

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 81 NO. 7 JULY 2016

KCFB greets visitors at Brookfield Zoo's 'Summer Nights'

Looking for somewhere to spend a fun night with the whole family this summer? Head to Summer Nights at Brookfield Zoo just outside Chicago from 4 to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, June 17 through Aug. 13.

Kane County Farm Bureau will be back at the zoo again on Saturday, Aug 6th from 4-9pm. Farm Bureau volunteers from Kane County will be on hand to share information about the area farmers and to answer your questions about how your food is grown. Enjoy activities for all ages, including live entertainment, a kid's stage, food, beer and wine gardens, and a laser light show at the end of the evening.

Summer Nights features themed roaming performers from 5 to 9 p.m., including

Mardi Gras, renaissance, and pirates. Fun kids' entertainment on the East Mall kids' stage starts at 6:00 p.m. and will feature music, magic, juggling



displays, acrobatics, and creative storytelling. At 7 p.m., live bands will play on the zoo's East Mall main stage, playing an extensive combination of covers and original material.

Zoo-goers can stroll through the zoo's 216 acres of beautiful landscapes and see the zoo and

animals in a whole new light. An array of dining options and beer and wine gardens will offer guests a unique selection of scrumptious food and beverage items.

The Summer Nights discounted price also includes a choice of one of the following in-park attractions:

Butterflies!, Dolphins in Action, The Carousel, Hamill Family Play Zoo, Hamill Family Wild Encounters, Motor Safari, and Stingray Bay.

Kane County Farm Bureau is proud to partner with the Brookfield Zoo through the Food for Thought regional advertising campaign and the Summer Nights at the zoo is used as a way to reach out to consumers. You'll feel Farm Bureau's presence during the eight-week event through Ag in

the Classroom activities, fun Illinois food facts, and farm-themed peek boards.

Zoo members attend free, while nonmembers can attend

by paying \$15.95 for adults and \$10.95 for children ages 3 to 11.

For more information, visit www.ilfb.org/summerfun.



KCFB Young Farmer volunteers met hundreds of families at the "Summer Nights" event at Brookfield Zoo on Saturday, June 18th. Families played a farm trivia game and asked questions about Illinois agriculture. Pictured left to right are Young Farmers Dale Pitstick, Joe Gorenz and Trent Pierson. KCFB volunteers return to the zoo on August 6th.

Finding a new method for produce

Source: Northern Illinois Food Bank's *The Full Plate*

The perfect metaphor for life is a garden. A garden provides a small area in which nature and humans come together and grow items essential for sustaining life. Dig the ground, plant a seed, let the rain fall, and within

months, the garden gives back.

Northern Illinois Food Bank provides food for over 71,000 people each week thanks to your support. We understand the crucial role a garden plays in making sure enough fresh food is provided to neighbors in need. This is why the focus on expanding community gardens within our service area is being explored through our AmeriCorps VISTA program.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's mission of solving hunger is getting a significant boost from 11 young professionals who are currently serving the community as AmeriCorps VISTA members. As part of their one year term of service, the VISTA members are aiding the Food Bank by focusing in the areas of capacity building, communications, community engagement, community gardens, senior hunger programs and volunteer development.

Shelbi Ball is leading the charge as the Community Garden Coordinator.

For her part, Shelbi researched methods currently being used at different food banks and member agencies

known for their community gardens. She is also speaking with neighbors in need about what method would be most effective to them and what they would like to see grown.

The model Shelbi is focusing on encourages food pantry recipients to participate in growing their own food within a community garden setting where they will receive education from University of Illinois Master Gardeners and dietetic guidance from local health department staff. Her model displays creativity and sustainability while focusing on the health of our hungry neighbors.

"There is more to community gardens than just gardening," Shelbi said. "Gardening is something that can really improve your health both physically and mentally."

Shelbi recently received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award in the AmeriCorps category. This award recognizes individual volunteers to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the state of Illinois.

Shelbi's career goal is to work for a non-profit that

improves health outcomes in low-income communities. The experience she gains from being part of the Food Bank is a real stepping stone to her future as she is learning how a nonprofit runs, but also is working with the population she wants to help. Plus, there are some other perks to her role.

"Since starting this job, I have had the best cucumber ever

grown from a community garden," she said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Northern Illinois Food Bank is currently recruiting 11 AmeriCorps VISTAs for fiscal year 2017. For information, visit www.national-service.gov and search under the programs tab or contact Gloria Sanders at 630-443-6910 ext. 147 or gsanders@northernilfoodbank.org.

IFB Farm Income & Innovations Conference

Illinois Farm Bureau members, staff, farmers, and agribusiness professionals are invited to attend the 2016 Farm Income and Innovation Conference, held July 27, 2016 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

The conference, formerly known as the annual Illinois Farm Bureau Commodities Conference, will feature two general sessions and multiple breakouts that focus on topics traditionally included in the Commodities Conference, but will also include new topics which focus on technology and emphasize farm innovation.

General Session I will be "The Revolution in Grocery Shopping," presented by David Fikes, Vice President, Consumer/Community Affairs and Communications for the Food Marketing Institute (FMI). FMI is the trade association for supermarkets and grocery stores. FMI's "Trends 2016"

report is being released in June and is the most current information in the industry regarding food trends and consumption developments industrywide. This report will frame a discussion on what consumers are interested in and where the industry is headed.

General Session II will focus on drones and precision agriculture, and will be presented by Chad Colby, the general manager for Central Illinois Ag. When it comes to drone use in agriculture, Mr. Colby is widely considered the industry's leading expert. He will update the conference on how the industry is changing and how the use of technology and drones will shape the future landscape of agriculture.

Register by July 15. The conference is open to all Farm Bureau members, staff, and other agricultural professionals. Call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to register.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July

- July 4**
Office Closed/Independence Day
- July 6**
John Buck Memorial Golf Outing, Marengo
- July 7**
Nominating Committees, 6:30pm
Board of Directors, 7:30pm
- July 12**
Master Gardener's IDEA Garden, 9-11
- July 18**
Fair Set-up, Young Farmers, 6:00pm
- July 20-24**
Kane County Fair
- July 21**
Ag Committee, County Board Conference Room, 10am
- July 26**
IFB President's Conference, Normal
- July 27**
IFB Farm Incomes and Innovations Conference
- July 28**
IFB District 1&2 Young Farmer Discussion meet, Rockford



July Featured Product Pork Chops

Our featured product for the month of July is Inboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops. Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. or 10 oz. and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop comes in a vacuum sealed plastic bag. Just thaw, cut it open and pour it out on your grill for a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. Price is \$25 per box for KCFB members, \$22.50 for plus members and \$29 for non-members. It's a Farm Bureau member favorite! Available at Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Road and Oak Street in St. Charles.

