

# 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. 84 NO. 3 MARCH 2019

## Membership ...and more!

If you're a *Daily Herald* reader, you might have noticed a recent article, "The benefits of being a member of the Kane County Farm Bureau." To our happy surprise, this article has definitely generated some buzz in our office!

Reporter Dave Heun saw value in being a KCFB member and wanted to share it with his readership. One could attribute it to a slow news day, but it happened during the government shutdown and January's predicted "snow-mageddon," so we took it as a compliment. After all, whether you follow political, weather, business or celebrity news cycles, there are NO slow news days.

Obviously, we see the value of membership every day, but understand that all members have busy lives, and many may not be as familiar with what our organization represents, and provides.

So in this issue of the *Kane County Farmer* we will address some of the tangible and intangible benefits of membership, the who we are and what we do. We also issue an appeal to you, the members, to help us grow in scope and influence.

One way to do so is to pass this issue along to a neighbor, friend or family member (it includes an application for membership on page 8). A second is to refer the same neighbors, friends or family members, and we'll extend the invitation. A referral form (and prize offer) is on page 6, on the reverse of our ever popular Farm Facts & Fun word find. The last is to recruit a member yourself, for which incentives are also offered. Again, see page 6.

In recruiting members to our not-for-profit membership organization, the two most common mis-perceptions we face are that we are a publicly funded government entity (which we are not) and that one must be a farmer to join (also not true). Since 1959 Farm Bureau membership has been open to all in Kane County who "support a stable, profitable and permanent agricultural sector as a vital part of a strong economy in a free society."

You've already joined us. I invite you to invite others to do the same.

Steve Arnold, Editor

## Trucking rules for farmers, March 11

Trucking regulations can be complicated, and farm exemptions compound that problem. Farmers from Kane, DeKalb and McHenry counties are invited at

7 p.m. on Monday, March 11 to a meeting at Joe's Place 19716 E. Grant Hwy., Marengo, 60152 to find out what they need to know to be safe, and legal.

IFB and local county Farm Bureaus will be co-hosting the two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws – old and new – specifically for farmers. You'll be introduced to new rules, reminded of the old ones that still apply and helped to figure out whether exemptions are available.

Trucking laws have been reshaped in recent years with more changes yet to come. Rules recently affected include:

### KCFB CALENDAR MARCH 2019

**3-9** 2019 Agriculture Safety Awareness Week

**4** Return Water Test kits to KCFB

**11** On the Road Seminar, Marengo, 7pm

**12-14** IFB Leaders to Washington Program

**14** National Ag Day Board of Directors, KCFB, 7pm (6 pm Legislative Update & dinner)

**15** Lunches to Legislators, 9am

**18** Ag Days set-up at Mooseheart

**19-20** Ag Days at Mooseheart for 4th graders (Volunteer chaperones welcome, call Suzi @ 630-584-8660)

**21** County Board Ag Committee, 10am

**22** Young Farmers' Euchre Tournament (6:30pm mtg., 7:00pm Teams/Lessons, 7:30 pm cards dealt)

**26** Food for Thought Mtg, 10:30am, KCFB

### MARCH FEATURED PRODUCT Homemade Corned Beef

The special this month is Inbodens's corned beef rounds. Each corned beef is brined in house and comes sealed for your St. Patrick's Day celebration. Each package will be approximately 4 lbs. The Member price is (not including tax) \$4.99 per pound. Plus status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Quantities are limited so please call ahead to reserve!

farmer exemptions, Harvest Season permits, Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs), waivers for insulin-related diabetic drivers, a new class "C" license plate, Covered Farm Vehicle options for small trucks, and the UCR payment schedule and fees for 2019.

Presenting the seminar will be Kevin Rund and Kirby Wagner, who specialize in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau®. They'll provide take-home materials covering these topics.

Throughout it all, you'll

have the chance to ask those farm trucking questions that everyone seems to have an opinion about, but no one can agree on an answer.

The seminar and pizza buffet are free to KCFB farmer-members courtesy of Kane County Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required by March 6th. The cost for non-members is \$37, which includes a one year regular or professional KCFB membership. To reserve your spot, please call 630 584-8660 or email [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com).

KCFB Communications Specialist Marty Keltner displays a pollinator habitat sign next to the corn statue at the FB office on Randall Road in St. Charles. KCFB has received a limited shipment of these 24' x 36" signs for farmers to share support for pollinator habitats in high traffic and public areas. The signs, to generate awareness of the importance of food and shelter for bees and butterflies, are available only to farmer-members. Quantities are limited, call Steve at 630-584-8660.



## We've gone GREEN for March!

The 8320R John Deere tractor, originally produced from 2009-2010, was manufactured in Waterloo, IA. ERTL has created the version we carry, a 1/64 scale, die-cast metal replica for serious collectors or as a fun farm toy for your mini-me farmer. This toy tractor comes with a J & M Grain Cart, perfect for hauling pebbles, dirt, seeds, or whatever fits!

Regular price is \$18.99, Farm Bureau members will receive a 10% discount during the month of March.

Looking to buy a full size John Deere? We can help with that too, through Farm Bureau's "John Deere Rewards" program. Kane County Farm Bureau members are eligible for a complimentary upgrade to John Deere Rewards (Platinum 2 status) – which unlocks the best of Rewards including valuable equipment discounts like:

- Commercial Mowing – \$300 to \$2,700 off
- Residential Mowing – \$100 to \$200 off
- Utility Vehicles – \$200 to \$350 off
- Tractors – \$200 to \$300 off
- Golf & Sports Turf – \$500 to \$3,700 off
- Commercial Worksite – 17% off MSRP

Don't wait – Visit [JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau](http://JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau) today to register!

### Details and Restrictions

- Must be a valid member of Farm Bureau for 30 days.
- A valid member email address is required for eligibility.



