

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 88 NO. 7 JULY 2023

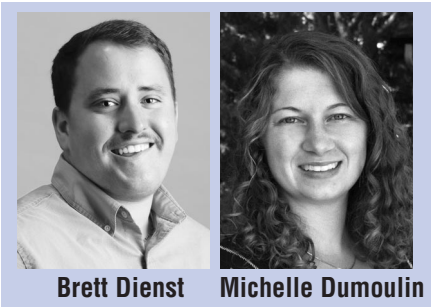
Dienst, Dumoulin elected to KCFB Board

At the 110th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau on June 15, five Directors were elected to 3-year terms. New Directors elected to 3-year terms included Michelle Dumoulin of Hampshire and Brett Dienst of Maple Park. Re-elected were incumbent Directors Craig Bradley of Elgin, Chris Collins of Elburn and Karl Kettelkamp of Kaneville.

Kane County Farm Bureau is governed by a Board of Directors of 15 farmer-members and professional members (those having occupations directly related to agriculture). Five members are elected each year to serve 3-year terms, by ballots mailed to members with voting privileges. Prior to last years elections, Directors were elected by District, not at-large.

Michelle Dumoulin of Hampshire, majored in account-

ing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then attended Northern Illinois University, where she graduated



Brett Dienst **Michelle Dumoulin**

with a law degree. She works for Agnew Law Office, an estate planning firm, and also works part-time on the family farm in Hampshire, assisting with data inventory, production analysis and financial books. Of her election to the Board, Dumoulin said, "I appreciate those who put confidence in me ... and I'm looking forward to helping the Kane County Farm Bureau board promote ag within Kane County and surround-

ing communities. I'm excited for the opportunity."

Brett Dienst is a crop insurance officer for Compeer Financial. He grew up on his family's farm in Maple Park, and has an agricultural business degree from Illinois State University. He graduated from IFB's ALOT program last year, and is the chairman of KCFB's Young Farmers group. He and

his family live in Maple Park. Dienst said he looks forward "To being a voice for not just myself – a Kane County Farm Bureau PM member, but being a voice for growers and other folks in the ag industry – farmers and salespeople. My livelihood is based on finding solutions, and I want to apply that drive to help continue the board's efforts to promote and protect agriculture

in Kane County. I want to be a voice for people."

Kane County Farm Bureau welcomes these two Kane County Farm Bureau members to its Board of Directors and looks forward to their input on governance and policy development, and their assistance in designing and assisting with activities and events that add value to Farm Bureau membership.

KCFB elects officers for 2023-24

Kane County Farm Bureau elected officers at June Board of Director meeting, the first meeting following the association's 110th Annual Meeting. The organization's bylaws call for officers including a President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer to be elected annually by the Board and from within the Board.

Re-elected to serve as officers for 2023-24 were Joe White of Kaneville and Chris Collins of Elburn as Secretary/Treasurer. Elected to his first term on the Executive Committee as Vice-President of

the organization was Dale Pitstick of Elburn.

Pitstick is a corn and soybean farmer in Elburn and is also

The officers will work with the organization's Board of Directors to guide and govern the 14,000 member association

as it develops public policies in the best interests of farms and farmers, and to establish goals and objectives for the future. It will also work with management and staff to implement those policies, to develop programs, services and activities to serve all Farm Bureau members, and to maintain professional and welcoming facilities at its headquarters on Randall Road in St. Charles.



Dale Pitstick **Joe White** **Chris Collins**

involved in his in-law's dairy farm operation in Tillamook, OR. He also has an equipment company called Roc-Pit Equipment, selling new and used planting, tillage and many more tools to local farmers.

Kane Co. livestock survey

Kane County is conducting a Livestock Market Assessment to gain a better understanding of the issues affecting the County's livestock operators while also identifying new market opportunities within the region for selling livestock products. The survey is intended to gain feedback from livestock farmers that serve customers or otherwise operate within Kane County.

Farmer input will assist the County in identifying common challenges and act as a starting point for mapping potential strategies to address them. The survey, accessible through a QR

Code, should take about 15 minutes to complete. Please see the ad on page ??? or pick-up information on the assessment at the Kane County Farm Bureau building at the 2023 Kane County Fair.

The full assessment will also include findings and analyses based on the latest consumer preferences. It is intended that the completed assessment will be a tool for local livestock operators, providing actionable data and guidance to make better informed business decisions.

For more information, contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau 630-584-8660 or Matthew Tansley at the Kane County Development Department, 630-232-3493.

KCFB CALENDAR JULY 2023

- 3** Independence Day holiday – office closed
- 4** Independence Day – office closed
- 11** KCFB Foundation – Scholarship Awards and Donor Recognition, Kane County Cougars stadium, Geneva
- 12-16** Kane County Fair, Fairgrounds, St. Charles
- 13** Board of Directors, 7 pm Fay's Drive-thru BBQ dinner, 3-7pm (KCFB Foundation fundraiser)
- 20** Kane County Ag Cmte, 10 am, County Admin. Bldg.
- 27** Fay's Drive-thru BBQ dinner, 3-7pm (KCFB Foundation fundraiser)
(All at KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles unless otherwise noted)

July Featured Food
*Bratwurst, Hotdog/
Combo Box
or Brats or
Italian Sausage*

The special for July is all about grilling! Bratwurst, Hotdogs, and Italian Sausage, OH MY! The combo box contains 10 award-winning Inboden's bratwurst and 10 Red Hot Chicago all beef hotdogs. Brats or Italian Sausage only boxes each contain 20 links. The member price is \$32.50 and PLUS members always receive a 5% discount!

Freeze damage takes bite out of peach crop

KCFB regrets to inform our members that Rendleman Orchards will not have enough peaches to fulfill orders at KCFB so there will be no peach sale this summer.

In a FarmWeek story by Daniel Grant:

"The supply of local peaches could be tight this year due to freeze damage. Wayne and Michelle Sirles, who operate Rendleman Orchards near Alto Pass in Union County, told FarmWeek they lost about 80% to 85% of their peach crop for this season."



Save the date! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



KCFB, KC Cougars & summer fun

Get your discounted Kane County Cougars tickets and enjoy an all-American ball game with friends and family this summer. A couple of options are available:

Sunday Feast Tickets – Eat for FREE with your \$15 ticket purchase and receive \$15 of concessions money. Tickets are available for July 16th, and August 6th or 20th games. Twenty tickets are available for each date.

Taco Tuesday game tickets – We also have 100, \$10 tickets available for August 1st that include half price margaritas and taco trucks. The August 1st date is "Bark in the Park" – bring your canine.

All games are at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva. Summer and baseball are calling ... get your tickets today for guaranteed fun with KC Cougars baseball! Call 630-584-8660 today to reserve your tickets or stop by our office.

Garlic business takes flight under FAA manager's wings

By Ali Preston, FarmWeek

Sharon Pferschy has always liked working with her hands.

She grew up building electronics with her dad, everything from fish callers to alarm clocks.

"I was probably one of the few young females who knew how to solder," she joked.

Her mom taught her more traditional skills, like cooking, but there was always something more attractive to her about doing things that were "nontraditional for females."

Pferschy attended McHenry County College (MCC) with plans to join the Air Force. During her first year at MCC, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was holding an internship fair. Pferschy thought the interview experience would be good for her and signed up.

"It was pretty intimidating," she said. "There were five people around the table, and I interviewed and let them know 'I'm going into the Air Force. I don't need this job. I just want to practice. And if you can give me some feedback, I'd really appreciate that.'"