It's Peach Order time! Order form on page 8.

KCFB Board Review

June 7

The June meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of

Directors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Directors reported on several topics and events. Two

guests attended the meeting – Matt Tansley and Janice Hill, Kane County Planners. They gave an update on the Food Hub Feasibility study following the annual meetings of the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION and Kane County Farm Bureau, USDA Local Food Program and Food to Market Challenge grants.

Committee Reports were delivered, including a 2016 Harvest for ALL contributions report. Due to fading, damages, and cost of replacement for existing 4'x4' signs, new Harvest for ALL signs will be 18"x24" aluminum signs. Food For Thought Committee Chairman, Bob Gehrke, provided the Board an update on the Summer Nights campaign at Brookfield Zoo. The event will feature farm/food information at strategic locations in the zoo. The information booth will be near a beer garden, live music, and laser light show; and feature themed peek boards and a farm trivia wheel. The Dairy breakfast will be held at the Drendel farm, Saturday, June 18 from 6-11am.

Joe White delivered the Foundation Committee report. He stated that the John Buck Memorial Golf outing will be held July 6 at Crystal Woods gold course, and then gave a report on contributions made to the FOUNDATION. He also announced that June 18 is the grand opening of the St. Louis Science center.

Farm Bureau Manager, Steve Arnold then delivered the Manager's Report. Arnold mentioned that a farm location was needed for the 2016 Harvest Picnic. He also stated that the Farm Bureau summer intern, Susie Thompson will start on June 20, and a Communication Coordinator position for KCFB was still available.

In AITC news, AITC Summer Ag Institute II is scheduled for June 28-July 2, and the National AITC Conference will be June 21-24 in Arizona. There are two foursomes registered for the Ag in the Classroom golf outing on June 9 in Pontiac.

Correspondence was circu-

lated including: Erin Gaitsch – thank you for the Scholarship, KCFB Foundation; William Kuipers, thank you for the General Ag Scholarship, KCFB Foundation; Ellen Kamps, thank you for the gift in recog-

dition of website development; Living Well Cancer Resource Center, thank you for the Bridge Walk sponsorship; to Janice Hill, Kane County, in support of USDA grant application; to
(continued on page 7)



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

Pledge Form

Thank you for making a difference.

You have many choices when it comes to charitable giving. You'll find no other entity in rural America more committed to educating the next generation of professionals responsible for growing our food.

According to the USDA, there are nearly 60,000 agriculture job openings annually in the U.S. and only 35,000 graduates available.

Founded in 1989, the KCFB FOUNDATION is dedicated to filling the gap and giving these students a good start. They will meet the challenge of feeding a world population, set to hit 9 billion by 2050. The FOUNDATION is also committed to the community service effort of providing local hunger relief.

Whether it's food for today or food for tomorrow your pledge & donation to KCFB Foundation is making a difference. Few choices you could make say more about your commitment to providing a bright future for the future of farms and food.



Questions? 630-584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com

FOOD FORWARD

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

I hereby pledge/contribute to FOOD > Forward.
I understand my donation will be used exclusively for classroom education & scholarships through KCFB FOUNDATION

1 acre or ___ bushels of: ___ corn ___ soybeans (other) _____

A cash donation of \$ _____ to FOOD > Forward
Donations of \$50 or more eligible for FOOD > Forward yard sign to recognize participation

or

Harvest for ALL

I hereby pledge/contribute to Harvest for ALL

1 acre or ___ bushels of: ___ corn ___ soybeans (other) _____

Produce or other in-kind donation made directly to food pantry

A cash donation of \$ _____ to Harvest for ALL

Food pantry beneficiary _____

Details: _____

Please contact me about placement of a Harvest for ALL field sign*

For past Harvest for ALL participants only:

I/we must decline participation in Harvest for ALL

**Checks may be made payable to the local food pantry of your choice, Northern Illinois Food Bank or KCFB Foundation-Harvest for ALL. Donations without a local food pantry designee will be donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Donations of \$100 or more eligible for an 18x24" aluminum Harvest for ALL field sign.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Please send to:

Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.

Welcome new members

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

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

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

Dairy breakfast

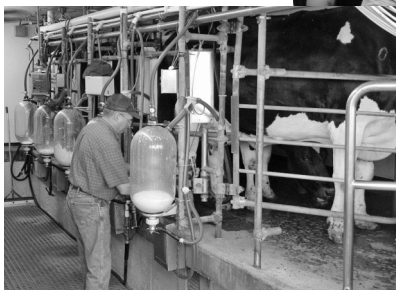
On Saturday, June 18th, Dale and Linda Drendel hosted a Dairy Breakfast and Farm Tour at their dairy farm in Hampshire, in cooperation with the Kishwaukee Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

They invited the public to tour their farm, watch their dairy cows being milked, and provided a hearty breakfast consisting of



pancakes, sausage, apple-sauce, cheese, milk, coffee, and, of course, ice cream.

Guests got to see firsthand how Holstein dairy cows are milked in a modern parlor.



KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 2015 THRU SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Kane County Farmer

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Young Farmers meet for summer BBQ

The Young Farmers Annual BBQ took place on June 6th at the home of John and Lauren Biddle in Elburn Illinois. There the young farmers enjoyed a pot-luck style dinner with pork chops as the main dish. Chairman Heather Pierson called the meeting to order around 6:30pm. The first topic of discussion was the County Exchange taking place August 5-6 in McHenry County. This event is a way for all of the

young farmer groups from District one to meet in one place. New Harvest for ALL signs were also on the agenda for discussion. The new signs will be smaller and have a slightly updated design.

Discussion then led to an update on the Food Hub and Feasibility grant, followed by information on the District 1&2 Discussion Meet and Agri-quiz Bowl. This year's discussion meets is going to be held on July

28th at Winnebago Farm Bureau. The Discussion meet is a chance for young farmers to partake in an active discussion with other competitors on pre-decided topics which are related to the agriculture industry. The Agri-quiz Bowl is being held on August 16th at the Illinois State Fair. The Agri-quiz Bowl is a team event where the Young Farmers from across the state can test their knowledge on various facets of the agricultural

industry. The last few things on the agenda were the young farmers' participation in Kane County Farm Bureau's closest approaching events; The Dairy Breakfast and the Kane county fair. It was decided that the Young Farmers would once again volunteer their time at both of these events.