**Farm Toy of the Month**  
John Deere 8320R Tractor with  
J & M Grain Cart

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 106th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 on Thursday, April 11th, 2019, at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors, and management for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2018, and to announce the five directors elected to serve terms of three years to represent Districts 1 through 5, and for transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

**10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE**  
Support local farms & our neighbors in need.

**JOIN THE CHALLENGE**  
(630) 584-8660

HELP US REACH OUR 10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE GOAL.

**6,360 gallons – February 15, 2019**

[www.kanegives.org/10000](http://www.kanegives.org/10000)

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

Contributions as of February 15 totaled 6,360 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries – including pledges for matching contributions! To join us on our way to our 10,000 gallon goal, visit [www.kanegives.org/10000](http://www.kanegives.org/10000). We've still got a long way to go. See page 3 for businesses where you can make a contribution. For a form to "match" contributions from a group or club you belong to, or to challenge other groups or organizations, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



# Kane Co. 4-H Foundation sponsors 11th annual dinner and auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 11th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 13, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in St. Charles.

“Last year, the event raised over \$20,000 for University of Illinois Extension programming in Kane County, and the goal this year is to match that,” said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson. “This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it helps support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension programs.”

The dinner will be held in the Prairie Events Center at the Kane County Fairgrounds located on Randall Road in St. Charles. Attendees have the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$14, a 1-chop dinner for \$12, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$8. The pork chops will be

prepared by the Elburn Lions Club, and served by Kane County 4-H members and Extension volunteers.

Throughout the evening, there will be a silent auction of items and themed baskets donated by area supporters. At 7 p.m., silent auction bidding ends and the live auction begins. This year’s line-up features an Amish quilt.

Tickets for the dinner are available through 4-H families or at the University of Illinois Extension office at 535 S. Randall Road in St. Charles through March 27, or contact the dinner co-chairs Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 and Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an additional \$1 per meal.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at the bronze, silver and gold levels. According to Collins, sponsors help ensure the event’s success

and are a vital part of the support needed to continue Extension programming.

“We are grateful for the community support we receive each year and are proud to give back to Extension,” said Collins. “As state funding becomes less available, local support through fundraisers such as this one is vital to maintain the quality of Extension programs offered to the entire county.”

Sponsors may request a set number of complimentary tickets, and all donations are tax deductible. All donors and sponsors will receive recognition at the event. To sponsor or donate, contact Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 and Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955.

To learn more about University of Illinois Extension in Kane County and all the programs they offer, visit [go.illinois.edu/extensiondkk](http://go.illinois.edu/extensiondkk). If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please notify at least two weeks in advance.

**Save the date for the April 13 fundraising event**

## Quick takes—IFB reports environmental accomplishments

### Clean Water Rule, pollinator habitat and Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program detailed.

Illinois Farm Bureau’s federal and state accomplishments as the state’s environmental stewardship lead are highlighted in the Natural and Environmental Resources Report. The annual report lists progress made toward nutrient-stewardship and water-quality efforts.

Topics include the Clean

Water Rule, pollinator habitat and the Farm Bureau’s Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program.

The report further lists partners with which IFB has teamed to achieve success, including federal and state agencies as well as researchers. Some of those partnerships include the 4R4U Nutrient Stewardship Partnership, Edge of Field Partnership and Saturated Buffer Partnership.

Kane County Farm Bureau has 10 copies of the report. To

request a copy call 630 584-8660 or read it online at: <http://flipbook.ilfb3.org/2018EOYflipbook/index.html?page=2>

### Reinvigorated site reflects Specialty Growers

*New logo, updated mission supports Illinois specialty crops.*

The new, colorful look of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) website not only showcases the organiza-

*(continued on page 3)*

Support local farms Text FARM to 52886

# New director named for local IL Extension offices

University of Illinois Extension appointed Deanna Roby-Vorgias of Itasca as the new County Director serving DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties.

Roby-Vorgias succeeds Sandra I. Davis, who retired in January with 48 years of service in Extension. As County Director, she will lead the tri-county unit and its 20-plus staff members in three office locations – St. Charles, Naperville and Yorkville. She will be responsible for personnel, financial, program, and facilities management.

Roby-Vorgias has a master’s degree in Education – Human Resource Development from University of Illinois and a bachelor’s degree in Corporate and Organizational Communications – Business Administration from Northern Illinois University. She comes to the role with 25 years of experience with University of Illinois Extension and 4-H Youth Development, most of which

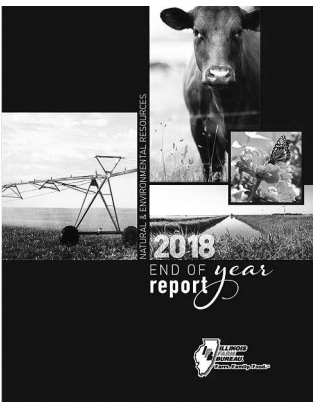
has been in DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties. In 2018, she earned the state Mentoring Extension Excellence Award.

University of Illinois Extension provides practical information you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future. Based in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Extension is the statewide outreach program of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and its programs educate 1.3 million participants each year.



Deanna Roby-Vorgias

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X										
B. COLLINS	X	X										
C. COLLINS	X	X										
J. ENGEL	X	X										
G. GAITSCH	X	X										
B. GEHRKE	X											
W. KECK		X										
M. KENYON	X	X										
K. KETTLEKAMP	X											
D. LEHRER	X	X										
A. LENKAITIS		X										
N. LONG	X	X										
D. PITSTICK	X											
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X										
J. WHITE	X	X										



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.

## 10K Challenge goes mobile

The KCFB Foundation’s 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE went mobile in February with a toast to area dairy and farm families, and to local hunger relief agencies

and their volunteers, before the start of the 18th Annual Shopping Spree at the Jewel-Osco in Batavia.

