volunteer, recently visited Greenman School in Aurora to read *Heartland* to a third-grade class. Each of the 46 students Sandy read to responded with a thank you letter and colored pictures with some of the content discussed, such as machinery and facts about livestock. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your time given to educate our youth.



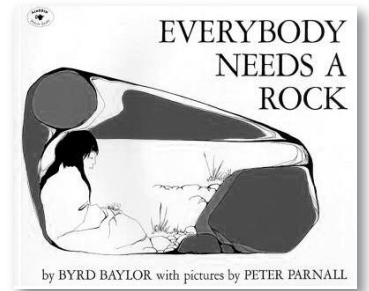
Local farmers Andy Lenkaitis (pictured), Dale Pitstick, Joe White and Joe Engel recently recorded video messages for the Illinois Congressional delegation to pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement, a Farm Bureau priority for 2019. Over a year ago, when tariffs had just been instituted, none thought they would be facing historic planting delays, planting the 2019 crop with lower grain prices and still without a trade deal. Farmers need a global market and are asking Congress to put party politics aside, ratify USMCA and ensure American farmers can start to rebuild their global trading opportunities after the past year's losses.

Book of the month

A poetic ode to the magic of finding a special rock and carrying it in our pocket. The book lists 10 rules to finding a special rock that you can keep forever. Some of the rules are to find a place to look for your rock, be quiet while looking, find the perfect size that fits in your hand, is the color and shape that you like, and most important,

choose the rock yourself.

Every child seems to like collecting rocks, I know I do myself ... I look for heart shaped rocks. A quiet book to read with the child in your life that could start a life of rock appreciation. You can find this book at our library, come browse and check out the books for a week of summer reading.



Everybody Needs a Rock
by Byrd Baylor

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



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



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Todd Wilcox
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Bob Kearns
S. Elgin
847-888-3200



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Bobbi Boston
St. Charles
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Michael O'Brien
Geneva
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Sherri Schramer
Elburn
630-365-9500



Keith Eakins
St. Charles
630-762-1324



Mehul Patel
Geneva
630-492-5317



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



John Baine
Geneva
630-492-5324



Chuck Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Donna Tonovitz
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David Berreles
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847-794-1244



Josh Austin
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Orazio Difruscolo
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Victor Alvarado
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Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
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Edward Stuehm
Geneva
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Luke Fawkes
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847-742-0001



Ted Schuster
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630-466-9600



Deb Stob
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630-208-0890



Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0001



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

Picnics

Countries around the world have adopted and modified picnics to celebrate many different things in many different ways. In the United States when you hear "picnic", you think of a plaid table cloth and enjoying a woven basket full of delicious food on top of a hill. Other than being a great way to get together with friends and family, the reason as to why these began in the first place stands for so much more. Picnics are commonly put on for holidays such as the 4th of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day. It's during these times we come together to honor our country's history. We can celebrate our human spirit, culinary diversity and sense of adventure. There are many ways to have a successful picnic, but here are 15 things to always pack to ensure a good time:

1. Sunscreen
2. Baby Wipes
3. Bug Spray
4. Blanket
5. Bottled Beverages
6. Bottle Opener
7. Kitchen Knife
8. First-Aid Supplies
9. Kitchen Towel
10. Mini Condiments and Seasonings
11. Trash Bag
12. Ice Packs
13. Extra Cutlery and Utensils
14. Camera
15. Something To Do (such as nature bingo or games...



Kid activity: scavenger hunt

A nature scavenger hunt is a great activity to enjoy with your kids at a picnic! Get 4 in a row and maybe get an extra piece of watermelon ... It encourages them to get up, move around and enjoy what nature has to offer. Bingo sheets, such as this one, are a way to have children explore everything outdoors, big and small. Just make sure if you're in an area such as a nature preserve, you don't take home what you found – things found in nature are supposed to be left there!

NATURE BINGO



Blueberry brownies

From Hummingbird High

Ingredients

(Makes one 8-inch square pan, around 16 brownies)
 5 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 2 large eggs
 1 cup granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, divided into 3/4 cup and 2 tablespoon portions
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries, divided into 1 cup and 1/2 cup portions

Recipe

1. Preheat the oven to 400° F. Prepare an 8 by 8-inch baking

pan by lining with parchment paper.