After the meeting, the group enjoyed their meal while listening to Todd Wilcox, a local COUNTRY Financial representative. Todd spoke to the group about the different options for retirement planning and gave an overview of various retirement options, for both employed and self-employed persons.



The Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers gathered recently for their annual Summer BBQ. John and Lauren Biddle hosted the gathering at their farm home-stead in Elburn. Summer event plans were finalized and new committee members had a chance to learn what Young Farmers is all about – community service, education, and leadership building opportunities.

Todd Wilcox of COUNTRY Financial spoke about retirement planning, and gave an overview of various retirement options. Other discussion topics consisted of the District 1&2 Discussion meet, the Agri-Quiz Bowl, the IFB Farm Income and Innovations Conference, and county fair activities.



Young Farmers pictured from left to right: Carolyn Gehrke, Sarah Lenkaitis, Andy Lenkaitis, Joe White, Nick Conro, Michael Long, Todd Wilcox (speaker for the evening), Wayne Gehrke, Chase Bornemann, Alex Klein, Kristi Van Oost, Trent Pierson, Cody Pitstick, Tyson Dollinger, Heather Pierson, Joe Gorenz, and Dale Pitstick.

New Harvest for ALL signs are sprouting up in farmer's fields

Harvest for ALL has a new look and can be seen on display on rural roads in Kane County. Harvest for ALL signs recognize farmers who have donated a portion of their crops or cash to local food pantries of the donor's choosing.

These new signs were designed so that they will not fade. Kane County Farm Bureau hopes that farmers will be proud to display their signs to try and help spread the word on how to

provide hunger relief in Kane County.

Harvest for ALL is a Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION community service program, and provides an avenue to contribute to local hunger relief efforts.

Harvest for ALL encourages local farmers, Farm Bureau members, and consumers to support hunger relief efforts. Not only farmers can benefit local food pantries, you can too...

Here's How

- Make a tax deductible monetary donation to the Kane County Farm Bureau addressed to Harvest for ALL.
- Volunteer your time or community group to help out in local food pantries.



5 Million Meals Challenge

Source: Northern Illinois Food Bank's The Full Plate

One in five children in northern Illinois is at risk of hunger, and making sure these kids have access to nutritious foods throughout the year is a community effort.

When the school year ends, so do the free and reduced-price school lunches that provide sustenance to children in need each school day. For these boys and girls, summer isn't much fun if they're hungry and their parents are struggling to stretch their budgets to provide as many as 10 extra meals each week per child.

Your support helps Northern Illinois Food Bank fill this gap through the Summer Meals Program, which provides breakfast, lunch, and snacks at more than 11 sites across northern

Illinois. Last year, more than 288,000 meals were served through the program at parks, churches, schools, libraries, and other sites throughout the community.

To help provide hungry kids with good this summer, Tyson Foods, Inc. is teaming up with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to sponsor a 5 Million Meals Challenge. Tyson Foods, Inc. will match gifts up to a total of \$100,000 to ensure that kids in need have a healthy and happy summer. This means that every \$1 can provide \$16 worth of food.

Kane County Farm Bureau supports this program through donations made to the Harvest for ALL Program. You too can contribute by joining in the program to help feed families in need.

Food Hub moves forward

by Steve Arnold

Since its beginnings as a concept, Kane County Farm Bureau has been involved with the County of Kane in studying the feasibility of locating a food hub in Kane County. The impetus for the study came from a key recommendation in the 2013 Kane County Health Impact Assessment, that being, "Kane County should work with Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) and Kane County Farm Bureau to study the feasibility of locating a food hub."

A food hub manages the aggregation, distribution, processing, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional farms and producers. Doing so helps them to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand.

Seeing potential opportunity to expand the market for our member's products, as well as options for bringing new and beginning farmers into the industry or back to the farm, the Farm Bureau provided \$5,000 to assist with Phase 1 of the study. Phase 1 concentrated on Market Assessment, evaluating the local demand and local production of crops and other farm products that could benefit from the establishment of a food hub. It was conducted by New Venture Advisors of Chicago.

Phase 2 of the study concentrated on health equity strategies and was funded by grants from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Planning Association and Kane County Health Department. In a report to the Kane County Board

Committee of the Whole on April 22 that concluded Phase 2, the consultants recommended that "Kane County should work with partners to establish an 8,000-square-foot food hub within the county."

Work now moves on to the third and final phase, which includes farmer readiness and good agricultural practices training, operator identification, business planning and fundraising. Based on research conducted by the consultants, the food hub could generate \$3.4 million in annual sales.

While establishment of a food hub is not yet guaranteed, these results move us one step closer to helping meet local and regional food demand with production from local farms. The establishment of a local food hub has potential to open up new opportunities for local farms and farmers, including business enterprises to bring sons and daughters into existing farm operations.

When Government at most levels and in many places seems

to be inordinately preoccupied with establishing new regulations and generating new revenue, we are fortunate the here in Kane County to have a local government walks the talk of its support for farms, farmers and agricultural land uses. The current food hub feasibility study is part of a larger legacy of support for agricultural land uses that includes Farmland Protection, farmland drainage assistance, a local farm and food production ordinance and establishment of a County Board Committee devoted to agricultural issues.

The future of farming in Kane County looks bright!



Matt Tansley presents during June's Kane County Board meeting on the Food Hub Feasibility study.

Kane County FAIR
July 20-24
Summer fun for everyone!
Grandstand Schedule of Events

Wednesday	Closed
Thursday, 6 pm	Charro Rodeo
Friday, 7:30 pm	Championship Bull Riding
Saturday, 2 pm & 7 pm	Championship Bull Riding
Sunday, 2pm & 7pm	Smash Em Bash Em Demolition Derby

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Summer is here with all the special outdoor activities to share with family and friends. It is a season of relaxed schedules, enough daylight hours to enjoy the outdoors after work, and our long awaited vacations.

We are lucky enough to live in the Fox River valley with access not only to the river for a float down it, but also the bike paths, forest preserves, park districts and quaint towns with river walks.

When I grew up, I was not

allowed to go into "that dirty river." We would go to the island by Elgin to see the ducks, but no getting in the water. Thinking about those happy times with my Dad, I don't recall seeing any birds other than mallard ducks.

Then came the cleaning up if the Fox, thanks to some visionaries that realized dumping of waste from factories and such was polluting our river (imagine that). These folks were the predecessors to the Friends of the

Former FFA State Secretary is KCFB intern

Kane County Farm Bureau is pleased to welcome Susie Thompson of Maple Park as the 2016 summer intern. Susie is the KCFB Foundation Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship winner for 2016.