The 4’x8’ graphic that will adorn a sign on Randall Road in front of the Kane County Farm Bureau was unrolled recently during a brief break in the frequent snows of February. Before being permanently mounted for spring installation, the graphics will be used at upcoming FB events. Later, as contributions come in and the milk jug “fills”, motorists and the community can track our progress toward the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE hunger relief goal.



**Beef store is now open!**  
By appointment only

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

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

Sample Packs make great gifts!

**Kane County Farmer**  
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# Milk jug update

We'd like to thank all who have stopped by our office to drop off empty milk (or water) jugs to be used for our 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE. To date, we have received hundreds of jugs and are, for now, no longer in need of additional empty jugs.

While empty milk jugs are no longer needed, community minded volunteers are encouraged to distribute milk jugs and signs to promote donations to the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE to local businesses they

frequent, have relationships with, or own. These empty milk jugs are an important part of our campaign as they raise awareness with those who aren't Farm Bureau members, but believe helping their community and supporting dairy is essential.

Please contact us via phone, 630-584-8660, or via e-mail, [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com), or better yet, stop by our office located at 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles @ Oak Street to pick up some jugs!

# Interest in hemp shows no sign of waning

Interest about industrial hemp continues growing in Illinois. A recent downstate regional economic development forum attracted more than 200 people from as far as Cook and Jersey counties.

Renee Johnson, agricultural policy specialist with the Congressional Research Service,

**Crop is 'labor-intensive,' regulations will take time to implement.**

provided a brief overview of government oversight, emphasizing the strict threshold for industrial hemp is no more than 0.3 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry weight basis.

Under the new farm bill, USDA is developing a federal program, Johnson told the group "I don't know when USDA approval will happen ... sometimes that takes years," she said. "It's (hemp production) not a total free pass. There's a lot that will be required and may be onerous for some."

Illinois' first agricultural research trial of industrial hemp had mixed results, Western Illinois University Professor Win Phippen, a plant breeder, told the crowd. Phippen worked with two cooperating farmers in Mason and Warren counties. Both farmers planted hemp seed from Colorado with a goal of harvesting cannabidiol (CBD).

Phippen warned that watering the plants was laborious on one farm that wasn't irrigated, and hand weeding was required until the plants, planted on 5-foot centers, canopied. "Weeding is a major issue. This is a very labor-intensive crop," the researcher said. Phippen described hemp seed as "high value" and reported it cost \$1 per seed with a quarter

pound costing a couple thousand dollars.

If any "ditch weed" or wild hemp is present, it must be eradicated because it could cross pollinate with the hemp crop, Phippen said. And no pesticides currently are registered for use on industrial hemp in Illinois, he noted.

Kevin Pilarski, chief commercial officer for Revolution Enterprises, said his company plans to develop industrial hemp in the state. Revolution Enterprises operates a licensed medical marijuana cultivation facility in Delavan, Tazewell County.

"Farmers want to know where they will sell it (hemp)," Pilarski said. A major challenge to market a hemp fiber crop is the lack of processing facilities; the closest is in Louisville, Kentucky. He warned farmers they would not make a profit transporting a fiber hemp crop more than 100 miles.

Public comments on proposed license rules for growing and processing industrial hemp were accepted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) in February.

IFB supports establishing a license process to grow and process industrial hemp through IDOA. "The rules are complicated," said Bill Bodine, Illinois Farm Bureau associate director of state legislation. "We want state rules that align with Illinois law and the 2018 farm bill, and allow Illinois farmers to grow this crop."

"Until the rules are in place and a farmer has a state license, it is illegal for them to grow hemp in Illinois," Bodine advised.

Harvey Miller, member of the St. Charles Kiwanis Club, holds a 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE milk jug full of donations from a recent member meeting. We are not only encouraging individuals to donate to the campaign to help area food pantries purchase much needed and rarely donated milk, but organizations and businesses are welcome to participate as well. Contact the Farm Bureau for more information by calling 630-584-8660; we'll send you the form to fill out!



## 10K CHALLENGE locations:

- CHS Elburn Co-op  
North St, Elburn
- CHS Elburn  
Meredith Rd, Maple Park
- CHS Elburn • North Main St, Sycamore
- Hill's Country Store  
Harter Rd, Elburn
- Mary's Corner Tap Inc  
Mill St, South Elgin
- Heinz Brothers Greenhouse  
E. Main St, St. Charles
- Country Donuts • Hwy 20, Elgin
- Old Second National Bank, Wasco

# 'Shopping' for hunger relief

In late February, State Senator Donald DeWitte and State Representative Jeff Keicher donned aprons and tennis shoes and spent some time in the aisles of the Jewel grocery store in Batavia. They were the 35th & 36th local public officials to accept the KCFB's "Challenge" to compete in a competition to benefit local hunger relief agencies.

While results of the 18th

Annual Shopping Spree were not available at press time, the KCFB would like to thank these community minded legislators, Jewel Store Manager Gus Elioupolis, our partners at Northern Illinois Food Bank and the FB volunteers who came out to assist in this annual tradition that has provided over \$35K in groceries to local pantries. We also extend our congratulations to the Hinckley Area Food

Pantry and the Tri-Cities Salvation Army for being chosen by the legislators as beneficiaries of the event.

A full report will be carried in the April Kane County Farmer.



# Quick Takes

(continued from page 2)

tion's strengths but also offers a visual feast for farmers and the public.

The revitalized website [specialtygrowers.org](http://specialtygrowers.org) launched recently during the Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference. The redesign follows a new logo and updated mission to support and promote Illinois specialty crops.

The redesigned website bet-

ter reflects ISGA today and focuses on the organization's six priorities of education, advocacy, research, promotion, scholarship and marketing opportunities and provides a visual feast of specialty crops and the farmers who grow them.