Her bluntness impressed the interview panel that day, and the FAA offered Pferschy, 17 years old at the time, an internship while she finished her degree. Once she graduated with a degree in electronic engineer technologies, she joined the FAA full-time.

"I've always been on the technical side of it," she said of her nearly 27-year career. She's held roles from electronic technician to software specialist and is currently a district facilities manager.

While she enjoys her job, she didn't enjoy the nearly one-hour commute each way from their previous home in Plainfield.

On the house hunt, Pferschy ran into turbulence from many homeowners' associations when they learned about the family pet pig, Kevin Bacon.

"I would try to explain to them that pigs are cleaner than

dogs, and he's potty trained," she said. Still, it was a no-landing zone for their family.

That's when her real estate agent brought them to a 3-acre



Above: Kevin Bacon, the Pferschys' micro-mini pet pig, weighs 85 pounds and is house trained. After enjoying summer vegetation, he'll weigh about 100 pounds.



Left: Sharon Pferschy (Photos by Mack Klingbeil)

property in Elburn. In 2015, the Pferschys moved out to the micro-farm.

"It came with a 1-acre farm field, and we didn't know what to do," said the first-generation farmer.

A quick Google search led the Pferschys to two crop options: lavender and garlic.

"At that time, we didn't know what to do with lavender. We didn't even know that you could eat it then," she said. "But we did know that garlic was delicious."

Their plan was to sell the garlic. And whatever they couldn't sell, they would eat.

"It was a foolproof plan," she said.

While the move to start farming was met with skepticism from family and friends, the Pferschys now grow 70,000 bulbs annually, focusing on varieties high in allicin for the health benefits.

There was a big learning curve the first year. The Pferschys closed on their house in the spring and had only months to prepare for fall planting. With few garlic farmers in the area, Pferschy was lucky to connect with a garlic farmer in Canada who provided a lot of tips and fine points to growing garlic. Garlic Breath Farm was officially born with that first crop in October 2015. Now, she repays the favor by mentoring other farmers.

"Now, there's more (garlic) farms around here," she said. "I think that's because of us. We've helped other farms even within a quarter-mile radius."

"We believe the world is plentiful enough and that we will be provided with what we need. And if you need help growing your business ... That's something we can help with."

Growing the business has required Pferschy to wear quite a few hats, but her favorite still ties back to her roots in technology. Tactical operations are her favorite part of managing Garlic Breath Farm.

"I love thinking about what we did in the past year, breaking it down, figure out what we did well, what we did not so great then figure out what we want in the future and seeing if the two align," she said.

It's quite parallel to her job with the FAA.

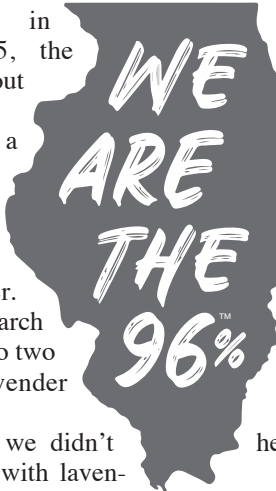
"It always comes down to figuring out what the large task is," she said. "Break it down into small steps and you should be able to flow-chart everything."

While working two jobs can be stressful, Pferschy is wired to think through the steps to get the jobs done. She also understands the value of bringing a woman's perspective to both the aviation and agriculture industry.

"It definitely makes the industry stronger because of the diverse ways everybody thinks," she said. "The worst thing you can do is surround yourself with people that are like you. It's not going to help you grow."

And she credits her upbringing to pushing the limit on traditional gender roles.

"I grew up with books illustrating a gardener as a female and a farmer as a male," she recalled. "The difference between the two is scale, not gender. I hope women like me can inspire others to think beyond their preconceived notions."



Editor's note: This story is part of the Cultivating Our Communities campaign, a collaboration of Lt. Gov. Juliana

Stratton, Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association to showcase Illinois' diverse farmers.

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.

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

* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Elected June 2023.

Kane County Farmer

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Steven J. Arnold, Editor

Audre Pack, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Polovin, Office Manager

Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator

Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator

Jenna Rowe, Office Assistant

Mike Andresen, Building & Grounds

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38

Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles

PHONE: 630-584-8660

info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

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|--|---|--|
| Joe White
President
47W727 Main St. Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-878-1726 | Brett Dienst
815-693-6888
6N077 McGough Rd
Maple Park, IL
60151-9367 | William Keck
P.O. Box 281
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
(630) 466-4030 |
| Dale Pitstick
Vice President
2N118 Pouley Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-816-0223 | Michelle Dumoulin
847-778-1418
16N393 Walker Rd
Hampshire, IL
60140-8228 | Mike Kenyon
1250 E. Main St.
South Elgin, IL 60177
847-741-1818 |
| Chris Collins
Secretary/Treasurer
1143 Anderson
Elburn, IL 60119
630-934-4642 | Keith Engel
15N587 Walker Rd.
Hampshire, IL 60140
630-640-3665 | Karl Kettelkamp
47W407 Main Street Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119
630-365-2713 |
| Craig Bradley
37W791 Orchard Lane
Elgin, IL 60124
847-888-2380 | Gerald Gaitsch
10613 Brittany Ave.
Huntley, IL 60142
847-669-2003 | Andrew Lenkaitis
6N707 Corron Rd.
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-513-9980 |
| Bill Collins
1125 Lewis Rd.
Geneva, IL 60134
630-484-6852 | Beth Gehrke
12N860 US Hwy. 20
Elgin, IL 60124
847-697-2538 | Wayne Schneider
721 Lindsay Lane
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-428-0488 |

Bioenergy crop assistance workshop

American Farmland Trust (AFT) and Argonne National Laboratory are hosting a technical assistance workshop on the adoption and management of perennial bioenergy crops. During this workshop, AFT will share information on the steps to adopt a perennial bioenergy crop as well as environmental and economic benefits that can boost Midwest farm viability. Participants of this workshop will be provided technical resources to take home that may provide a foundation for adoption of perennial bioenergy crop.

We would like you to join us at this free workshop on Wednesday, July 12th at 10:00am in Crystal Lake

American Farmland Trust and Argonne National Laboratory that explores the transition of marginal land to perennial bioenergy crops such as switchgrass, shrub willow, native prairie mix, miscanthus, and hybrid poplar. This project seeks to understand the environmental benefits and economic opportunities of using marginal lands to grow perennial bioenergy crops while also boosting farm resiliency. The project will involve both community outreach and technical assistance to guide the adoption of these crops on Midwest farms.

The Perennial Bioenergy Crop Diversification Project is a collaboration between

We would like you to join us at this free workshop on

Wednesday, July 12th at 10:00am at McHenry County College's Center for Agrarian Learning in Crystal Lake, IL. The workshop will be held in Building A, room A229. Lunch will be provided after the workshop and as well as networking opportunities with other farmers and local partners such as McHenry County Conservation District and The Land Conservancy of McHenry County.

See the ad on page 7 for a QR code link to registration form. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please reach out to Marlee Giacometti at mgiacometti@farmland.org with any questions or comments.

KCFB Foundation 2023 scholarship recipients

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will award \$27,000 in college scholarships this year to 22 future Ag industry professionals. After reviewing the applications, the FOUNDATION board of directors has awarded 1 President's Scholarship, 8 General Ag Scholarships, and 2 General Scholarships. The Foundation also administers the John Buck Memorial Scholarships (2), Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, and 5 scholarships for AGCO – 2 AGCO Parts Division scholarships, 2 AGCO GWN Scholarships and 1 AGCO Platinum scholarship. In addition this year, one Adult Continuing Ed scholarship was awarded.