After graduating from Burlington-Central High School and attending Joliet Junior College for one year, Susie served as the 2015-16 State Secretary for the Illinois Association FFA. She was also very active in FFA during high school, serving as president, vice president, and secretary for Section 6, and as president and secretary for Burlington-Central FFA. Susie received numerous awards within FFA, including Top 10 Illinois FFA Section President, the American FFA Degree, Outstanding Senior FFA member, Most Active FFA member, and the State FFA Degree.

Susie was also active in 4-H, the Joliet Junior College Student Agriculture Association Member, and CHS Student Council.

After her internship is completed, Susie will attend Illinois State University to obtain a degree in Agriculture Education. Her goal is to educate her future students on the importance of agriculture, and expose them to the wide range of careers within the agricultural field.

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION offers internships to qualifying college applicants during winter, spring, and summer breaks. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$400,000 in scholarships and internships to area students studying for a career in agriculture.



Susie Thompson of Maple Park is KCFB's 2016 summer intern.

Trees Forever offers Pollinator Habitat Grants

Trees Forever and its Illinois affiliate, the Illinois Buffer Partnership, support pollinators by planting buffers of native trees and shrubs. That support grows through a Pollinator Habitat Grant program.

Debbie Fluegel, Trees Forever Illinois field coordinator, recently described the grants and native species' importance during an Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom county literacy coordinator workshop.

Until Sept. 30, Trees Forever is accepting applications from public and private landowners for pollinator habitat grants of up to \$1,000 each. Applicants face no minimum size requirement for prospective habitats. Fluegel suggested the program's lack of acreage requirement makes it ideal for schools and churches.

Grant recipients are required to plant native flowering tree, shrub and plant species. Of those native species, at least three must fall in each of the following categories: early, mid-season and late bloomers, Fluegel explained.

"The goal is to have something blooming from April

through October," Fluegel said.

In addition to providing funding, Trees Forever can help recipients locate a seed source or nursery that sells eligible native species. The organization also provides recipients a sign for habitats signifying the area protects pollinators even in the winter.

Pollinator habitat plants overwinter to provide shelter. "Native bees use hollow stems as cover," Fluegel noted.

Grant recipients will be notified by Nov. 1. For information or an application, visit treesforever.org/PollinatorHabitatCons.

White flowers and pollinator habitat seem synonymous, Fluegel said native trees. Including white oaks, willows, linden and hickory, support hundreds of native pollinator species, which include bees, moths, flies, and beetles. Several hundred pollinator species depend on white oak trees, according to Fluegel. "Native Beneficial insects are attracted to native plants" she said. "Pollinators need shelter as well as food."

KANE COUNTY FARMER

Fox, who are dedicated to keeping this resource clean today.

What a difference those people made to our river ... today we see walker, runners, fishermen, boaters, bikers and, yes, birdwatchers along the River.

No longer are we limited to mallard ducks, but we can now find egrets, great blue herons, canada geese, various duck species and even bald eagles, to name a few. What a sight to see ... a bald eagle soaring above the water.

So, if you, like me, enjoy all the wonders and beauty of our river, you will also try to keep it clean. One way to accomplish this, as mentioned on Friends of the Fox website, is to keep storm drains clean. Anything that goes down these grates in the street does not get treated; it just goes into the river. So be sure you don't throw things like cigarette butts, gum, oil, or such

in them. Even keeping leaves out of them helps, as they tend to clog up the drain and cause tannin build up in the river.

The Mighty Fox has come a long way from the dirty, polluted Fox I grew up by; we can all take part in keeping it that way.

If you need a respite from the heat, our local park districts and forest preserves have nature centers, butterfly houses, museums, and much more with lots of activities for the family. You can get a Passport at many of

Book of the month

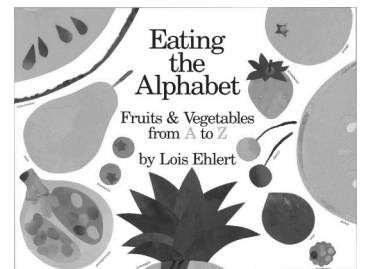
This is a simple, colorful book of fruits and vegetables for children to explore on their own or with an adult. Each word is printed in all upper case letters and then again in lower. The illustrations are bold and colorful watercolors, typical of Lois Ehlert.

As I was reading through the book, I came across a few foods I wasn't familiar with, so I wrote them down to research. Well, the author must have realized there would be questions, because on the last pages, there is a glossary of all the foods in the book. I used said glossary to find out that *xigua* is a Chinese word for watermelon and that these seed are dried and eaten like pumpkin or sunflower seeds.

these places that list available resources. The neat thing about this passport is that when you visit, you get that page stamped...such fun. It also serves as a list of places to visit.

This summer I've been banned from my kayak till my shoulder heals, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying the natural beauty of our Fox River Valley. Maybe I'll see you out there also taking advantage of some the activities our area of Kane County possesses.

Thanks to a request years ago by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn that Kane County Farm Bureau start a library of agriculturally themed books for public use, we have an ever growing selection of titles. Feel free to come in to browse in our library and to check out books of interest.



Eating the Alphabet Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z by Lois Ehlert

Purchase Discounted Raging Waves Tickets
Celebrate summer break with a visit to our state's largest waterpark, Raging Waves in Yorkville. Stop into the Kane County Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for just \$20. Hurry in, as tickets will be going fast.

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<p>Bob Effner, CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles - Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001</p>	<p>Paima Chitambo Geneva 630-262-1128</p>	<p>Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737</p>
<p>Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155</p>	<p>Steve Spoerl, Jr. Geneva 630-262-1078</p>	<p>Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434</p>
<p>Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324</p>	<p>Elvia Estrada Geneva 630-262-5290</p>	<p>Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110</p>
<p>Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326</p>	<p>Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852</p>	<p>Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600</p>
<p>Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694</p>	<p>Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200</p>	<p>Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600</p>
<p>Orazio Difrusco St. Charles 630-549-7696</p>	<p>Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001</p>	<p>Sonny Ellen Sugar Grove 630-466-9600</p>
<p>Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750</p>	<p>Jonathan Gonzalez Elgin 847-742-0001</p>	<p>Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100</p>
<p>Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245</p>	<p>Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001</p>	<p>Josh Austin Hampshire 847-683-2100</p>
<p>Rowena Ortac Geneva 630-262-1061</p>	<p>Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500</p>	<p>David Murray Montgomery 630-897-2364</p>

0516-587HO



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

Illinois ... What's in season?

Crop availability and harvest times vary from year-to-year, as well as season-to-season. Here is a list of the fruits and veggies that can be found in season during the summer right here in Illinois.

© UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
APPLE												
ARTICHOKES												
ASPARAGUS												
BEANS												
BELL PEPPERS												
BERRIES												
CABBAGE												
CARROTS												
CAULIFLOWER												
(HERRIES)												
CORN												
CUCUMBERS												
EGGPLANT												
GARLIC												
GRAPES												
GREENS												
HERBS												
HORSERADISH												
LEEKS												
LETTUCE												
MELONS												
NECTARINES												
OKRA												
ONIONS												
PEACHES												
PEAS												
PLUMBS												
POTATOES												
SWEET POTATOES												
PUMPKINS												
RADISHES												
RHUBARB												
SPINACH												
SPROUTS												
SQUASH												
STRAWBERRIES												
TOMATOES												
TURNIPS												

It is true that Illinois is a leading producer of soybeans, corn, and swine, but Illinois produces a large variety of other crops as well. Illinois' fertile soil also allows farmers to produce a number of fruits and vegetables. Some of the top fruit and vegetable crops in Illinois are apples, peaches, sweet corn, snap beans, and pumpkins. In fact, Illinois is the leading state in pumpkin production, growing twice as many in the year 2012 than California, the second ranked state. A record 16,200 acres of pumpkins were farmed in our great state in the year 2012. Our state outranks all others in pumpkin production for several reasons. Pumpkins grow very well in the particular climate that Illinois has, as well as the specific soil type that most of our state has.



Fruit or vegetable – do you know the difference?

Did you know that many of the foods we refer to as vegetables are actually fruits? By botanical definition, a fruit is the seed-bearing structure that develops from the ovary of a flowering plant. Vegetables are all other plant parts without seeds, including roots, leaves, and stems. When deciphering

between a fruit and a vegetable, the first question to ask is if the item has seeds. If yes, it is botanically a fruit. There are many more fruits than there are vegetables mistaken as fruit. The vegetable that is most commonly mistaken for a fruit is rhubarb.

- Here is a list of "vegetables" that are actually fruits:
- Avocado • Beans
 - Corn Kernels • Cucumbers
 - Grains • Nuts
 - Olives • Peapods • Peppers
 - Pumpkins • Squash
 - Sunflower Seeds • Tomatoes
 - Zucchini

Making Fruit or Vegetable leather

Step 1: Choose fruits, vegetables, flavorings, sweeteners, and garnishes. The lists below are ideas – don't limit yourself.
Fruit: Apple, apricot, banana, blackberry, blueberry, cherry, cranberry, grapefruit, grape, kiwi, lemon, nectarine, orange, peach, pear, persimmon, pineapple, plum, pumpkin, raspberry, rhubarb, strawberry, tomato, watermelon.
Vegetable: carrot, beet, spinach, carrots, sweet potato.

Cook root vegetables to soften before using them.
Flavorings and Sweeteners: fruit juice, honey, maple syrup, brown sugar, jams/jellies, vanilla, almond extract, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, yogurt, lemon juice (helps prevent apple fruit leather from turning dark). Be sure to not use too much of a liquid ingredient, or the mixture will be very thin and take much longer to dry. If using yogurt, store the leather in the refrigerator.
Garnishes: chopped nuts, coconut, chia seeds, chopped dried fruit.

the outer edges a little thicker, as they will dry faster. Make sure to use parchment paper or the fruit leather inserts that came with the dehydrator – do not use waxed paper! Dehydrate according to dehydrator instructions.
Step 5: If using an oven, pre-heat the oven to 170°F. Line a baking sheet with microwave safe plastic wrap or parchment paper. Spread the mixture evenly between 1/8 and 1/4 inch. Ensure that the edges of the plastic wrap or parchment paper do not fold over onto the mixture. Place in oven and check after 3 hours. Depending on the mixture, it can take up to 8 hours or longer.

- July is:**
- National**
 - Ice Cream Month
 - Blueberry Month
 - Third Sunday in July – Ice Cream Day
 - July 3 – Eat Beans Day
 - July 4 – Caesar Salad Day
 - July 7 – Strawberry Sundae Day
 - July 12 – Pecan Pie Day
 - July 25 – Hot Fudge Sundae Day

Step 2: wash, core, and peel fruits and/or vegetables. Peel can stay on fruits like apples and pears. Cut into smaller pieces to fit into blender.
Step 3: Combine ingredients except garnishes in blender and blend until smooth.
Step 4: If you have a food dehydrator, spread the mixture evenly to about 1/8 inch. Make

Step 6: Peel leather from the plastic wrap/parchment paper. Roll, wrap in plastic wrap, and store in the refrigerator in a sealed container.



Farmer's Market shopping tips

- Arrive at the market when it opens to find the best selection and freshest produce.
- Bring your own canvas shopping bag or basket from home.
- Buy something you haven't tried before. The Farmers' Market is the perfect place to learn about new foods. Vendors will be happy to advise you on how to select and prepare it.
- Put a cooler in your car to keep food items cool on the trip home.
- Make sure to ask vendors questions when you see unfamiliar produce. Vendors and farmers love to share their knowledge and can even give you recipes and cooking tips.
- Wear walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.
- Go with an open mind – don't make a plan until after you see

- what's there.
- If you can, write down what's available. Then, think about what you can do with the produce once you are home. After you have a plan or recipe, return to the market and make your purchases.

Congratulations

Vanessa Baron. Vanessa's name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's "Dairy" word search. For her participation, she received a dairy cow jar set compliments of Kane County Farm Bureau. Thank you, Vanessa, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for a chance to win a prize!

Fruits & Vegetables

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

APPLE
 BEAN
 BLACKBERRIES
 BLUEBERRIES
 BROCCOLI
 CARROT
 CAULIFLOWER
 EGGPLANT
 FRUIT
 GRAPES
 LETTUCE
 MELON
 ONION
 PEACH
 PEPPER
 PLUM
 POTATO
 RADISH
 RASPBERRIES
 RHUBARB
 SPINACH
 TOMATO
 TURNIP
 VEGETABLE
 WATERMELON

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by July 15, 2016 to be entered in our drawing to win a market basket with vegetable-related items.

Women's Corner

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



I hope you are having a wonderful summer!

For your outdoor cooking this summer, when you marinate meat and vegetables, always put a teaspoon or so of honey or corn syrup in the marinade. While the marinade soaks into the food, the honey helps some of the marinade to "stick" on the outside of the items for additional flavor.