The redesign also provides an easy avenue to find information and resources. ISGA membership is available through the website, and Specialty Crops conference presentations are posted.

## 2019 Annual Conference and Winter Farmers Market

Those who manage or sell at a farmers market or are interested in the local food movement are encouraged to save the date of Thursday, April 4, 2019 for the Illinois Farmers Market Association (ILFMA) annual conference at Allerton Park &

Retreat Center in Monticello, Illinois.

This full-day conference will feature informative and inspiring speakers, 3 educational tracks (Market Managers, Market Vendors, and Market Presentations), targeted breakout sessions at all experience levels, networking opportunities, and a winter market and vendor fair.

The conference rate is \$95 for ILFMA members and \$150 for non-members. Registration includes all educational sessions, keynotes, continental breakfast, lunch, entrance to the winter market and vendor fair, free Wi-Fi, parking, numerous networking opportunities, and more! For more information, to register or become a members, visit [www.ilfma.org](http://www.ilfma.org).



# Touch-A-Tractor is FREE with Winner's Choice raffle ticket

One of the biggest events of the year is coming up April 12-14th right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor!

By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2019 Winner's Choice Raffle, you are not only supporting Ag in the Classroom learning and scholarships for students with agriculture-focused studies, you can get yourself AND your family into our Touch-A-Tractor event for FREE. It's a win-win.

The grand prize winner in the annual raffle will be drawn on

July 21, 2019, at 4pm during the Kane County Fair. Winners can choose a red and white vintage 1966 Ford F100 OR a 1956 Massey-Harris Model 333 Tractor, OR \$3,500 cash. Second prize is \$500 in groceries and third prize \$500 in fuel.

Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50 and are available at Kane County Farm Bureau (2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles), from the Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2, with VISA or MasterCard at 630-584-8660, or by sending payment with the ticket request form below.

In 2018, over \$27,000 in tuition assistance was provided by the Foundation. Your contributions through the annual raffle and other events throughout the year play a huge role in helping students attain their degrees, reach their goals, and assist in securing a bright future for farms and food.

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



## Winner's Choice Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets (\$20 each or 3 for \$50)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visa  MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# In appreciation

We thank those who have helped the Kane County Farm Bureau & FOUNDATION in some way, big or small, to remind us of our history, who we are and whom we serve, and to advance our mission to make a brighter tomorrow for farms, families and food.

FB ACT (Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team) members Joe Engel, Craig Bradley, Eldon Gould, Donna Lehrer, Chris Gould, Mike Kenyon and Beth Engel for recent contacts with elected officials in support of the key agricultural issues. To join, text FARM to 52886.

KC Young Farmers for their generous "Pass the Hat" donation to the 10,000 Gallon

## CHALLENGE.

Volunteers and attendees at the 18th Annual Shopping Spree to benefit Hinckley Area and Tri-Cities Salvation Army Food Pantries and Gus Elioupolis, Manager of the Batavia Jewel-Osco, for graciously hosting. We are so thankful for your help and support!

Those who have volunteered to drop off milk jugs at local businesses for collections in support of the 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE: Beth Gehrke, Nan Long, Michael Kenyon, Dave Klussendorf, Dave & Charlene Ramm, Harvey Miller, Michael Long, Bill Keck, Carolyn Gehrke and Michael Bohlin.



## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



**Spring!** March 10th is the End of Daylight Savings Time and March 21st is the first day of spring...whoopie. For some reason, this seems to have been a very long and cold winter. However, looking back on photos of the last couple of years, we did have lots of snow and cold in winter's past, how quickly I forget.

Spring means lots of activity around the Kane County Farm Bureau:

March 1st is our Teacher Institute Day. This year, our concentration is our earth's natural resources. It will be a day of hands on activities that the teachers can take back to use with their students. Always a fun day.

March 19th and 20th is our 36th year of Ag Days. Once again, this will be held in Mooseheart's Field House. Fourth grade students and their teachers will visit some 20 stations learning about agriculture in Kane County.

The week of April 8th is National Library Week, so I will be visiting many of our Kane County public libraries with a book donation for the children's section of their library. This year's book will be *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures, the story of Dr. Temple Grandin*. The program is possible through monies donated by the late Alyce Konen in memory of her husband, Bob, who also supported learning through literature.

During National Library Week and into May, we also run the SPROUTS (Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students) program. Volunteers visit 3rd grade classrooms to read *The Heartland* to students and tell them about agriculture in our area.

Touch-A-Tractor is the next program, which takes place the weekend of April 12-14. That's one of my favorite programs, beginning with the onslaught of huge farm machines and antique

tractors that arrive here at the Farm Bureau...it's like Christmas, I get so excited. Then there's the baby chicks that I can share the wonder of with all the little kids that come to Touch-A-Tractor. Nothing compares to their little eyes lighting up when they get to touch the little chick. Some children are afraid to touch the chick and just want to get out of there, while others touch and come back to touch again and again. (Some of the children come year after year, which is fun to see how they grow up.)

I also like to watch the little ones play together in the corn boxes or with the toy farm machines. I always marvel how well the children play together, many total strangers, yet able to cooperate with each other like old buddies as they play "farmer". Last year, the tire swing that we hung from an old tree seemed to be a huge hit. Every time I looked, there was a line of children waiting their turn to swing, or twirl in the tire. The simple pleasures of the past revived. Of course, sitting on the antique tractors, pretending to drive them, or riding on the small pedal tractors create huge smiles on children's faces. Come join us, it's a great way to spend a spring day.