Nine scholarship recipients were profiled in the June *Kane County Farmer*.



DELANA ERBSEN

The \$2,500 AGCO Platinum Scholarship has been awarded to Delana Erbsen of Lanark, IL, daughter of Kevin and Wendy Erbsen. Delana is pursuing her BS in Dairy Science and Genetics at Iowa State

University.

Delana is active in the Northwest Illinois Holstein Assoc., the Illinois Holstein Assoc., Illinois and national FFA.

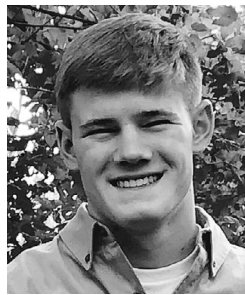
She is involved in her family's Erbacs Holsteins farm, following her father's advice that "If the cow isn't comfortable and relaxed, she won't make her maximum milk yield."

Delana hopes to use her education to further dairy farming and improve the future of farming.

Justin Huff of Dix, IL has been awarded the \$2,000 Rodholm Veterinary Scholarship. Justin is the son of Brian and Misty Huff, and is pursuing his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He has been involved in the U of I College of ACES, the U of I Production Medicine Club, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and numerous other associations.

Justin thinks growing up on a small farm in Southern Illinois, being involved in FFA and Illinois Farm Bureau has contributed to his passion for agriculture. He wants to be a livestock veterinarian and help alleviate the shortage of large animal vets in rural areas.



GRANT BALDRIDGE

Grant Baldrige of Elburn is the recipient of a \$1,500 John Buck Memorial Scholarship. Grant's parents are Christine and Eric Baldrige.

Grant graduated Kaneland High School and is attending Montana State University, pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. Over the years he has been involved in Kaneland FFA, working at a Sugar Grove pumpkin farm and getting a good knowledge of horticulture through his father's landscaping business.

He hopes to apply his degree in agriculture, helping the industry keep up with evolving technology.



COLIN NESLER

A \$1,500 John Buck Memorial Scholarship has been

awarded to Colin Nesler of Genoa, IL. Colin is the son of Jeffrey and Laurie Nesler.

Colin graduated Genoa-Kingston High School and is attending the University of Missouri, pursuing a degree in Agribusiness Management.

Colin says his experience in ag started young – as the son of a third-generation grain farmer. He helped on the farm and helped open and operate a roadside pumpkin stand in Genoa. He credits this experience with piquing his interest in ag management, setting prices, and understanding profits and yields.



JESSICA DUMOULIN

Jessica Dumoulin of Hampshire is the recipient of a \$1,250 KCFB Agriculture Scholarship. She is the daughter of Patrick and Lisa Dumoulin. Jessica graduated Hampshire High School and will be a senior at Northern Illinois University, pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Jessica has worked on her family's hog farm her entire life, involved in caring for the pigs, changing parts in the planters, transporting farm equipment and assisting in the business side of the farm.

She plans to use her mechanical skills and degree to work for a company that designs and produces heavy farm equipment and machinery.

Naomi Johnson of South Elgin is the recipient of a \$1,250 KCFB Agriculture Scholarship. Her parents are Valerie and Steve Johnson. She graduates Elgin High School this year and plans to study genetics at Iowa State University.

Ansonia McIntire of Elgin is the recipient of a \$1,250 KCFB Agriculture Scholarship. Her parents are Jeffrey and Patricia McIntire. Ansonia graduates Harvest Christian Academy this year and plans to attend Western Nebraska Community College, concentrating on biology, chemical engineering and chemistry.

A \$1,250 KCFB Agriculture Scholarship has been awarded to William Metz of Plato Center. His father is Tim Metz.

William graduates this year from Burlington Central High School and plans to attend Southern Illinois University, studying Avionics.



TESS CUMMINGS

Tess Cummings of Danforth, IL is the recipient of a \$1,000 AGCO AGWN Scholarship. Her parents are William and Jill Cummings. Tess is attending the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to become a DVM.

Hayley Foss of Genoa is a recipient of a \$1,000 AGCO Parts Scholarship. Hayley's parents are Mike and Becky Foss. Hayley is currently attending Kishwaukee College with plans to transfer to a four year college in fall, studying Agricultural Education.



AURELIA GRAY

Aurelia Gray of Hampshire is the recipient of a \$1,000 KCFB General Scholarship. Aurelia's father is Todd Gray. She graduates Burlington Central High School this year and will attend either North Central College or Lake Forest College, pursuing a degree in Music Education.

Michelle DeRaedt of Aurora is the recipient of our \$500 Adult Continuing Education Scholarship. She is a self-taught vegetable gardener who wants to continue her education to promote her not-for-profit Glory Gardens organization, helping garden-minded folks develop and run their own community gardens and donate extra produce to local food pantries in the Fox Valley.

Brennan Keifer of Maple Park is the recipient of a \$500 Driving Agriculture Forward scholarship from the IAA Foundation. Brennan is enrolled at Kishwaukee Community College. His parents are Doug and Renee Keifer.

Kane County Livestock Operator Survey

Livestock Market Assessment

Kane County is conducting a Livestock Market Assessment to gain a better understanding of the issues affecting the county's livestock operators. The completed assessment will be a tool that local livestock farms can use to identify new regional market opportunities for their products and make better informed business decisions.

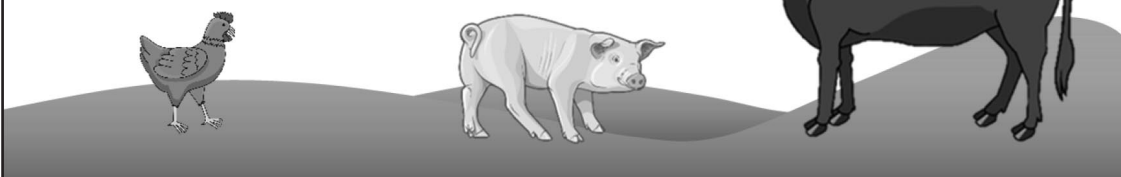
Survey

Kane County is conducting an online survey to gain feedback from livestock farmers that serve customers or otherwise operate within the county. Your input will assist the County and our partners in identifying common challenges and act as a starting point for mapping potential strategies to address them. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Thank you!

Scan the QR Code to complete the survey



Any questions about the Livestock Market Assessment or the survey may be directed to Matt Tansley, Kane County Development and Community Services at TansleyMatthew@KaneCountyIL.gov or 630-232-3493. An emailed link to the survey can also be provided upon request.



July is dry in the Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden

The Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden is full of July blooms and buds. *Echinacea pallida* (Pale Purple Coneflower) and *Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot) are budding and blooming. Both are pollinator magnets. Stop by, wander the "waterways," and see what's blooming in July!



Pale purple coneflower

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

I recently hosted our Summer Ag Institutes and I am super excited this month to share with you some of my takeaways and highlights!

I joined the KCFB crew during a unique time in history where social gatherings of any kind were not encouraged. Despite the craziness of the world during that time, I persisted and continued to plan. Admittedly, it was not always easy. There were times when it was discouraging and I felt defeated after having to cancel and/or not even host events.