2. Combine 5 ounces finely chopped bittersweet chocolate and 6 tablespoons unsalted butter. Melt over medium-low heat, stir occasionally until the mixture is melted and smooth. Once the chocolate and butter have completely melted, remove from heat and allow to cool slightly on a wire rack.

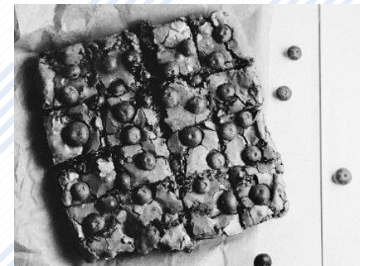
3. Combine 2 large eggs and 1 cup granulated sugar. Beat on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Lower the speed to the mixer's lowest setting and add 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract. Continue mixing on the lowest speed and slowly add the cooled melted butter and chocolate mixture (from the 2nd step) into the mixture, mixing until just combined

4. Sprinkle 3/4 cup all-purpose flour and 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt over the surface of the batter. Use a rubber spatula to gently fold the flour into the chocolate batter – DO NOT OVERMIX. Overmixing will lead to dense, hard brownies. Simply fold until the ingredients are just combined – at this point, it's okay to have one or two flour streaks left in the mixture.

5. In a separate medium bowl, toss together 1 cup fresh blueberries with the remaining 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour. Add the blueberry mixture into the brownie batter, using a rubber spatula to fold the fruit evenly into the batter. Again, be care-

ful not to overmix!

6. Transfer the batter into the prepared baking pan and bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes, until the brownies are slightly puffed but still moist in the center. Transfer the pan to a wire rack and immediately press the remaining 1/2 cup of blueberries on to the top of the brownies. Be careful not to press too hard – a gentle tap will do. Allow the brownies to cool in their pan completely before cutting into squares.



Picnics in other countries:

Japan: Cherry blossom season announces spring's arrival in Japan, along with the start of *hanami* –or cherry blossom-viewing picnics –season.

Argentineans celebrate the holiday outdoors with Christmas picnics. These holiday events often take place on beaches or at home on patios, complete with roasted or barbecued turkey, pork or goat.

Britain has had picnics since the Middle Ages, but in the late 18th century the most iconic picnic food came into being: the Scotch egg, which is a filling food that can be served cold. Their National Picnic Week is in June.

In **New Zealand**, afternoon tea is a common everyday staple that needed to be included with any picnic, so it was prepared hot in a "billy" – a metal can with a wire handle. After the invention of the thermos, tea arrived at picnic sites pre-prepared, and it remains a common picnicking beverage.

Congratulations

Kimberly Helm from St. Charles is the June Word Search winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a patriotic gift in honor of June's Flag Day! Thank you, Kimberly, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Did you know?

- The word "picnic" originally stems back to 1794, exactly 100 years after "pique-nique" first appeared in the French language.
- One of the first accounts of picnicking comes from tales of Robin Hood. Robin, joined by his Merry Men would informally dine on bread, cheese and beer under the shelter of the trees.
- In the year 2000, a 600-mile-long picnic was arranged in France, on July 14, to showcase their support and celebrate the first Bastille Day of the new millennium.
- June 18th is International Picnic Day.
- After an ant has visited your picnic, it lays down a scent as it returns to the nest for the other ants to follow.
- The use of the phrase "no picnic" to describe something

- difficult dates back to 1884.
- The first table designed specifically for picnics (in a style similar to what we know today) appeared in the late 1800s.
- It's the spirit, not the food, that makes a picnic special.
- The average person picnics at least three times a year, that's 94 million picnics per year.
- Michigan was the first state to have roadside picnic tables.

Picnics

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

- ANTS
- BASKET
- BEEES
- BIRDS
- BLANKET
- BUN
- BUTTERFLY
- CELEBRATION
- COOKIE
- EATING
- FOOD
- FRIENDS
- FRUIT
- FUN
- GAMES
- HOTDOG
- JULY
- LEMONADE
- NATURE
- OUTSIDE
- PICNIC
- TABLE
- TREES
- WATERMELON

July is ...