Just before spring technically ends, we offer our SAI classes

for teachers. Our first class, the basic class about agriculture in Kane County, will be held the week of June 10th Monday-Friday and then Monday, June 16th. Our second class, for graduates of the former, is held June 25th-28th. Each of these classes offer graduate credit hours through St. Francis University or contact hours from KCROE. All teachers are welcome...call Suzi at 630-584-8660 for more information.

Preparing for all these programs makes for a busy winter. We could be compared to the farmers who also spend winter

preparing for spring making sure their equipment is in tip top shape, and that the seeds and the soil nutrients are purchased so when the weather is right they can begin planting. Winter may seem like a quiet time of the year, but behind the scenes, it is a beehive of activity.

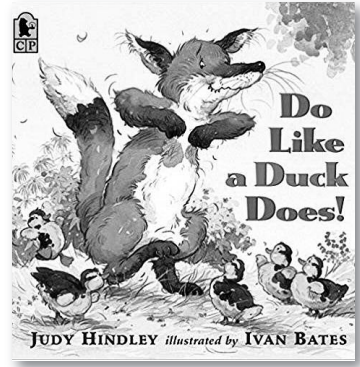
I'll leave you with a simple children's poem, author unknown:

*March*

*March is an in between month,  
When wintry winds are high.  
But milder days remind us all,  
Spring's coming by and by.*

## Book of the month

A fun book for little ones to enjoy. A fox tries to sneak up on a brood of ducklings, however,



*Do Like A Duck Does!*  
by Judy Hindley

Mama Duck isn't one to be fooled. As the fox tries to impersonate a duckling, getting closer and closer, he claims he's a "big brown duck". "I can waddle. I can scuttle. I can strut a little too. I'm a duck! I'm a duck! I'm a duck like you!"

Mama outsmarts the big brown duck in the end. Watercolor illustrations add a bit of whimsy to the book.

Come see this book and many others at our library full of agriculturally themed books. Our library was proposed and then supported with funding from the late Bob Konen family.

## Items sought for Touch-A-Tractor

Another year, another exciting Touch-A-Tractor event coming your way! April 12-14 marks our famous farm-to-city celebration of everything "farm": larger-than-life vintage and new tractors, farm equipment, farm toys, farm animals, pedal tractors, corn corrals, and so much more.

Each year our volunteers and donors help to make this event happen. Items we need for Touch-A-Tractor include:

1. **Tractors** – gas, diesel (or steam!); large or small; waxed & polished or muddied & rusted, new, old or antique – it's all the same to a kid.

2. **Hay/Straw bales** – round, square, large or small, to use as barriers, for traffic patterns and to add to our Touch-a-Tractor children's activities area to be used for climbing and recreational purposes.

3. **Gently used Farm Toys** for the kids to play with during the event.

4. **Farm animals** – sheep, lambs, pigs, goats, baby calves, chickens, etc. We have the pens, we just need the critters!

Call Steve at the KCFB (630-584-8660) or e-mail him for more information (steve@kanecfb.com) if you could donate or loan any of the above to us for the event or if you know anyone we can contact. We appreciate your help!

*Farm equipment like combines, sprayers, tractors, and even ATV's and UTV's are needed for Kane County Farm Bureau's Annual Touch-A-Tractor event. This year, mark your calendar for April 12-14, you don't want to miss it!*



## Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are pledges received from January 17-February 15.



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

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Marguerite J. Jensen, Wayne	KCFB FOUNDATION
Thomas & Janet Runty, Maple Park	KCFB FOUNDATION

### 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE

Kiwanis Club of St. Charles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Marguerite J. Jensen, Wayne	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Young Farmers Group	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Joe & Bonnie White, Elburn	Countryside Food Pantry (Elburn)
Andrew & Sarah Lenkaitis, St. Charles	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Patrons of Elgin Riverside Club, Elgin	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Craig & Angela Bradley, Elgin	Food for Greater Elgin

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



 <b>Bob Effner</b> , CLF®, LUTCF St. Charles – Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001	 <b>Bob Kearns</b> S. Elgin 847-888-3200	 <b>Bob Riedel</b> West Dundee 847-428-5434
 <b>Todd Wilcox</b> St. Charles 630-762-1326	 <b>Edward Stuehm</b> Geneva 630-845-8245	 <b>Gary Bolger</b> West Dundee 847-531-6110
 <b>Bobbi Boston</b> St. Charles 630-485-5155	 <b>Michael O'Brien</b> Geneva 630-762-0852	 <b>Sherri Schramer</b> Elburn 630-365-9500
 <b>Keith Eakins</b> St. Charles 630-762-1324	 <b>Mehul Patel</b> Geneva 630-492-5317	 <b>Dominick Davero</b> Elburn 630-365-3737
 <b>Kelly Landorf</b> St. Charles 630-762-1328	 <b>David Berreles</b> Elgin 847-794-1245	 <b>Chuck Quick</b> Hampshire 847-683-2100
 <b>Donna Tonovitz</b> St. Charles 630-549-7694	 <b>Victor Alvarado</b> Elgin 847-742-0003	 <b>Josh Austin</b> Hampshire 847-683-2100
 <b>Orazio Difruscolo</b> St. Charles 630-549-7696	 <b>Luke Fawkes</b> Elgin 847-742-0001	 <b>Dan Cooper</b> Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
 <b>Ashraf Gerges</b> Aurora 630-898-3750	 <b>Sherry Lochen</b> Elgin 847-742-0001	 <b>Ted Schuster</b> Sugar Grove 630-466-9600

Whether you're protecting the things you love or preparing for tomorrow, don't get overwhelmed - get started! Contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative today!





# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

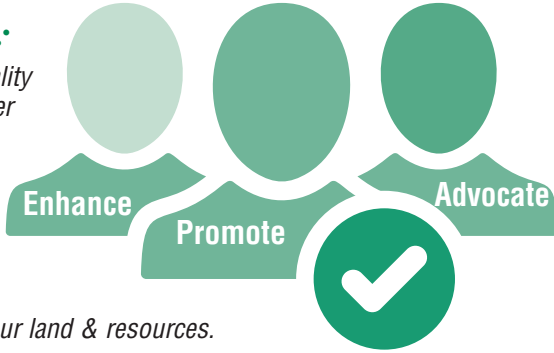
## Kane County Farm Bureau

### Mission:

Enhance the quality of life for member families;

Promote agriculture, farms & food; and

Advocate good stewardship of our land & resources.



## Farm Bureau is INFORMATION

**Kane County Farmer** – this monthly publication, delivered to over 15,000 homes

**FarmWeek** – Illinois' award winning, top rated weekly newspaper from the Illinois Farm Bureau

**Partners** – a quarterly members-only magazine to promote

Illinois farms, food, travel and local festivals

**LINK** – a bi-monthly electronic newsletter for state, county and local public officials

**RFD Radio Network** – agricultural news, markets and weather

**Answers** – topical meetings on taxes, issues, laws and regulations that affect farms & farmers

**Conferences** – for growers of commodities, specialty crops and local foods

## Farm Bureau is COMMUNITY

**Touch-A-Tractor** – a 3 day farm /city/community "open house" to learn about farms and food

**Young Farmers** – a meeting place and skills building program for newer and beginning farmers

**Harvest for ALL** – members and local farmers turn crop proceeds, farm products and cash into food for the local food pantry of their choice.

**Million Meal Challenge** – a 2013 initiative to celebrate KCFB's Centennial set a goal of 1 million meals to local hunger relief.

**10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE** – hunger relief with a milk and health promotion twist, to build demand for dairy products while stocking local food pantries with healthy, nutritious milk.

**Shopping Sprees** – KCFB challenges local public officials to "compete" in spree designed to restock the shelves of local food pantries of their choice.

The equivalent of over 2 million meals have been provided by KCFB's hunger relief efforts in recent years.

## Farm Bureau is ADVOCACY

### State & National issues

**Adopt-A-Legislator** – Illinois' most imitated grassroots advocacy program for state legislators

**Lunches to Legislators** – annual visits to the offices of local lawmakers to discuss farm issues

**Victory Mixers** – farm shop receptions after elections to meet newly elected officials

**Leaders to Washington** – twice yearly farmer visits to our national Capitol to meet Congress

**Leadership Conferences** – for updates on new bills, laws and regulations

**Annual Meetings** – to set policies and goals for bills and laws about farms and food

**FB ACT** – for rapid response on proposed bills in Springfield and Washington

## March is ...

- Irish American Month
- Music in Our Schools
- National Celery Month
- National Craft Month
- National Frozen Food Month
- National Nutrition Month
- National Peanut Month
- National Women's History Month
- Red Cross Month
- Social Workers Month

## Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP helps:

- Advocate for Area Farms & Farmers • Promote Local Foods & Global Trade
- Support Farmland Protection • Champion Hunger Relief & Awareness
- Protect Natural Resources & Defend Property Rights

## Did you know?

- ★ The Farm Bureau is a not-for-profit membership group
- ★ There are 302,000 membership benefits (and counting)
- ★ Members can save \$500 on new Ford vehicles
- ★ Travel benefits for members include car rental discounts
- ★ KCFB members have contributed over 2 million meals to local food pantries
- ★ 15 nationwide hotel chains provide discounts to KCFB members
- ★ Local foods, farms and farmer markets appear on the Farm Bureau's bounty ofkane.org
- ★ Members can order seasonal citrus, peach, fresh turkeys and more
- ★ Locally raised and processed meat is always available at the FB
- ★ There is a "FB Country Store" with farm toys, books, puzzles and gifts
- ★ The monthly *Kane County Farmer* is delivered to more homes than many newspapers
- ★ Members receive a quarterly PARTNERS magazine full of articles on Illinois travel
- ★ Farmers & farmland get the award winning FarmWeek newspaper as part of their membership
- ★ Kane County has the only funded Farmland Protection program in Illinois
- ★ Seven national awards for member and community programs have been awarded to KCFB
- ★ KCFB earned a Philanthropic Award from the West Suburban Philanthropy Network
- ★ The American Society of Association Executives gave KCFB its highest honor in 2011
- ★ The KCFB Foundation has provided over \$500,000 dollars for local scholarships
- ★ Farmers and non-farmers can sign up for Farm Bureau membership
- ★ Membership dues are as little as \$20.00 per year.

## Kane County Farm Bureau

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

- |                   |            |                  |                 |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ADVOCACY          | DISCOUNTS  | GALLON CHALLENGE | PARTNERS        |
| ADVOCATE          | EDUCATION  | HARVEST FOR ALL  | PROMOTE         |
| BENEFITS          | ENHANCE    | INTERNSHIPS      | SCHOLARSHIPS    |
| CITRUS            | FARMER     | MEAT             | SPROUTS         |
| COMMUNITY         | FARMERS    | MEMBERSHIP       | TOUCH A TRACTOR |
| DAYS OF CHRISTMAS | FARM STORE | NON-FARMERS      | TRACTOR RAFFLE  |

On the reverse side of this Word Search Puzzle you will find a "Member-get-a-Member" form that can be filled out to either suggest people you know for us to contact to "tell them more about us" OR even better, you can sign up members yourself. Both referrals and new member sign-up qualify you for prizes, a custom pen and flashlight set, KCFB or KCFB Foundation caps, tickets to see the Kane County Cougars, or the Chicago Cubs this season.

Complete name & address at bottom on reverse for Word Search entry.