While my first two years included a lot of learning curves, I had a good feeling about this year! Sure enough, that gut feeling I had was right! A great group of six teachers of different subjects and grade levels from across Kane County gathered with a common purpose – to learn more about agriculture and discover ways to implement ag into their classrooms.

Kevin Daugherty from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom kicked things off on the first day with an overview of

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom resources and hands-on activities with all things soil. Teachers learned about the different soil layers with a tasty



cereal treat where each different type of cereal represented the different soil layers and characteristics. Teachers also conducted their own "core sampling" by utilizing candy bars and a plastic straw – pretty neat, right?

Teachers were shown how they can incorporate microscopes into their classrooms and

layer different lessons and activities offered through Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom. The group even got their hands dirty with a lesson that helped them deepen their understanding of seed growth by creating a fun character, Willy Wheat, with the Soil Sam activity. In addition to hands-on activities about agriculture, teachers also received goodie bags from IAITC filled with an Ag-Mag of every topic (over

20!), Ag-Readers, and a variety of agriculture lessons about soil.

The day continued with various guest speakers including Olivia Hoots from Illinois Beef Association, Elizabeth Nielsen from Tiny Voices Therapy Services LLC, Patrick McPartlan from the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District,

Steve Arnold giving the guests a tour of the Illinois Prairie Pollinator Rain Garden, and a floral design presentation by Brooke Heinsohn from Sycamore High School. We covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time!

Two of the four days consisted of tours to local farms and agricultural businesses in the area. The first tour stop was to Klein's Quality Produce in Burlington, guided by Alex Klein. Teachers were able to connect the dots between presentations about soil health to production of fresh produce and plants. Afterward, we headed to AHW LLC in Hampshire which was a group favorite because they had the opportunity (under the guidance of Dave Gieseke) to drive a combine! Yes, you read that right! Our teachers got to sit in the driver seat of a John Deere combine!

Next, teachers got to learn about hay production and the various equipment involved from Beth Gehrke at one of their family farms in Maple Park.

The second day concluded at Engel's Dairy Farm in Hampshire with Joe Engel. The group found it fascinating to learn about dairy cattle's needs, behaviors, and production and the love the farmers have for their livestock. A highlight of this stop was witnessing not one, but two baby calves minutes after they were born while we were visiting! Sydney Friedman, a summer intern with Midwest Dairy gave a brief presentation about dairy and even had the teachers make their own homemade butter with heavy cream and a glass jar!

The second day of tours kicked off at Flavors of Northern America (FONA) in Geneva by Katie Sudler. Teachers learned with experiments about how senses and flavors work together to create the foods we all enjoy, and had the opportunity to take a tour of the labs and facility where the magic happens!

Next we headed to Midwest Groundcovers where we toured the nursery and witnessed how technology advancements help the plant complete more orders or products with less hands-on labor.

The group then traveled to Kuipers Family Farm to learn about agritainment, or farm-related entertainment activities, and learned about apple and

pumpkin production in a tour with Will Kuipers.

The day concluded with a tour at Whiskey Acres where the group continued to learn about the importance of soil health for planting corn, cross-breeding plants, and witnessing how it can go from seed to spirits like whiskey!

The final day included guest presentations from local bee farmer, Craig Bradley and summer intern, Mattie Lieb from Illinois Soybean Association.

While it may sound like all we did was have fun playing in the dirt and touring farms, teachers did have assignments and expectations to accomplish in order to receive PD hours and graduate credits. At the conclusion of the last day, the teachers had to design a lesson plan that they could use in their classroom from the information they had gathered throughout the week. It was truly heartwarming to me to see how excited the teachers were about incorporating agriculture education in their classrooms as well as planting the seed for future lessons and units!

I enjoyed being able to witness their growth and excitement about agriculture over the course of the four days. On the first day I had them write down their expectations of what they hoped to gain and perceptions about agriculture and on the final day had them complete a final reflection. They grew together and had a greater appreciation and saw firsthand the importance for agriculture, farmers, and the agribusinesses. They were thankful for the opportunities not many experience and asked a lot of great questions. A couple teachers even shared their experiences with their other teacher friends, creating a positive ripple effect, and now they can feel more confident to help educate others and their students about the importance of agriculture and agricultural education!

If you are a teacher or know a teacher in Kane County and would like to join the fun in the future, please feel free to reach out to me at any time: 630-584-8660 or aitc@kanecfb.com. To my non-teacher readers, I look forward to sharing more experiences and highlights with you soon!

Happy July!

Book of the month

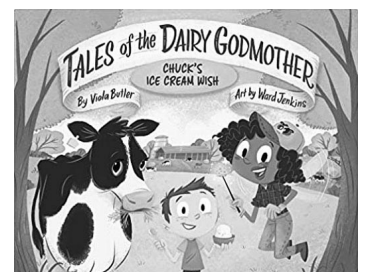
I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Have you ever wondered what might happen if you wish for all the ice cream you could ever eat?

Celebrate National Ice Cream Month with July's book of the month, *Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish*, written by Viola Butler and illustrated by Ward Jenkins.

In this playful fairy tale twist, The Dairy Godmother appears and makes Chuck's dairy dream come moo – I mean, true! The Dairy Godmother transports Chuck to the place where it all begins, the dairy farm! With the guidance of his Dairy Godmother, Chuck learns how farmers care for cows, what they eat, and all the work that goes into making milk into his favorite treat. With humor and passion, Chuck gains a greater appreciation for

all the work that goes into making ice cream!

To see the dairy magic and lessons learned, come into the Kane County Farm Bureau office and check out the KCFB Library and check out *Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.



Tales of the Dairy Godmother by Viola Butler, illustrated by Ward Jenkins

Helping you protect what matters most



Jeffrey Orman
Agency Manager
St. Charles
630-584-0001



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Chris Regula
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Luke Fawkes
Flgin
847-742-0002



Victor Alvarado
Flgin
847-742-0003



Miryam Cabrera
Flgin
630-762-1329



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer
Flburn
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero
Flburn
630-365-3737



Charles Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



David Berreles
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



...and the livin' is easy.

May we suggest some fun summer activities and treats:

- ★ Visit local farmstands and farmers markets for fresh, locally grown fruits, produce, flowers and other summer treats (see page 6)
- ★ Enjoy a Cougars game at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva. See page 1 for discounted ticket info.
- ★ Grill out with delicious Inboden's meats (page 1) – Locally raised meats that are delicious.
- ★ Make a splash at Raging Waves water park – page 6.
- ★ Two days for Fay's BBQ – see page 8.

DIY sponge water bombs

Growing up, I can't remember a summer or a 4th of July that didn't include a water balloon fight with my siblings, family, & friends. We all know it's all fun and games until you either run out of water balloons or get pelted with a balloon that doesn't pop. Try these DIY sponge water bombs as an alternative to keep the fun and traditions going all summer long – yes, they're reusable!

4 strips per sponge.
Use some yarn to tie 6 sponge strips together in the middle.
Dunk your sponge bombs into the bucket of water & let the fun begin!
Aftercare: Squeeze out remaining water & set in a sunny place to dry before storing away.
Find the craft & other water fun ideas here: <https://alittlepinchofperfect.com/how-to-make-sponge-water-bombs-for-ultimate-summer-fun/>

— Kelcee

Supplies

- 2 sponges per water bomb
- Scissors
- Pen
- Ruler
- Yarn
- Bucket of water

Directions

Cut the sponges long ways into strips. Using a pen to draw lines 3/4 of an inch apart on the sponge may help you get about



Blueberry lemon ice cream sandwiches

Celebrate National Blueberry & Ice Cream Month with this sweet ice cream treat!