- National Blueberry Month
- National Anti-Boredom Month
- Unlucky Month for Weddings
- National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month
- National Picnic Month

Special Days in July:

- 1 International Chicken Wing Day
- 4 Independence Day (U.S.)
- 6 National Fried Chicken Day
- 7 Chocolate Day
- 8 National Blueberry Day
- 17 National Hot Dog Day - third Wednesday in July
- 21 National Junk Food Day
- 22 Hammock Day
- 23 Vanilla Ice Cream Day
- 24 Cousins Day
- 26 Aunt and Uncle Day
- 28 National Milk Chocolate Day
- 28 Parent's Day – fourth Sunday in July
- 29 National Lasagna Day
- 30 Father-in-Law Day

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



Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by July 15, 2019 to be entered in our drawing for a picnic themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

SAI I

(continued from page 1)

teacher participant initiated a relationship with two farmers for the sake of developing a classroom research project to track farm data and bring awareness to students who might never perceive agriculture's role otherwise.

In a short amount of time, this year's Summer Ag Institute fostered strong respect for the local agriculture industry and a surprising depth of understanding among teachers without a farming background. Teachers made connections between their previous experiences and new learning as well as between the week's presentations. One participant grew up in Argo-Summit, Illinois – Argo being the same as printed on the label of your pantry's cornstarch – and recognized the familiar smell of corn from the historic corn refinery there located. Another furthered her knowledge of symbiotic relationships for the sake of her school's water garden, adding fish to the mix as demonstrated by Max McGraw's Aquaponics Manager, Gordy Gotsch. At FONAs Flavor University, teachers learned to mix up the taste of Juicy Fruit, how to demonstrate to students the amount of sugar in a typical soft drink, and also that cherry-almond flavoring is no coincidence. Midwest Groundcovers explained to all a new program to employ Congolese refugees. And, as it turns out, a John Deere combine "drives like a Tesla" and spins on a dime, navigated by GPS to follow rows of corn or beans. This year's teacher participants know because Buck Bros., local John Deere dealer, allowed each teacher to test drive a brand new combine that retails for up to half a million dollars. By the

end of the Institute, all teachers knew the difference between hay and straw, thanks to Gehrke Family Farms. Most had held a piglet or snapped a picture with a milk cow. And we all learned vegetable farmers sometimes dream of giant cauliflower.

Farmers in Kane Co. seek an audience, and educators and the public at large benefit from the pride farmers take in both growing and explaining. In this way, KCFB brings agriculture to the classroom, demonstrating what brings a seed to fruit, turns a hog to pepperoni, and how farm reaches table.

Throughout the week, participants of the 2019 KCFB Summer Ag Institute heard

KANE COUNTY FARMER farmers, nutritionists, and spokespersons address the world's growing population. By 2070, scientists project the human population will exceed 9 billion. Kane County farmers are committed to feeding the world. These 6 teachers will return to area classrooms with a new understanding of the agriculture industry, a significant employment sector, and with new resources for meeting challenges that face us collectively.

If you are interested in attending KCFB's 2020 Summer Ag Institute, please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau on Randall Rd. in St. Charles, at 630-587-8479.

See page 7 for photos of SAI I.

Summer Ag Institute I – June 10-14 & 17th, 2019

June 10 Course Overview Tour Overview Ag in the Classroom Presentation Midwest Dairy Kane DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District	Suzi Myers, Instructor Brad Banning, IAITC Manager Robin Brown Elizabeth Hagen Moeller
June 11 CHS Tour, Maple Park, IL Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee Township, IL Engel's Dairy Farm Tour, Hampshire, IL Gehrke Farm Tour, DeKalb, IL	
June 12 FONA International Inc, Geneva, IL Midwest Groundcovers, Maple Park, IL Gould Farms, Maple Park, IL Renshaw's Mushroom Farm Presentation at KCFB	
June 13 Garfield Farm Museum Tour, La Fox, IL Esther's Place, Big Rock, Illinois Smithfield Foods Tour, St. Charles, IL Apiary Presentation by Harry Patterson at KCFB	
June 20 Klein's Farm & Garden Market, Elgin, IL Buck Bros Inc., Hampshire, IL Nesler Grain Farm, Genoa, IL Whiskey Acres, DeKalb, IL	
June 21 Teacher presentation of display boards for their classrooms Commodity Speakers at KCBF Illinois Beef Association Illinois Corn Growers Association	Keegan Cassidy

Kane County Farm Bureau extends its deepest thanks to all those who helped make this year's Summer Agriculture Institute a resounding success. The names, even of those who made presentations to the teachers, are too numerous to mention here. Additionally, we thank all those who helped with the set-up, logistics, lunches, materials and of course, cleaning up the farmsteads for the visits and tours. Your commitment to advancing education about what happens on your farm and America's farms is commendable – and much appreciated!