**Leadership Cabinet** – to hear from though leaders at members only events

### Local issues

**Land Use/Drainage/Stormwater** – providing farmer representation on local boards and commissions

**Farmland Protection** – a local advocate for Illinois only funded Farmland Protection Program

**Local Foods** – promoted through bountyofkane.org and local "Growing for Kane" programs

**Local Government** – watching, weighing, commenting on local government issues

### Consumer issues

**Food for Thought** – targeted local radio and social media campaigns to promotes farms & food

**Dialogue** – through promotion of consumer information sites like bestfoodfacts.org

## Farm Bureau is EDUCATION/LITERACY

**Ag Days** – 80,000 4th grade students and their teachers have learned about farms and food at this Farm Bureau expo, 37 years running

**SPROUTS** – a 3rd grade, in-classroom reading program about a "year in the life" of a Kane County farmer

**Summer Ag Institutes** – graduate credit courses for teachers to learn about farms and how to teach farm themed lessons

**Touch a Tractor** – brings farm machines and farms to life for area children to experience

**Student Teacher Programs** – to introduce farm concepts to new teachers

**Scholarship** – over \$500,000 has been awarded to students pursuing degrees in agricultural fields

**Internships** – for future farm industry leaders to gain experience in education and communication fields

**Farm Tours** – to help educators learn and lawmakers/regulators see impacts of far-away decisions

**School Visits/Teacher Conferences** – for curriculum development, resource and idea sharing

**Institute Days** – to provide materials, introduce concepts and teach instructional methods

**AITC Resources** – AgMags, free Ag-in-the Classroom resources for teachers

**Ag Literacy Library** – farm themed books and resource materials for members and teachers

## Congratulations

**Marylyn MacArthur** of St. Charles! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a bag of cherry-themed goodies! Thank you, Marylyn for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



### STRONG WOMEN, STRONG FARMERS

By Marty Keltner



Growing up in the country, I was surrounded by like-minded, hard working men and women in agriculture. The wives, or often widows, were a critical part of the day-to-day activity on each farm or ranch and I remember thinking how tough, mentally and physically, these ladies were, especially the ones that ran operations by themselves. "You do what you have to do" was just normal, you couldn't call in sick, you didn't get to "leave work early", you loved what you did and that's why you did it – and that was inspiring to me.

I continue to be inspired by the people I meet and those I read about in agriculture. With March being Women's History Month, I wanted to share with you some of the women in agriculture that inspire me and have made an impact on the agricultural industry of today, both present day and past.

To begin, some statistics that I found to be interesting: in 2012, women made up 30% (969,672) of the total number of U.S. farm operators and 14% of the nation's 2.1 million farms had a female principal operator. They also control 7% of the U.S. farmland and account for 3% of total sales. Again, these figures are from 2012, so I'm interested to see what the new 2017 census report, which comes out shortly, announces.

Starting with some current "leading ladies" in the public eye, Illinois' very own Colleen Callahan. She was named by the Governor to be co-chair of the Agriculture Transition Committee, but started her career out as an agribusiness reporter. Her and her husband still live on a farm near Kickapoo and raise Angus cattle.

Eva McPherson Clayton, the

first African-American to represent North Carolina in the House since 1898, served on the House Agriculture Committee and helped garner support for nutritional programs, civil rights and support for African American farmers in the 2002 Farm Bill. In 2003, she was appointed Assistant Director-General of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Working backwards in history, Catherine Hagel of Minnesota was an American supercentenarian (1894-2008) who was a farmer and did not stop farming until she was 100! Kudos!

Clara Steele can be credited with launching the first commercial dairy operation in the U.S. in 1857. In the mid-1800's, she and family members moved from Ohio to just north of San Francisco and began a small operation focused on cheddar cheese. After the cheese became a hit, the Steele family established a commercial dairy operation making high quality butter and cheese, and thus helped pioneer the dairy industry in California.

The lady farmer I'm choosing to end with is Abigail Adams. Wife of our 2nd President, John Adams, she was not only an advocate for women's property rights, but she believed in more opportunities for women, particularly in education. She once wrote: "I hope in time to have the reputation of being as good a Farmess as my partner has of being a good Statesman."

I'm proud to have met many outstanding women involved in agriculture here in Kane County; thank you for your dedication to the industry and for your endless hard work to feed our country and our world!

## FB Volunteer Event at NFIB – now April 2nd

Our original volunteer event at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, with Kane County Young Farmers, FFA Chapters, and volunteers, was set for Jan. 22 from 6-8pm to repack food for redistribution to local food pantries. Due to weather, the event had to be rescheduled for April 2nd, 6-8 pm. We are still welcoming those who'd like to volunteer and we're especially interested in connecting with 18-35 year olds looking to get involved in community service or agriculture related events.

You'll help in the fight against hunger, make some new friends and learn about the good things the Young Farmers Committee is doing in Kane County. We'll also discuss the KCFB Foundation's current 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE and how individuals and groups can get involved. Last year, over 3,865 pounds of sweet potatoes were packed, translating to 3,220

meals for our hungry neighbors.

No experience is necessary, just a genuine interest in farm and food related concerns. As this is a community service, and the fight against hunger can and should be waged by all, all Farm Bureau members, friends and potential members are welcome! Call the Kane County Farm Bureau to RSVP at 630 584-8660.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank's award winning Milk2MyPlate program has provided MANY MILLIONS of servings of milk to area families. In addition to the KCFB Foundation current 10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE initiative, all KCFB member donations to hunger relief through Harvest for ALL that are NOT earmarked for a local food pantry, and all of Kane County Farm Bureau's donations to the Northern Illinois Food Bank, support the Milk2MyPlate program.

# Member-get-a-Member contest

From March to May, KCFB is sponsoring a Member-get-a-Member contest. Members come to the KCFB in many ways, but the best are good old fashioned referrals and requests from friends and neighbors.