Here are some facts about honey:

- If honey crystalizes, just heat it a little until the honey is liquid again.
- To tell if you are buying pure honey with no additives, turn the jar upside-down. There should be only one large bubble moving to the top.
- Did you know that pure honey never spoils?

KANE COUNTY FARMER

According to National Geographic, honey has been found in Egyptian pyramids that is "still perfectly edible." They have an interesting article at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/honey-in-the-pyramids.aspx>

Have a Happy Fourth! Here is an easy recipe for young children to make for July 4th parties.
Red, White, and Blue Dessert
1 pkg. blue-colored gelatin
Whipped topping (This can be real whipped cream, or thawed frozen-type, or prepared package-type)
Strawberries, cleaned and hulled (Slice, if desired.)
Make the gelatin according

to package directions. Put it in a clear bowl or individual clear glasses (regular or stemmed) of your desired size. On the day of the party, after the gelatin has

"set," spoon whipped topping over the gelatin. Then put strawberries on the top. Yummy, quick, easy, and ready for Fourth of July parties!

Master Gardeners announce Idea Garden open house schedule

The popular Kane County Master Gardener Idea Garden will kick off the summer with an open house event on Tuesday, June 21 from 9 to 11 a.m.

"The 2016 Idea Garden features unique combinations of flowers, natives, herbs and vegetables in several creative designs that are easy to replicate at home," said Sarah Fellerer, Program Coordinator for University of Illinois Extension. "Our Idea Garden has been moved to higher ground, but still resides at the Horticulture Research Farm on Peck Road and Route 38. The Master Gardeners broke ground on the updated plots this spring, and are excited to have visitors see their progress."

Among the ideas demonstrated this year are a vintage victory garden, pollinator plots, pallet gardening, tomatoes grown from second generation seeds from space, a patriotic garden, a color inspiration space, and a shrub plot. The

Idea Garden houses several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, and herbs, as well as new additions of kiwis and elderberry bushes.

Open houses also will be hosted from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, July 12 and August 16. All open houses include tag sales. The Kane County Master Gardener Idea Garden is located at the corner of Peck Road and Route 38 in St Charles. Visitors can enter via the Route 38 driveway.

Do you have questions about your garden, lawn, or trees? Call the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Help Desk of Kane County at 630-584-6166, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on University of Illinois Extension programs, visit web.extension.illinois.edu/dkk/. University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs and research-based information to help Illinois residents improve their quality of life.

Items sought for county fair 'bucket raffle' and silent auction

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation holds an annual 'FUN'draiser at the County fair each year in the form of a bucket raffle and silent auction. The Kane County Fair is one of the most widely attended events in the area, drawing over 100,000 people each year.

KCFB Foundation is now seeking donations of items from businesses and individuals all across Kane County that fairgoers can try to win in the bucket raffle. Bucket Raffles are a simple concept – fairgoers purchase \$1.00 tickets and place them in the bucket of the prize(s) they hope to win (antiques, gifts, merchandise, crafts, etc.). The names of donors are displayed at the fair for all to see. Higher value items are set aside for a 5 day Silent

Auction at the fair. In addition to the raffle and silent auction, the KCFB display includes farm animals, agricultural displays and fun activities for kids and adults.

All proceeds raised by the bucket raffle and silent auction go towards KCFB Foundation's to the FOOD > Forward effort to increase local scholarships and Ag-in-the-Classroom activities. By donating an item to businesses and individuals can receive FOOD > Forward yard signs and/or window clings to show the community their support of local agricultural education efforts. For 2016, the Foundation awarded over \$16,000 in scholarships for college students pursuing careers in agriculture.

If you are interested in providing support for this year's

bucket raffle and silent auction, or you know of a business or individual that might have an interest in donating, please contact the KCFB office at (630) 584-8660 or feel free to stop by our office with your item(s)!



This Tractor Planter was donated for the 2016 Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle by Farm Bureau member Dave Klussendorf of Batavia. Generous donations of craft and specialty items catch the eyes of fair attendees and encourage foundation donations in the form of raffle tickets.

Raise scholarship funds at the John Buck Memorial Golf Outing

The 16th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Wednesday, July 6 at Crystal Woods Golf Club in Woodstock.

All proceeds benefit the John Buck Scholarship fund, which is distributed to the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION, as well as scholarship programs of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Northwest Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The KCFB FOUNDATION John Buck Memorial Scholarship, funded through the golf outing, is awarded annually to student(s) seeking higher education in agriculture related

fields. For 2016, Luke Dunteman of Elburn was awarded the \$1000 John Buck Memorial Scholarship administered by the KCFB Foundation. Past recipients include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 2015 Katie Arndt, Brenton Bartelt, Erik Dunteman, Bridget Halat | 2009 Chris Paulsen |
| 2014 Erik Dunteman, Travis Hughes, Jonathan Mingl | 2008 Thomas Alan Warhurst |
| 2013 Brenton Bartelt | 2007 Katie Stoll |
| 2012 Tyler Fabrizious | 2006 Dan Hartmann |
| 2011 Matthew Paulsen | 2005 Kirk Meyer |
| 2010 Drake Hislop | 2004 Shannon Smith |
| | 2003 Catherine McDonald |
| | 2002 Stephanie Stout |

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

SAurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for August, 2015. 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!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

or print a lost Membership card

Did you know that you can renew your Kane County Farm Bureau membership, view payment history, print a lost membership card, and update account information including address, spouse/dependents, phone online through our website? To do this, simply visit our website www.kanecfb.com. Click on the Renew Your

Membership link. You will be asked to register using your Kane County Farm Bureau membership number and create a website username and password. The ability to check your membership information anytime online can help prevent unwanted membership late fees, and avoid loss of COUNTRY insurance coverage.

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FOR SALE
Alfalfa grass hay – large 3x3x8 and 3x4x8 bales – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cuttings. Nutrient content available upon request. Call: 847-436-2538

Portable Hutchinson Drive Over Grain Pit, 4 years old, \$8,500. Call: 847 436 2538

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Farming from afar takes strong teamwork

By Andy Lenkaitis

Traveling across an ocean gives one plenty of time to reflect, plan and look forward to when they're back home. I'm fortunate to have a career where I get to travel the globe working with dairy farms and more specifically, manure systems. I never realized that poop would take me to six continents and provide me with reasons to follow global economies, politics and even pop culture. Don't worry, sometimes I get to take the wife with me when I travel to somewhat make up for the times I'm away. When I'm not gallivanting around at my "big boy" job, I spend evenings, weekends and even a few afternoons (don't tell my manager) working with cows, wrenching on equipment or working the fields while managing my family's 40 cow registered Red and White Holstein dairy farm.