What's new in the Country Agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

ORAZIO DIFRUSCOLO has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for May 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Orazio 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 Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696, orazio.difruscolo@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/orazio.difruscolo/. Congratulations, Orazio!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for May 2019. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at: 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

FOR SALE

2007 John Deere X300 Tractor/Snow blower 266.7 hours. Converts from lawn mowing to snow blower-Snow blower is 44 inches. Attachments included: Weather Enclosure Kit (rigging, canopy, frame tubes) Agri-fab lawn sweeper 42 inches, tire chains for snow blower, 4 counter weights for ballast for snow blower. New battery installed May 2019. Asking price for all \$2,600. Please contact Tim Seifrid, Emmanuel Lutheran Church Board of Trustees. 630-851-5373

1987 John Deere utility tractor with loader and 60 inch mower. # cylinder diesel, PTO, 3pt hitch, 4 wheel drive. Garage kept. Asking \$7,000. Ask for Jim-630-664-8385

1946 John Deere H. Electric start and lights, PTO, Power lift, fenders. Rebuilt motor, many NOS parts, new tires. Mostly painted, needs completion, Call Richard. 847-361-4578

level office position. 12-15 hours weekly; flexible hours. Perfect for high school or college student. Office located east side of St. Charles. Call Bob to discuss position. Call: 630-377-7797

PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE – Approximate 20 hours weekly, M-F, we do not work Sundays. Applicant must be computer literate with pleasant voice and manner. Applicant must be self-starter and able to work as part of a team. We are located in Saint Charles. Entry level employment offering paid vacation, self-directed savings plan, partial tuition reimbursement. Call Bob to discuss this position. Call: 630-377-7797

Want to buy – older vintage reel type lawn mowers call Tom. 630-661-9293

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

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to **Victor Alvarado!** Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December of 2017. His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl, Ste.20, Elgin and may be reached at: 847-742-0003. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Victor Alvarado

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

IFB Farm Income & Innovations Conference
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Normal IL



AGENDA

Tuesday, 7/30/19 • 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Pre-Conference/Bridge Event
TOPIC: Misinformation about Agriculture Threatens Sustainability & Innovation
SPEAKER: Alison Van Eenennaam, UC Davis
Wednesday, 7/31/19 • 8:30 am – 8:45 am
OPENING
President's Welcome
President Richard Guebert, Jr., IFB®
8:45 am – 9:45 am
GENERAL SESSION – OPENING
TOPIC: Enabling Innovation in Agriculture: Animals, Plant Breeding, and the Future of Agriculture
SPEAKER: Alison Van Eenennaam, UC Davis
9:45 am – 9:55 am
BREAK
9:55 am – 10:45 am
BREAKOUT SESSIONS I
1) Paul Stoddard Topic: Farm Management
2) Todd Hubbs Topic: Grain Market Outlook
3) Sara Sturgeon Topic: Accessing Health Insurance
10:45 am – 10:55 am
BREAK
10:55 am – 11:45 am
BREAKOUT SESSIONS II
1) David Klein Topic: Cash Rental and Farmland Outlook - 2019
2) TBD Topic: Hog Market – ASF update
3) Brad Clow Topic: Drones and the New Tech Revolution
11:45 am – 12:45 pm
LUNCH & General Announcements
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm
GENERAL SESSION – MIDDAY
TOPIC: Outlook on Exports – Trade, Treaties, and Tariffs
SPEAKER: Veronica Nigh, Trade Economist, AFBF
1:45 pm – 1:55 pm
BREAK
1:55 pm – 3:25 pm
GENERAL SESSION – WRAPUP
TOPIC: Family Farm Succession – What You Need to Know
SPEAKER: Jolene Brown, CSP, CPAE

*REGISTRATION

Contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660
*(Complimentary for Regular & Professional Members!)