Ingredients

- Lemon yogurt
- Frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Graham crackers
- Frozen wild blueberries
- Blueberry fruit spread

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, gently fold the whipped topping and yogurt together.

Quickly rinse the frozen blueberries in a colander under cool water until the water runs clear. In a small bowl, stir the blueberry fruit spread and blueberries together.

Add the fruit mixture to the whipped topping mixture and gently stir just enough to create swirls of the blueberry mixture.

Line a 9x13 baking sheet or baking pan with plastic wrap. Leave enough of an overhang so you can wrap up the assembled



sandwiches. Arrange 7 graham cracker sheets in a single layer along the bottom of the pan and spread the ice cream mixture in an even layer over the graham crackers.

Create sandwiches by placing

the other half of the graham crackers over the ice cream mixture.

Gently pull and wrap the plastic wrap over the top of the graham crackers to hold the whipped topping in the graham crackers as it freezes.

Place the pan in the freezer for 4-6 hours or until the ice cream is firm.

To make the ice cream sandwiches, place the entire slab on a cutting board and cut between the graham crackers to create full-sized graham cracker ice cream sandwiches. Or cut each graham cracker into two equal squares to make mini ice cream sandwiches.

Serve & enjoy!

This recipe found and more ideas may be found here: <https://midwesternhomelife.com/blueberry-lemon-ice-cream-sandwiches>

JOKES

Why do fish swim in salt water?
Because pepper water would make them sneeze!

Where do sheep go on vacation?
To the Baa-Hamas!

What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?
Swimming trunks!

Congratulations

To **Tammy Anderson** of Cortland, this month's 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 fun prize. Thank you, Tammy, for reading the *Kane County Farmer*, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Summer traditions

F	T	Y	E	T	M	Y	H	Q	F	A	R	M	Y	A	R	D	M	S	S	Backroads
H	I	N	T	B	X	H	U	I	W	Y	G	L	G	U	H	S	A	T	W	Burgers
R	A	S	E	I	Y	L	U	Y	A	P	G	C	P	V	E	R	E	A	I	Employment
X	S	J	H	M	D	I	I	L	C	Y	A	H	E	V	Y	E	R	T	M	Energy
Y	M	U	R	I	Y	I	P	E	V	Q	C	H	O	L	L	W	C	E	M	Family
L	O	N	W	U	N	O	M	U	K	O	H	I	I	F	N	O	E	F	I	Farmyard
R	O	A	S	T	S	G	L	U	X	V	Q	M	K	R	Y	L	C	A	N	Fishing
Q	J	O	Z	M	S	S	E	P	H	G	A	C	L	E	G	F	I	I	G	Freedom
S	H	R	W	T	T	O	C	B	M	F	F	K	A	E	A	N	S	R	D	Fun
H	O	A	E	E	S	O	A	C	C	E	S	F	T	D	K	U	E	Z	H	Hay
O	P	A	S	F	X	C	S	F	L	J	H	O	X	O	N	S	I	C	L	Humidity
Z	K	N	K	R	K	S	R	E	G	R	U	B	L	M	F	U	O	W	L	Ice Cream
S	U	W	U	R	Y	F	A	S	K	K	X	U	T	I	V	W	K	N	A	Play
S	D	O	O	J	G	S	W	E	E	T	C	O	R	N	T	X	P	U	B	Roasts
S	L	A	L	P	R	H	R	E	M	M	S	O	E	Q	U	O	S	E	Solitude	
K	D	U	C	E	E	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	X	D	F	L	State Fair
S	F	O	T	V	N	B	N	J	W	P	Q	D	F	O	A	J	O	E	F	Steaks
O	Z	V	U	W	E	S	R	D	M	H	G	U	D	P	N	O	N	I	F	Summer
V	I	M	D	U	Z	L	E	N	S	I	N	D	O	C	C	X	U	H	I	Sunflowers
I	R	I	R	M	J	A	Z	A	S	Y	H	P	D	L	C	Z	I	Y	W	Sunsets

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by July 15, 2023 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

National		July is ...	
Independence Day	4	Chili Dog Day	27
Graham Crackers Day	5	Crème Brulee Day	27
Apple Turnover Day	5	Milk Chocolate Day	28
Fried Chicken Day	6	Chicken Wing Day	29
Strawberry Sundae Day	7	Lasagna Day	29
Blueberry Day	8	Cheesecake Day	30
Pick Blueberries Day	10	Raspberry Cake Day	31
Blueberry Muffin Day	11		
Pecan Pie Day	12	Ice Cream Month	
Mac & Cheese Day	14	Baked Beans Month	
Fresh Spinach Day	16	Blueberry Month	
Cherry Day	16	Grilling Month	
Ice Cream Day	16	Hotdog Month	
Peach Ice Cream Day	17	Watermelon Month	
Hot Dog Day	19	Horseradish Month	
Vanilla Ice Cream Day	23	Eggplant Month	
Hot Fudge Sundae Day	25	Corn Month	



KCFB board director and farmer Beth Gehrke conducts a tour of her farm for Summer Ag Institute participants in June. See page 1 for story and more photos. The Gehrkes are multi-generation Kane County farmers.

Local farmer 'retires' to beekeeping

KCFB recently wrapped up its Summer Ag Institutes for teachers, and one of the presenters was our own Craig Bradley, farmer, KCFB board member and beekeeper. He gave attendees a glimpse into the complex world of bees and shared his passion with keeping and caring for *apis mellifera*.

Craig calls himself a "farm boy from Iowa," growing up on a centennial farm purchased by his great-grandfather in 1914. He left the farm to spend 35 years as a credit union director, settling with his wife Angie and children on property in Elgin.

As retirement approached, he realized he needed activities to keep himself mentally challenged, and beekeeping interested him. He also decided he needed support from other farmers because the "farm boy from Iowa" was long removed from direct farming. So, he joined the Kane County Farm Bureau, was elected to the Board of Directors and delved into beekeeping 13 years ago. He said the KCFB board has been a great fit, and that talking and sharing knowledge with local farmers has enriched his knowledge and hobby.

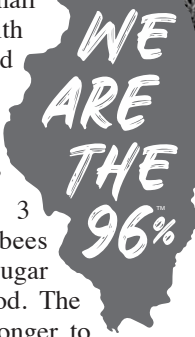
His beekeeping interest has blossomed into a hobby of 5 hives with around 50,000 bees,

each with 5 frames, and a harvest of 8 pounds of honey per frame. Craig talks fluidly about brood frames, nucs, mite control, extraction and a hobby that keeps him, well ... busy as a bee.

He shared photographs of picking up new bee nucs from a supplier in Wisconsin, who gets them from Georgia. Most bees are raised in warmer southern states like Georgia, Texas or North Carolina and shipped to suppliers further north. The term "nuc" is short for "nucleus colony," and refers to a small sized hive with bees and food source. Bees can also be purchased in a "package," typically 3 pounds of bees with a tin of sugar water for food. The latter takes longer to establish because the bees must build their hive from scratch.

Queen bees can be purchased separately and are kept in a tiny, bee sized box with a screen panel and exit hole that is plugged with a "candy plug" and a wood, cork style plug.