The most important reason I am able to travel is because of the people and support at the home farm. My wife is on the farm full time and handles relief milking, meetings with service providers (veterinarian, nutritionists, etc.), all the daily tasks of breeding decisions, supply ordering, registrations and animal health decisions (she occasionally does laundry and makes dinner when I'm home). In addition, our full time Herdsman/Dairy Manager takes care of daily chores, milking and feeding a vast majority of the time. Oftentimes the most difficult part is getting updated on daily events and having to bite my tongue instead of asking "Why didn't you do this, or did you think about this?" It was a learning curve to realize I couldn't do everything myself or have it done exactly how I wanted, I now know I need to empower people and work with the decisions and actions that were taken. If I don't agree, I need to address it in person when I am back home. I'm thankful my wife and I are good at discussing things and generally speaking, we are on the same page.

The second portion about

traveling and farming is being prepared for anything and everything. Driving to Sioux Center, Iowa or flying to Europe pro-



vides plenty of opportunity to develop plans for anything. As anyone that has livestock knows; anything is possible and I mean anything...equipment breaking down as you're boarding a plane, animals getting into places they shouldn't be and of course, occasional human errors. Having a back-up to critical pieces of equipment or processes is half of the battle, the other half is communicating the plan with the right people. I'm fortunate I can think ahead and plan, but I am more fortunate for the resources and friends to properly address many situations. I have a group of good friends who each possess special skills for cow or equipment related situations. Whether I need a back hoe, a truck backs through a building or a few cows decide to fall into 10' deep pit, I know I have people I can call.

Finally, people ask if I'm crazy for doing what I do. I can't say no, after all, manure has taken me to the Taj Mahal in India, Ephesus in Turkey and being the only non-French speaker playing on a hockey team in Quebec. Having a career working with large professional farms across the globe has given me a unique insight on technology, trends and importance of what our family dairy does in Illinois. At the same time, having faced

similar challenges of operating a dairy – even on a smaller scale, illustrates the challenges a manager faces that are far from equipment related. I apply the same principles at work and at home of service and maintenance, redundancy for when something goes down as well as planning for growth and expansion. The unique background of being a farm kid from the States with a few engineering degrees and hands on experience gives me immediate credibility with customers of any size in almost any part of the world (note – you have to be at least 50 miles from home to be an expert, otherwise your just the nerdy kid that showed cows at the county fair).

I've learned to utilize technology to keep in touch and monitor the operation when I can't be there in person. I live by my daily weather reports, weekly crop scouting reports and updates from my wife on what's happening. I have become a much better planner and I've found people are generally very willing to help if you give them a little advanced notice and have a developed plan. We put lists together of small projects and timelines that need to be worked on and I try to divide up the workload to different skillsets among my wife, our herdsman and my parents. I do my best to get necessary supplies together and communicate plans ahead of time so everyone has the same expectations.

Overall, I wouldn't trade what I do for anything. The excitement of seeing a system you've designed work well or helping close a large equipment sale is the same high as seeing a homebred cow scored excellent during classification or putting the last load of manure on the field as you empty the lagoon. My Dad has worked in downtown Chicago for over 40 years and I never understood how he did it, but now I know why he and mom worked so hard to make it work. I've been employed for almost 9 years and have been running the farm for

1 1/2 years and I don't plan on quitting either one in the foreseeable future. It's difficult to think of anything more challenging than farming, especially dairy farming from a distance but it's been one

of the most rewarding experiences I have done. As long as the wife allows it, I'll be the guy on the plane looking at barn plans or reading a copy of the Haymakers Handbook from the aisle seat.

A guide to grocery store labels

By Kristi Van Oost



Do you ever stand in the egg section of your local grocery store and have an internal conversation with yourself about what type of eggs you should purchase? Today, our food products are branded with more labels than you can imagine, from cage-free eggs, to grass fed beef, it can get a little confusing and hard to follow. Here is a simple run-down on some of the common labels seen on food products today.

Certified Angus Beef

This type of label is commonly seen on beef products, as Angus beef is known for its quality and marbling content. While this label is not government-sanctioned, the USDA worked closely with the American Angus Association to form a concrete definition of certified Angus beef. In order to be considered certified Angus, the animal must have 50% of Angus breed genetics or a hide that is at least 51% black. Only choice premium or a higher cut of beef can be labeled certified Angus.

Cage Free

This label can be seen on both chicken meat and eggs. It means

that the birds were not raised in cages, and were free to walk around as they pleased. This label certification, however, is not related to the location the birds are raised. The common belief about cage free eggs is that the birds were raised outside, in an "old McDonald"-like farm scene, but that is not really the case. The most common practice for raising cage free birds is done using an indoor aviary in which the birds are allowed roam freely within the structure.

Hormone-Free/No Added Hormones

This label has been recently growing in popularity, and is perhaps one of the most confusing labels around. Hormones are naturally occurring in animals and are required for proper growth, so the term "hormone-free" isn't exactly true. This label is referring to hormones added to products in addition to naturally occurring hormones in the animals. Government regulations prohibit the use of hormones in pork and chicken production; however this label is often seen on chicken and pork products anyway.

Thanks to our donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions in response to our April scholarship fundraising appeal. These donations will allow the Foundation to provide funding to more students wishing to pursue higher education for careers in agriculture. As part of our direct-mail fundraising pilot program, a second appeal for resources to improve classroom education about food and farming will follow in the fall. We hope you can continue to give generously. Names shown are pledges received from May 16 through June 16, and not previously recognized;

Our FOUNDATION is dedicated to providing agriculture based education for the next generation, and to meeting the challenge of providing food for a hungry planet. We look forward to continuing support for these scholarships, along with local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education through grants to local FFA Chapters and 4-H.



Several KCFB members renewed their Harvest for ALL hunger relief pledges to the local food pantry of their choice. Summer is a great time to help your local food pantry, because families need to provide food in the absence of school lunch programs. See the form on page 2, visit www.kanecfb.com to download a participation form or call 630-584-8660.

Donor

Louise D. Johnson
Dennis & Beth Engel

Beneficiary

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Burlington/Hampshire Food Pantry



SPROUTS is an in-classroom reading program with agriculture themed book donations to public and school libraries, established in memory of long time member and volunteer Bob Konen.

Donor

Nancy Bowron • Alyce Konen

Board meeting

(continued from page 2)

Dennis McLeod, raffle prize winner, for enclosing a check for \$1,718.75.

Lastly, directors addressed the election of directors and officers. Joe White, Wayne

Schneider and Mike Kenyon will serve on the executive committee as president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Thursday, July 7 at 7:30 pm.