HOTEL INFORMATION

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center 800-627-7468
201 Broadway St.
Normal, IL 61761
*Attendees can book the group rate for the Illinois Farm Bureau 2019 Farm Income & Innovations Conference
For more information, contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

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

WANTED

STUDENT HELP – Seeking responsible STUDENT for entry



Recycle

Scrap for CASH

Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars

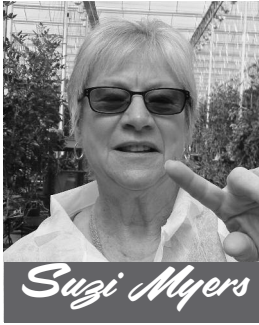
Trucking & Dumpster Service Available

"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

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

Suzi Myers, KCFB Ag Literacy Coordinator, sets August 9 retirement

After 15 years of bringing agriculture to schools, students and educators, Suzi Myers announced she will retire from KCFB in August this year. The KCFB and KCFB Foundation warmly thank her for years of excellent service, congratulate her on the achievement, and wish her very well!



Prior to joining the KCFB staff, Myers, of St. Charles, taught for 21 years in the East Aurora school district with a majority of those at Allen Elementary School. She retired from classroom teaching in 2004 and joined the staff of the KCFB as Ag Literacy Coordinator that same year.

In her role with KCFB, Myers facilitates the Ag-in-the-Classroom program in Kane County, a state and national effort to integrate agriculture in K-12

classrooms. She has taken books, toy tractors, baby chicks, and her love for ag into schools and worked with dozens of area volunteers, farms, farmers and agri-businesses to teach students, teachers and the general public about the role of agriculture in our everyday lives and in society.

Myers has attended the USDA's National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference nearly every year. Last month, she traveled to the 2019 conference in Little Rock, Arkansas to present a project about natural resources and biodiversity, titled "Get Environmentally Motivated" (GEM). Myers annually coordinated KCFB's SPROUTS reading program in 3rd-grade classrooms, as well as the Ag Days Expo at Mooseheart for 4th-grade students, and Summer Ag

Institutes I and II, workshops for area teachers to learn about agriculture on local farm and industry tours. Myers also played an instrumental role in the development of Touch-A-Tractor, a farm-city event held on the KCFB lawn every April.

Myers' expertise reaches across crop production, livestock and the history of farming in Illinois, and it does not end at teaching about agriculture in classrooms; it also extends to her genuine relationships with farmers and Farm Bureau members. None of this will end when she leaves the office schedule to continue to travel, learn and share her knowledge of agriculture.

An Open House will be scheduled in August to thank her for her many years of dedicated service to farmers, the Farm Bureau and agriculture. See the August Kane County Farmer for details.

Congratulations Suzi, and thanks for a job well done!

SAI I snapshots

Photos, top to bottom:

Beth and Carolyn Gehrke (left), of Gehrke Farms, explaining the different machines and equipment used in their family's hay business. They talked about how far technology has come, yet how much it is still limited by weather. Gehrkes offer a look into what it takes and what it means to run a family farm.



Gordy Gotsche of Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation explains an aquaponics structure to a high school biology teacher and middle school librarian that uses plants and fish to provide nutrients to each other in a mutually beneficial relationship. This is a newer form of agriculture teachers are hoping to incorporate into their classrooms or extracurricular clubs.



Joe Engel, of Engel's Luck-E Holsteins, answers questions about his management practices. As a dairy farm known for their pristine breeding and genetics, they provide nothing but the best care for their animals. Teachers were up close and personal with their whole operation, from calf to cow to milk.



Summer Ag Institute participants pose after getting an inside look at one of CHS Elburn's corn storage facilities. CHS Elburn was one of the many sites visited to get a deeper look into agriculture and the process that corn goes through after harvest.



Tyler Fabrizio, of CHS Elburn, explains the importance of grain quality and all that goes into storing the year's crops. Teachers got a tour of the facility including the bins, storage facilities, different services CHS offers, and how corn is graded based on quality.



Full story starts on page 1.