The queen must be introduced cautiously and carefully to a queen-less nuc, so the queen's box is hung on a frame within the hive. The queen emits pheromones that attract and soothe the bees, and if they accept her, they will begin to feed and groom her. The bee-



keeper will then remove the wooden plug, and the bees will chew through the candy plug to release the queen. Craig checks the hive carefully for eggs in cells before introducing a new queen, because the hive will not accept a new queen if a healthy queen is already in place.

Craig said the optimum time for queen introduction is early spring when dandelions are blooming to provide a food source for the bees.

A happy, healthy queen bee lays up to 2,000 eggs a day. She mates with drone bees, male stingless bees whose only pur-

pose is to mate with the queen. When the weather gets cold and honey production stops, the drones jobs are done and they are driven from the hive by worker bees.

Worker bees keep the hive running. These female bees clean and guard the hive, feed the developing bee brood, build the honeycomb, and collect nectar to process into honey.

Craig keeps a close eye on his hives and treats the bees for mites regularly. He also watches for small hive beetles, which infiltrate hives, lay eggs in stored honey and will take over a hive and drive the bees away. In this instance, scout bees will leave the hive and search for a new location. The bees will then swarm around the queen as she travels to the new location. Craig said with a shrug that "You can't avoid bee swarms - it's what they do," and then chuckled and added that his bees would be hard-pressed to

find a better home than his little apiary in Elgin.

Honey is collected in fall. Craig uses an almond scent to calm the bees, removes frames and uses tools to slide the honey out of cells. Honey goes into 5 gallon buckets and is taken to Craig's garage for extraction, double-straining, and quality checks including moisture content. He gets about eight pounds of honey per frame. Wax is returned to the hives for bees to redistribute.

Craig does not sell his honey commercially, but did sell it at St. Thomas More School craft show fundraiser last year.

As the season winds down, and temperatures drop, Craig and his bees are "off duty" for the winter. The bees have their honey to sustain them; and Craig has beekeeping groups, maintenance and planning to sustain him until spring calls the bees and Craig again into the honeybee sweet cycle of life.

Above:

Craig tending his hives. The honeybees gather pollen from lots of sources including autumn goldenrod and fruit trees. Craig estimates that 60% of bee's pollen comes from trees.

Craig's wife, Angie, paints the hives, here with help from the Bradley's grandson.



Farm threads through summer traditions

My husband fished at the farm. Our son and his friends played paintball-style games in the farm woods. I smoked brisket from our inventory of freezer beef, and our daughter baked an order of graduation cakes that required 30 fresh eggs from her chickens. We ended the weekend as a family kayaking the river that borders the home farm.

The first few days out of school provided a glimpse of farm-infused summer traditions to come, like Sunday mornings in solitude on the front porch. Impromptu wiener roasts under starry skies. And summer-time suppers with hyper-local menu items: Burgers and steaks from our farm's cattle herd paired with green beans, lettuce or sweet corn from the garden.

Despite the Illinois humidity, I love the freedom and energy of summer on the farm between planting and harvest seasons. That feeling amplifies with timely, beneficial rains and having all the hay baled for the time being. This break between the farm's busiest seasons gives our minds an opportunity to pause at spectacular, golden sunsets and lightning bugs dancing in the rural darkness afterward.

West Coast cousins soon visit the farm with an itinerary to catch those fireflies, view as many cows, chickens and tractors as possible and play wiffle ball in the farmyard. The kids of my city cousins have requested to see Farmer Doug's excavator in action, giving them more pretend-play scenarios for their favorite 1/16th-scale toy.

Once upon a time, our kids played similarly, using toy backhoes and wheel loaders in a designated corner of the vegetable garden. Now teens, the farm Jeep supercharges their

summer fun. The 4x4 effectively scouts crops and teaches our license- and permit-holding farm kids how to drive a stick shift. We spend summer nights practicing on the backroads in the vehicle's iconic, open-air glory. Subsequently, I think I found my spirit vehicle.

Summer brings sunflowers to cut, chickens to show and ice cream worth a country drive. The kids' schedules include youth leadership events, summer employment on the farm and the debut of a 75-foot slip-and-slide on the slope north of the farm shop. The State Fair signals the end of summer break. Soon after, our neighbors will close their "farm pool" for the season, a glammed-up livestock water tank. I give them the prize for most-creative farm-infused fun.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family, growing corn, soybeans and hay and raising beef cattle, backyard chickens and farm kids in West-Central Illinois.

Raging Waves tix

This year's tickets have splashed down at KCFB. Enjoy a day at the largest water park in Illinois at a FB discounted price. A limited supply of single day, general admission tickets are available at \$24.00 each (regularly \$54.99) 2 under are free. Single day tickets are valid Memorial Day - September 4, 2023. Limit 5 tickets per FB member/family. Call us at 630-584-8660 for more info.



Season's Eatings

July is the month for some delicious fresh produce. Visit your local farm stand or farmer's market and stock up on fresh green beans, zucchini and yellow squash, early tomatoes and sweet corn. Stop by Kane County Farm Bureau and pick up a free 5x7" refrigerator magnet that gives you a handy list of Illinois' specialty crops and their months of availability. Savor the summer flavors of fresh Kane County produce!

These Kane County farm stands and farmers markets are full of fresh summer flavors.

Farm Stands

- Enjoy Pioneer Farm**, 17N400 Big Timber Rd., Hampshire, IL 60140 (847) 683-2863, enjoypioneerfarm@yahoo.com, enjoypioneerfarm.com
- Goebbert's Farm**, 42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire; Lloyd; 847-464-5952; emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com
- Klein's Farm & Garden Mkt**, 39W130 Plank Rd., Udina, 847-697-4910 1175 Lillian St., Elgin; Matt Klein; 847-888-4610; kleinsqualityproduce.com
- Kuipers Family Farm**, 1N318 Watson Rd., Maple Park; Wade & Kim Kuipers; 815-827-5200; kuipersfamilyfarm.com
- Prairie View Farm Market**, 48W130 Rt 72, Hampshire; 847-683-4970; Cheryl; prairieviewfarmmarket.com
- Randy's Vegetables**, 37W412 Huntley Rd. W., Dundee; 847-428-5244; randysvegetables@aol.com
- Stojan Vegetables**, 2N874 Howard Rd., Maple Park; Phil Stojan; 815-827-3265; stojans.vegetables@gmail.com
- Theis Farm Market**, 6N953 County Line Rd., Maple Park; 815-757-1090; theisfarmmarket.com
- Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse**, 10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley; 847-669-3421; tomsfarmmarket.com
- Wiltse's Farm**, 50W379 Rt. 38, Maple Park; Joe Wiltse; 815-739-2573; wiltsefarm.com
- Windy Acres Farm**, 37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva; Amanda Sraile; 630-232-6429; windyacresfarmstand.com

Farmer's Markets

- Aurora Farmer's Markets** • 630 264-INFO(4636) www.aurorafarmersmarket.com Downtown - Water Street Square, 65 Water Street Saturdays thru October 16, 8am-Noon
- Batavia Farmer's Market** North River Street (between Wilson & State) Saturdays thru Oct 30, 8am-Noon, 630-761-3528, www.downtownbatavia.com
- Geneva French Market** Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St., Sundays, thru November 12, 9am-2pm, www.bensidounusa.com, 724-800-0102
- Elgin Farmer's Market**, Grove Ave, Between DuPage Crt & Fulton St, Fridays, June 3 - Oct. 14, 3pm-7pm, www.downtownelgin.com
- East Dundee Depot Market**, Visitor's Center, 319 N. River St., East Dundee, Saturdays, May - October 28, 8am-2pm, 847-426-2255
- St. Charles Farmer's Market**, 630-584-6680, www.bakermemorialchurch.org, **Outdoor Market**, Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64, Fridays, June - October, 8am-1pm, **Indoor Market**, Baker Hall at Baker Memorial UMC, Fridays, November - May, 9am-Noon; 630-988-0705
- Sugar Grove Farmers Market**, Sugar Grove Village Hall, Rt. 30 & Municipal Dr., Saturdays, June - September 30, 8am-12pm, 630-466-1014

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

July 13 or 27
Drive Thru BBQ
Fundraiser

Please reserve for _____ July 13 OR _____ July 27:

_____ Pork chop dinners _____ Chicken quarter dinners

_____ Pork chop/chicken combo dinners

Please enclose payment of \$18 per dinner. Make checks payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Visa / MC _____ Exp. date ____ / ____

CRV _____ Phone (____) _____

Return to: KCFB Foundation • 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call 630-584-8660.