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Attention farmers: don't forget your nutrient loss testing

The DeKalb County SWCD office will perform water testing on the water sample collection dates below. The water testing is offered by DeKalb and LaSalle County SWCD offices and the Kane County Farm Bureau.

This program was designed to engage farmers in the nutrient and water quality issues facing agriculture by providing infor-

mation on possible nutrient losses from their production operations. Lost nutrients mean lost money, and nutrient levels

July 5, August 2, 23 & 30,
September 20 & 27 and
October 18 & 25.

in runoff water can vary greatly depending on the time of year and the in-field practices.

This free test can help save you money and preserve land quality.

Water samples need to be at least eight ounces, placed in clean containers (free of any residues/detergents). Test results will be confidential.

For more information and with any questions, contact Dean Johnson at 815-756-3234, ext. 3.

Free recycling program for agrichemical containers

The Illinois Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers and agrichemical facilities to save their empty agrichemical containers. The Department announced recently it has arranged to recycle them.

Beginning at the end of July and continuing in August, sites throughout the State will collect containers. The containers will be recycled to make shipping pallets, fence posts, drainage tubing, plastic lumber and other useful products.

"This program offers farmers and agrichemical facilities a convenient opportunity to dis-

pose of empty pesticide containers and demonstrate their environmental stewardship," Agriculture Director Raymond Poe said. "I would encourage

8/4 – McHenry County at Conserv FS in Marengo

8/4 – DeKalb County at Helena Chemical in Maple Park

them to gather any containers that they may have been planning to throw in the garbage and take them to the nearest collection site."

Metal and household pesticide containers are not eligible for the recycling program.

Collection sites will accept only high-density polyethylene, #2 plastic agrichemical containers that are clean and dry. Participants are responsible for rinsing them and removing all caps, labels, booklets and foil seals.

The program is a cooperative venture between the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Container Recycling Council, GROW-MARK, Inc., Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, Container Services Network, Illinois Farm Bureau and University of Illinois Extension.

Whats new at COUNTRY

St Charles Representative of the Month

PAIMA CHITAMBO has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for May 2016 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Paima has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance and

financial security needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services.

Let Paima's expertise help you! Contact her at 2172 Blackberry Dr., Unit 100, Geneva 60134, 630-262-1128, paima.chitambo@countryfinancial.com, countryfinancial.com/paima.chitambo.

Congratulations, Paima!

Tractors for sale

To make room for the 2017 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle, the KCFB Foundation is offering one of these two tractors for sale. The best offer received – on one or the other of the tractors – by the conclusion of the Kane County Fair on July 24, will be accepted. The Foundation is also seeking a nicely restored antique tractor to purchase as a Grand Prize option in the 2017 Raffle. To place a bid for either of these tractors, or offer a tractor for sale, contact Steve Arnold at 630 584-8660 or steve@kanecfb.

and seat as well as wiring, decals, emblems, knobs and muffler. All wheels replaced and sandblasted prior to painting. New wheel bearings and shaft seals & bearings. New seals in steering, PTO and wheels. All sheet metal, castings and pedals sandblasted prior to paint. Grille repaired, valves ground and head and water pump checked, radiator cleaned, replaced rings, bearings and resurfaced guideliners. New tires and tubes all around.



1953 Farmall Super C, Serial Number 168154 with 2 point hitch, drawbar, fenders, lights & PTO shield. New gauges, steering wheel, hood, hydraulic lines



1947 Farmall Super Ai (Industrial) This tractor was purchased as an older restoration. Has new rear tires, new seat and new steering wheel. Comes with a 5' Woods belly mower.

CONNECT WITH US



Visit the Farm Bureau at the

Kane County FAIR July 20-24

Farm Facts & Fun Scavenger Hunt

Wed.-Sun. • 1-3 pm & 5-7 pm

Search the fairgrounds for farm animal stamp locations & answer farm-related questions to complete the "Farm Facts & Fun Scavenger Hunt"! Brave adventurers 10 & under who complete the challenge can return to the Farm Bureau booth for a FREE ice cream cone!

Pick up an entry form at the Farm Bureau display at the fair (Age categories: 5 and under, 6-8 and 9-10).

Commodity Carnival

(Sponsored by National 4H Council and CME)

Thursday, July 21st and Friday, July 22nd from 12-5pm

Kids fill a plastic egg with marbles representing the inputs needed to raise their own pig. Drop the egg into a giant "plinko board" to see how market forces affect your investment and see what your profit will be. Prizes include stress ball pigs. An interactive game brought to you by the 4-H Council and CME Group.

Country Store

Wed. – Sat. Noon – 8 pm • Sunday Noon – 4pm

Choose from agricultural themed items that can include farm toys, children's books, farm-themed crafts, Farm Bureau & John Deere logo wear and hats, ag-themed coloring books & more.

Ag in the Classroom activities

Thursday, July 21 from 2-4 p.m. Kids enjoy a FREE, hands-on agri-learning experience brought to you by the KCFB Women's Committee and KCFB Ag in the Classroom.

Raffles & Silent Auction

The KCFB Foundation will be conducting our annual Bucket Raffle & Silent Auction featuring a variety of prizes for a price of only \$1 per ticket – and great odds of winning! All proceeds help advance agricultural education for students of all ages in Kane County.

Daily drawings for Farm Bureau pork chops, chicken breasts, and hamburgers.

Enter a **KCFB members-only raffle** to win a BBQ gas grill.

Meet the mascots from 1-3pm!

Dusty, the Chicago Steel Hockey Mascot, will be making an appearance on the 21st and 22nd and Scoopie, the Culvers mascot, will appear the 23rd and 24th.

Proceeds from all Country Store sales and Raffles benefit Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's agricultural scholarships and Ag-in-the-Classroom programs.



— Farm Zoo —

Wed.-Sat. – noon-8 pm

Sun. – noon-5 pm

Kids can see and learn about farm animals

Order 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, hydrocooled, graded to U.S. #1 Extra, 2 1/2 inches and up in size, and packaged in a 25 pound 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. The peaches are freestones (easily comes off the pit). 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 pound box is \$32 (non-member) \$30 (member) and \$29 (Plus member). 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. Pickup will be on Thursday, August 25 from 2-6 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office, west side of the building.

Quantity:

_____ boxes @ \$30.00 Member; \$29 Plus Member; \$32 Non-member (per 25 lb. box)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Member Number: _____

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS 5 p.m. Tuesday, August 16

Pickup is at the Farm Bureau on Thursday, August 25 from 2-6 p.m.