Visit the Farm Bureau at the Kane County Fair—July 17-21



Farm Zoo

Thurs 3pm – 8pm
Fri – Sat 12pm – 8pm
Sunday 12pm – 4pm

Kids can see and learn about farm animals.



Commodity Carnival

Thursday, July 18, from 4-7pm the National 4-H Council and CME will be hosting an interactive game for kids of all ages. The object of the game is for kids to fill a plastic egg with grain and marbles, representing feed, health and nutrition, transportation and energy, facility, and wage costs needed to raise their steer. They then drop a chip representing the weight of their animal into a giant "Plinko board" to see how market forces affect the outcome and their profit. Prizes include stress ball steers. Don't miss out on the fun!

Commodity Carnival



A 4-H representative is shown explaining the rules of the Risk Ranch game to each visitor at the booth. Participants can fill up their egg, which represents the steer and the feed and other costs needed to raise it. Once filled and weighed, they drop a colored chip into the Plinko board, pictured at right. At the bottom of the board are different prices and the object of the game is to make money, which means landing on a number higher than what you spent. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but it's a great learning experience for all!

Tractor Pillow Pets®

KCFB will offer FREE tractor shaped Pillow Pets® for new Regular or Professional member sign-up, member reclassification, and member status "upgrades" at the Kane County Fair. Stop by our building to learn more and take one home! Options include large and small yellow Challengers, pink or red Massey-Fergusons, and green Oliver tractors.

Ag in the Classroom activities

From 2-4pm on Children's Day at the fair, Kane County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Suzi Myers, will be presenting Agri-learning activities and experiences for kids. These activities are FREE, so be sure to plan your trip for this not-to-be-missed event; the kids will love it!

Raffles – Feeling Lucky AND Love Vintage Trucks?

This year, for the first time ever in "Winner's Choice Raffle" history, the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is raffling off a choice of a vintage truck or antique tractor. The drawing for the 1966 Ford 100 Pick-Up Truck, or 1956 Massey-Harris Model 333 tractor, or \$3500 in cash, will be held at the conclusion of the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale on July 21, at 4pm. Tickets are 1/\$20, 3/\$50. 2nd place prize is \$500 worth of groceries, 3rd place prize is \$500 in fuel.

If you want tickets and can't wait for the fair to start or won't be attending, feel free to stop by the Kane County Farm Bureau, Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, located at 2N710 Randall Road right in front of Costco at Oak Street. We also take credit cards over the phone – Visa, MasterCard, and Discover – and will mail your tickets – call 630-584-8660.

Proceeds from all Raffles benefit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION'S agricultural scholarships and Ag-in-the-Classroom programs.

KCFB seeking handcrafted donations

Got a knack for woodworking, painting, welding, quilting, etc.? Consider showing off your artistic skills by donating a one of a kind creation to the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION Silent Auction at the Kane County Fair. All items donated are displayed in the KCFB barn through the Kane County Fair, which attracts hundreds of fair-goers daily. It is the perfect way to support the future of farms and food while showing off your artistic skills and gaining local notoriety.

All proceeds raised by this

silent auction go towards KCFB FOUNDATION'S effort to increase local scholarships available to and Ag-in-the-Classroom activities. For 2019-2020, the FOUNDATION awarded over \$27,000 in scholarships for college students pursuing careers in agriculture.

If you are interested in providing support for this year's silent auction, or you know of a business or individual that might have an interest donating, please contact the KCFB office at (630) 584-8660 or feel free to stop by our office with your item(s)!



Created by Jennifer Kresl, this one-of-a-kind, patriotically painted, metal yard-art tractor, and was auctioned off in support of the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION at the Kane County Fair in 2017. Handcrafted pieces like this make great donations and help support Agriculture Education. Interested in showing off your artistic skills? Stop by the Farm Bureau with your donation or call the office at (630) 584-8660 for more information.

Illinois groups working on NLRs, water quality showcase collaboration

Efforts to improve water quality and nutrient management in the state of Illinois have gained momentum in the last five years, with much of the success coming from continued development and implementation of the state's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs).

Ongoing collaboration with several key groups, including the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) and the Illinois Chapter of Sierra Club, as well as research out of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), University of Illinois (U of I) and Purdue University (Purdue), all greatly contribute to efforts.