Scholarship recipient letters of thanks

Dear Mr. White,

I am honored to be the recipient of the 2023 AGCO Women's Network Scholarship of \$1000 through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. Your generosity will allow me to complete an A.A.S in Ag Business and Precision Ag Technology as well as complete all general education transfer classes at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, IA. I then plan to transfer to a 4-year university to complete my bachelor's degree.

I will use the valuable knowledge, skills and expertise I gain during my time in college to contribute to the agriculture industry after graduation.

I believe your scholarship is a good investment in me and the contributions I hope to bring to the agriculture industry someday. I

have a part-time job, but this scholarship reduces my financial burden and allows me to limit my work hours during the school year, so that I have more study time.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Libby R. Larkin

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation –

I am beyond grateful to have the honor of being a Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation \$1,000 General Scholarship recipient. Your generous contribution will allow me to pursue my undergraduate degree in nursing at Waubensee Community College.

These funds will go a long way to help me to reach my goal of graduating debt free. They will allow me

to focus on my studies and have the time to serve the Waubensee community. I look forward to having a campus job that will allow me to work limited hours while obtaining my degree in nursing.

I see myself as an outpatient oncology nurse where I can improve care for a patient, educate patients and my community, advocate for my patients so they receive the best possible care, and offer emotional support to patients and their families. I will never stop learning and growing in my field. I truly believe that I will find a career in nursing to be one where I can use my strengths to serve our community.

I am currently a senior at Kaneland High School where I maintain a GPA of 3.59 and am a member of the bowling and tennis teams. Also, I have had the opportunity to spend 3 of my high school years attending the Fox Valley Career Center taking medical classes, including Exploring Medical Careers and Basic Nursing Assistant Training. There is a part of me who wishes I had more time in to take additional classes at FVCC including the Fire Science and Emergency Medical Technicians classes. I am grateful for the knowledge I have obtained at both Kaneland High School and the Fox Valley Career Center.

The KCFB \$1,000 General Scholarship and the opportunity to attend Kaneland High School and the Fox Valley Career Center have

given me a solid foundation upon which I can build my future. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,
Lucas Johnson

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau, Thank you so much for the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Agricultural Scholarship.

I appreciate being selected and I am thrilled and honored to put this to good use in my college education.

Fondly,
Elizabeth Kleckner

Dear KCFB Scholarship, I was very happy to learn that I was a recipient of the KCFB Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generosity and financial support toward my college education.

I am an incoming freshman and I plan to work very hard to get my degree and to pay for it. I am currently a biology major and I am paying for college on my own. That would include working while I attend school. At present I am uncertain of what field of biology I am going into, but this scholarship will assist me in getting a good start with my education.

By awarding me the KCFB Scholarship, I am able to pay for my college semester almost fully. Your financial generosity has allowed me to be one step closer to

my career in biology.

Sincerely,
Ansonia McIntire

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau, Thank you for selecting me to receive your scholarship. This scholarship will help me continue my education at Iowa State where I am majoring in dairy science with a minor in genetics. Thank you again for your generous support.

Thank you,
Delana Erbsen

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau, I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the AGCO Parts Division Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to attend Joliet Junior College to study Ag Business.

Sincerely,
Bridget Wilkening

Dear Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the AGCO Women's Network Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor. I deeply appreciate your generosity and support. Through your support, it is possible for me to pursue my career goals in veterinary medicine and the agriculture industry. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Tess Cummings

What's new at COUNTRY?

St. Charles Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager

Congratulations to CHUCK QUICK who has been named the May Rep of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Jeffrey Orman. Chuck is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate

and long term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services.

Let Chuck's expertise help you! You may reach Chuck at 847-683-2100, or charles.quick@CountryFinancial.com, or <https://representatives.CountryFinancial.com/Charles.Quick/>. Congratulations, Chuck!

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Cristian Saenz! Cristian has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since April 2015. His office is



Cristian Saenz

located at 514 N Lake St., Aurora and may be reached at: 847-893-4112.

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

IDOA free recycling for ag containers

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) encourages farmers and agrichemical facilities to take part in a free agrichemical container recycling program. Sites throughout the state will collect containers that are recycled to make shipping pallets.

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 containers and removing all caps, valves, metal, labels, booklets and foil seals. Participants are also responsible for cutting off the top and bottom of plastic drums and cutting

the side of the drum from top to bottom. Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers can be recycled via the IDOA's container recycling program by making the following container preparations: Mini Bulk (cage) contain-

ers are required to be cut into separate top, bottom and sides, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood) (6 slabs of plastic). Intermediate Bulk Containers are to be cut in to 1-foot square pieces, fittings discarded (no

metal, no wood). G. Phillips and Sons, L.L.C. is offering services to pick up Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers throughout the year. Contact G. Phillips and Sons, L.L.C. at 678-232-6047 to learn more.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

SERVICES

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

WANTED

Want to buy vintage & used tools. Also, we do clean outs: Call Chris: 630-550-7182

FOR SALE

26" Univega Alpina 500 bicycle, yellow. \$200 or best offer. Call: 630-232-6639

Technical Assistance Workshop: Perennial Bioenergy Crops

American Farmland Trust (AFT) and Argonne National Laboratory are hosting a workshop for farmers interested in perennial bioenergy crops.

Participants will leave with a completed work plan and resources to help diversify operations and build farm resiliency.

Free lunch and networking opportunity to follow the workshop!

Wednesday, July 12th
10:00am - 12:00pm
Free lunch after!

McHenry County College
Building A, Room A229
Center for Agrarian Learning, Crystal Lake, IL

Register soon: Limited space available.

Questions?

For more information on this event or project, please contact Marlee Giacometti, Midwest Program Associate at mgiacometti@farmland.org, 815-267-1326. This project is supported by Argonne National Laboratory

Please see the project webpage for more information <https://bit.ly/3VO1Row>

REGISTER HERE



Plus membership winner

Congratulations this month go to Terry Lally of St. Charles, the July winner of our PLUS (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

The next time Terry stops in our office, he will receive a

FREE combo box of bratwurst and hot dogs from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we offer each month.

In addition to the discounts and benefits of Plus membership, ALL KCFB PLUS (+)

members are entered in a monthly drawing for a featured food product or seasonal prize.

For more information on member benefits, membership upgrades or PLUS (+) member status, call Liz at 630-584-8660.

Welcome to the next level

This month we welcome the following KCFB members who joined our organization or reclassified their membership in January to *Regular or Professional Status:

We remind you of added perks that accompany your new Regular member or Professional Status and thank you for supporting KCFB's efforts at advocacy, education and hunger relief:

• Professional networking

opportunities & engagement with farmers

- Agriculture, farm & food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to FarmWeek, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
- Continuing subscription to the Kane County Farmer newspaper

- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
- 302,000 member dis-

Regular Members

Richard Marinello Aurora
Lowell Knief Burlington

Visit KCFB at 2023 Kane County Fair

The Kane County Fair will take place July 12-16, 2023 at the Fairgrounds on Randall Road in St Charles.

Kane County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and area FFA Chapters and volunteers will be promoting KCFB membership and the "We Are The 96%" campaign of Illinois Farm Families™. The KCFB Foundation will promote its annual Vintage Truck Raffle and Bucket Raffles for college scholarships. The Farm Bureau space will also feature our Young Farmer Grain Bin Safety – grain handling hazards display and we will be distributing information on a Kane County Livestock Market Assessment surveys.

KCFB encourages all members to stop by to learn more about student scholarships, Ag Literacy resources, membership benefits or just to visit with Farm Bureau staff, leaders and area FFA students. Several

attractive incentives for NEW member recruitment and/or membership status re-classification will be offered only at the Fair, so bring along a friend who is not a Farm Bureau member!



Additionally, our space on the fairgrounds will be dedicated to...

Giant Jenga Farm & Food Trivia – Win a prize for yourself, your child or grandchild by successful completion of a trivia contest (alone or in competition). Prize values will increase with the number of correct answers given.

Bucket Raffles – Our popular KCFB Foundation College

Scholarship Fundraiser will return for 2022 with a score of prizes donated by local merchants and your chance to win a prize or prize package for a \$1 ticket. We will again offer tickets with a volume discount (6 for \$5) and a FREE ice cream cone at the 4-H Foundation ice cream stand for those who purchase \$10 worth of tickets.

Vintage Truck Raffle – The Farm Bureau building on the fairgrounds will also feature our 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle grand prize, a 1965 IH D900 step side pickup, with tickets available starting at \$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50 for this scholarship fund fundraiser.

As always, we will also have information on Farm Bureau member benefits, ice cold water, and farm animals for the kids. We hope our members and the public will stop by for a chat! See below for a 2023 Kane County Fair schedule of events.

2 GREAT EVENTS FOR ONE COMMON PURPOSE!

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will be conducting two fundraisers to support college scholarships and agricultural literacy programs and we cannot do it without you!

First, our traditional Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Kane County Fair in St. Charles will be July 12-16, 2023. The second event will be KCFB Foundation's first-ever benefit in September (yes, details to come soon!) and we are seeking donations for silent auction items to raise funds.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation has provided over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to local students to pursue college degrees and provided ag literacy programs to teachers and students across Kane County. As we look to the future, KCFB Foundation has some BIG goals of making a greater impact in the lives of others through agricultural efforts and we cannot do it without your help!

Please feel free to contact us at (630) 584-8660 with any questions or concerns. A week before the fair we will stop by to collect prize donations if you wish to contribute.

Farm toy of the month

This month's farm toy will keep future farmers busy for hours. This Ertl Round Gable Barn 1/64 scale play set includes a barn, windmill, wagons, farmers and horses, cattle and corral fencing. Kids will enjoy fashioning their farm out of this 73 piece set. It is designed for

ages 3 and up. The price is \$31.97, but during July, visit our Farm Bureau Country Store and save 10% on this farm set. See you soon!



Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received May 15–June 16, 2023.



Donor	Beneficiary
Kathleen Chwee	KCFB Little Lending Library

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

Thank you to all the generous donors and volunteers who support Kane County Farm Bureau!

KCFB Foundation/Fay's BBQ Drive-Thru Fundraisers

July 13 & 27 Sept 14 & 28
 Aug 10 & 24 Oct 12

YUM!

At Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. at Oak St., St. Charles



Teachers at June's Summer Agriculture Institutes visited Klein's Farm & Garden Market fields to learn about the crops that are grown for Klein's farm stand and market. See story on page 1.

Vintage Truck Raffle – get your tickets now for this fun ride

Tickets are now available for the KCFB FOUNDATION's 2023 Vintage Truck Raffle.

The Grand Prize this year is a 1965 International Harvester D900 pickup truck. Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50 and ticket sales help provide Ag Literacy programs and college scholarships for Kane County students.

Return the form below, stop by, or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to purchase your tickets with

VISA or MasterCard. The winning ticket will be drawn on September 17, 2023.



The KCFB Foundation is sponsoring a Vintage Truck Raffle to raise funds for College Scholarships and Ag Literacy programs. The Grand Prize in the 2023 Raffle is this bright blue 1965 IH D900 step-side pickup.

Vintage Truck Raffle • KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone (____) _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 OR charge my

Visa MC Discover: _____ Exp ____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

Kane County Fair MUST!

Midway Hours of Operation

Wednesday: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
 Saturday: 12:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
 Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Note: Exhibit halls close two hour earlier than Midway.

Admission

Wednesday: \$5.00 Admission
 Thursday: \$5 admission ; children under 3 FREE
 Friday-Sunday: \$10/adult; \$5/children 3-12; FREE/children under 3
 Senior citizens over 62: FREE Thursday until 5:00 p.m.
 Military with I.D.: FREE Thursday until 5:00 p.m.
 Season Tickets: \$25.00 save \$15.00

Entertainment

Grandstand
 THURSDAY, 6:30 PM ILLINOIS STATE PULLERS ADMISSION \$10.00
 FRIDAY 7:30 PM PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BULLRIDERS & COWGIRLS
 SATURDAY, 7:30 PM PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BULLRIDERS AND COWGIRLS.
 SUNDAY, 2:00 PM DEMOLITION DERBY ADMISSION \$10.00
 SUNDAY, 5:00 PM DEMOLITION DERBY ADMISSION \$10.00
 Purchase discounted tickets for Friday and Saturday shows at rodeoticket.com. Tickets will be sold at the Grandstand starting each night at 6:00 PM

Miller Lite Sound Stage

FREE ALL DAY EVERYDAY
 THURSDAY 7:00 PM - 9 PM - PINO FARINA
 FRIDAY

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM THE TWO BEER TOMMY BAND
 8:00 PM - THE BREAKFAST CLUB
 SATURDAY 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM HILLBILLY ROCKSTARZ
 SUNDAY 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM DRY COUNTY LINE
 7:00 PM - Hi INFIDELITY

FREE acts found throughout Midway

Magic Show
 Petting Zoo starts on Thursday
 Swiftly Swine Racing Pigs
 Fantasy Amusements Ride Co.
 Miller Lite Sound Stage
 Car Show Saturday & Sunday only
 Classic JP Car Show; Saturday and Sunday all day
 Woodcarver
 4-H sale Sunday at 1 pm

Rides

Provided by Fantasy Amusements
 Wednesday: \$5.00 admission for everyone. \$30 unlimited rides from 3:00 p.m. to close
 Thursday: \$5.00 admission for everyone. \$30 unlimited rides from 3:00 p.m. to close
 Friday: Super Saver Day! \$30 unlimited rides from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday: Community Day! \$30 unlimited rides from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop at 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday: Fair Finale Day! \$30 unlimited rides from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. (does not include admission) Sales stop at 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday: Last Blast! \$5 fair admission and \$25 unlimited rides from 6:00 p.m. to close
 4-H Members: \$20 unlimited rides all day, Thursday only; must be purchased in advance through 4-H office