"Collaboration between these organizations invested in water resources research, education and outreach continues to build year after year and that's something we're proud of," said IFB Director of Natural and Environmental Resources Lauren Lurkins.

Stakeholders had the chance to showcase Illinois' efforts at the Annual Water Resources Conference of the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) and the National

Institutes for Water Resources held in Snowbird, Utah in June. UCOWR is a consortium of academic institutions and affiliates invested in water resources, education and outreach, and is housed in Illinois at SIUC. The meeting, attended by over 200 individuals, included an audience made up of university researchers, Extension staff, national and state agency representatives and environmental advocates from states across the country. The event provided an opportunity to tell the story of nutrient management in Illinois on a national stage.

"We're here at the UCOWR conference to let others know we've got this strong collaboration underway in Illinois addressing our Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy," said Sierra Club Illinois Clean Water Program Director Cindy Skrukud. "I'm feeling most hopeful about the progress we're making on this big issue because so many people from so many disciplines are working together."

Several presentations by IFB, MWRD, NREC, Sierra Club, and academic representatives explained big picture research and day-to-day efforts and events that seek to implement NLRs best practices.

Lurkins presented on Illinois

farmer implementation of the NLRs. Nearly \$1 million has been invested by the IFB Board of Directors since 2015 to improve water quality in the state.

The annual conference also provided IFB and its partners the opportunity to learn about water quality research happening in multiple universities across the country.

SIUC Professor and UCOWR Executive Director Dr. Karl Williard believes the amount of ongoing collaboration and the scale of efforts throughout the state can serve as a model for other states in the Midwest dealing with their own nutrient loss reduction strategies.

"We still have progress to make in terms of adoption of best management practices that will help keep more nutrients and soil on the farm," Williard said. "But we're certainly making progress and partnerships go a long way to help doing that."

Cox summed up the stakeholders' feelings on the power of partnership:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others."

More details on Illinois nutrient stewardship efforts will be detailed in the upcoming 2019 NLRs Biennial Report.

KCFB members save big on summer fun

45% savings at Illinois' largest outdoor water park!

Want to have to fun in the sun (and water) this summer? Grab your family and friends and check out Aussie-themed Raging Waves, located just south of Kane County in Yorkville, it's also Illinois' largest outdoor water park! Start your summer break out with a visit to this family-friendly water park featuring 20 water slides, a separate kiddie pool area, wave pool, lazy river, 24 private cabanas and more.

Newer attractions include: Quokka-Nut Island, a new interactive play area for the Lil mates (ages 2-5) including slides and zero-depth pool. Also home to Wonambi-The first of its kind in the Midwest, a four person tube and a slide that is one of only three in the United States!

Tickets will be going fast, so stop by Kane County Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for only \$18.00! Regularly priced tickets

are \$32.99 and online tickets are \$22.99, but with your Farm Bureau membership discount, you will save 45% off of the original price! To purchase discounted tickets, click on <https://tickets.ragingwaves.com> store name "KANE".

Save on admission to Santa's Village

Plan a visit to Santa's Village Azoosment Park with KCFB member benefit for 2019. The park is open from June 10th-August 23rd and weekends only August 24-October 27th. General admission tickets are \$24.99 + tax (age 2 and under are free) KCFB member ticket price is \$18.99. NO BLACK-OUT DATES. Enjoy 20 rides and 100's of animals. Target audience is 12 and younger. Parking is FREE and food & drink can be brought in. Call the Kane County Farm Bureau for more information and purchase tickets at 630-584-8660. Check the website for further details www.santasvillagedundee.com.



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 pledges received from May 15-June 17.



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

Donor

Dennis & Beth Engel



HARVEST FOR ALL

Beneficiary

Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry

10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE

Micheal Wurtz
Kane County Corn Growers
Old Second National Bank - Wasco

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northern Illinois Food Bank



Photos, top to bottom:

While state and national groups and public universities were meeting in Utah to discuss collaboration to improve water quality, the same was happening close to home. Jeff Mengler (standing) welcomes members of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, representing local government and environmental, conservation and agricultural groups, to a June 12 session in the barn at Grey Willows Preserve to hear about the installation of a woodchip bioreactor on Kane County Forest Preserve land by Kane County Farm Bureau and local partners.

With bioreactor signs as a backdrop, replicas of the interpretative signs at the installation site, FREP members learned about the water quality initiative undertaken by Farm Bureau in cooperation with the County of Kane, (Forest Preserve District and Water Resources Division) Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA-NRCS. Kane County Water Resources Director Jodie Wollnik was the featured presenter.

Don't miss out on Fresh Peaches

The Kane County Farm Bureau is now taking orders for juicy, homegrown Peaches fresh from Rendleman Orchards, a southern Illinois grower.

These delicious peaches are washed, hydro-cooled, graded to US #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, approximately 60 packaged in a 25 lb wax coated fancy box with a lid. They are delivered to our office on Randall Road the morning of pickup in a refrigerated truck for freshness and long lasting quality.

The grower recommends the peaches, which are available in the month of August, for their sweetness and juicy flavor. If you like to make peach pie or cobbler, or you like to can or freeze peaches, now is the time to take advantage of this once a year offer.

Peaches are highly perishable. They are shipped when they are a little green so that when they arrive they are not bruised with juice running out of the box. The grower recommends that the peaches be refrigerated immediately when you get them unless you are planning to can or freeze them within the next day. Then when you want to use them, you can take out however many you think you will use in the next day, let them sit out in a paper sack overnight, and they should be ripe and ready to eat or cook with. Peaches should not be out of the refrigerator for more than 24 hours. If they are left out too long, they are very susceptible to mold.

The price for a 25 lb box is \$31.35 (Plus member price), \$33.00 (member price) and \$35.00 (non-member price). PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER. You can order by filling out the form and sending it in with your check, or call the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 and pay with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Pick-up will be Monday, August 19 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office.

Quantity: _____ \$31.35/box (Plus Member) \$33.00/box (Member) \$35.00/box (Non-member)

Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Member Number _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV _____

Mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 4PM Thursday, August 15

Pick-up is at the Farm Bureau on Monday, August 19 from 2:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

As the summer months begin, Kane County growers have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to offer you and your family, both at local roadside stands and at Farmers' Markets. KCFB's Bounty of Kane directory lists farmers' markets throughout the county and features a quick reference map and contact information for 38 farms that sell direct to consumers.

Visit www.bountyofkane.org to view the interactive map, access web links, contact information for each of the farms and markets, and download a copy to print at home. Your support of local farmers at farm stands and farmers' markets is greatly appreciated.



Aurora Farmers' Markets • 630.264.3370

Downtown - Aurora Transportation Center, 233 N. Broadway (Route 25) From 8 to noon: Saturdays, June 10 to Oct. 21.

West Plaza Shopping Center, 1901 W. Galena Blvd. Noon to 5: Wednesdays, July 12 through Sept. 27.

Batavia Farmers' Market • 630.761.3528

N River Street (between Wilson & State Street) Every Saturday from 8am to 12pm beginning June 1st and running through October 27th

Elgin Farmers' Market • 847.488.1456

Grove Ave between Chicago & DuPage Court Every Friday from June 7th through October 4th.

East Dundee Farmers Market

847.426.4307 319 North River Street - The Depot Held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday mid-May through October

Geneva French Market • 724.800.0102

Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St. Sundays, April 17 - Nov. 13, 9am-2pm

Geneva Green Market • 847.501.0430

327 Hamilton Street Open again on Saturday, November 2, 2019!

Hampshire Farmers' 1 Outdoor Market

847.683.1122 IL Rt. 72 & State Street Every 3rd Saturday, June-October 9am-1pm

St. Charles Farmers Market

Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64 (outdoor) Fridays, June 2-October 27, 7am-1pm 630.584.6680 (outdoor) Friday, November-May, 9am-12pm 630.988.-0705 (indoor)

Sugar Grove Farmers Market

Sugar Grove Village Hall Parking Lot, 10 Municipal Drive 630.466.1014 (outdoor) Every Saturday, June 1 through September 28, 2019 8am til Noon (Rain or Shine)

Sugar Grove Library, Winter Market.

125 S Municipal Drive • 630.466.4686 2nd Saturdays, March 9th through November 3rd, 11am-3pm (indoor)