**There are various ways to enter in our contest, and to win prizes.**

1. Fill out and return the form below, we'll make the contact for you, and give you credit (& prizes) for both the referral and the new members when he/she joins!

2. Pass along this issue of the Kane County Farmer. (Be sure to enter your name in the Recommended By field of the membership application on page 8)!

3. Cut out and pass along the form on page 8 to a friend or neighbor. (Again, be sure to enter your name in the Recommended By field.)

4. Go online to kanecfb.com and select PRINT membership application or Join KCFB. (As always, be sure to enter your name in the Recommended By field.)

#### \*Prizes:

For every 2 qualified non-

member referrals submitted through method 1 KCFB will provide a custom pen & keychain flashlight set. For 4 or more, or a KCFB cap or KCFB Foundation hat. For 8 or more, a "Pillow Pet" of the member's choice.

For each Associate member who joins in March-May as a result of a referral by method 1-4, with the member referral completed, KCFB will provide the recommender a ticket to a KCFB member appreciation night at a Kane County Cougars game in June or July.

For each Regular or Professional member who joins in March-May as a result of a referral by method 1-4, with the member referral completed, KCFB will provide the recommender a ticket to see the Chicago Cubs or Chicago White Sox in July or August.

All current KCFB members who enter the contest, either by submitting a referral, or by filling in the Recommended by field on a new membership application, will be entered into a drawing to win a Yeti cooler to be given away at the Kane County Fair in July.

Our 3 levels of membership – Associate, Regular, or Professional – fit any individual's or business' wants, needs, or desires and show support for farms, food and agriculture. And whether purchasing a new Ford or Lincoln and saving from \$500 to \$750 or buying movie tickets for tonight's showing, a Farm Bureau membership can and will save money.

Besides the savings a membership with the Kane County Farm Bureau provides, it provides opportunities to connect with others in the community. For more information on membership, eligibility or recruitment, contact the KCFB at 630 584-8660.

*\*Contest is open to KCFB members in good standing at the time of the referral or recommendation. Staff, employees or agents of the KCFB, IFB and affiliated companies are not eligible.*



Prizes



*As you can see, being a member definitely has its benefits – and who wouldn't want to share this incredible opportunity with others?*

### Member-get-a-Member Entry form

*I recommend to the following for membership in the Kane County Farm Bureau, and give my permission for Kane County Farm Bureau to use my name in reference to any invitation extended to join the association, and enjoy the benefits thereof:*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address, City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

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6. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Support local farms Text FARM to 52886



# What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

## St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

KELLY LANDORF has been named the Agent of the Month for JANUARY 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Kelly has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insur-

ance needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Kelly's expertise help you! You may reach Kelly at 630-762-1328, kelly.landorf@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/kelly.landorf/. Congratulations, Kelly!

## Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Zach Fox, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for December

2018. Zach began his career with COUNTRY Financial in May of 2007 and services clients out of his office located at 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6900.

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

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Victor Alvarado! Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since



Victor Alvarado

December of 2017. His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl, Ste 20, Elgin. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



### Modern moms, manure and monarchs Mainstream, unusual mix on the farm

You could call me a modern, mainstream mom at times: I use grocery pickup services. The touch of a smartphone app locates my 13-year-old's missing cell phone. And home-delivery subscriptions supply our household's toilet paper and laundry detergent.

Almost equally, abnormality fills my day. For instance, my fitness tracker auto-logged my physical activity to scoop manure from the hen house as "outdoor biking." A few days later, a skunk sprayed near an air-intake pipe, releasing the signature stench through every furnace duct of our home. And my minivan has more off-road cred than most American SUVs. Routinely, I thumb-rub the

back-up camera, removing residue from our sloppy gravel road throughout the thaw of March.

But soon, the furnace will stop running. My Fitbit will track hand-hoeing in the garden as time on an elliptical, and I'll deal with more dust than mud on the minivan doors. About that time, the monarch butterflies will make their comeback, too. It seems an unlikely thought that farmers would ever respect a plant with "weed" in its name. Yet, mainstream, monarch-supporting farmers now welcome milkweed. At our farm, you'll find the traditional weed with its namesake milky sap in cattle pastures, fence lines and grassy knolls.

The last few years, Midwestern farmers collectively have allowed milkweed to proliferate. They join a concerted conservation effort to preserve and plant this crucial food source for the monarch to keep the pollinator off the endangered species list. Mainstream farmers mow around more milkweed. They sometimes intentionally plant it and let the blossoms seed out, a cringing thought in yesteryear farming.

Consequently, the kids and I more easily find monarch caterpillars munching milkweed in the pasture. Grandma sees more orange-and-black-winged beauties in her flower gardens. A sunflower farmer texted me a photo of hundreds of monarchs attracted to his farmstead. By late last summer, the kids spotted several of them on a single flowering plant in a road ditch near our house.

Mexico – the unofficial monarch authority – has noticed, too. Experts report a 144 percent increase in the population of monarch butterflies wintering in central Mexico compared to last year, according to the Associated Press. The land area that monarchs covered in 2018-19 ranked the largest in more than a decade.

Evidently, butterfly nets would make a good addition to my kids' Easter basket idea list, a digital list accessible from my smartphone.

About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from west-central Illinois, where her family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### SERVICES

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

### WANTED

Farm Employee wanted-Kendall County. Experience necessary. Able to obtain CDL. Wage based on experience. Call: 630-554-9238 or 630-951-9238

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

### FOR SALE

2012 Hardi Navigator 4000 sprayer, 1200G poly, 90' eagle self-leveling boom, hyd fold and tilt, 20" center 3Xnozzle bodies with tips, 1000 RPM diaphragm pump, 2" quick fill, chem inductor, 110G rinse tank, R&L fence row nozzles, foam marker, Hardi HC5500 rate controller, 6 boom valves, 320/90R46 tires, excellent condition, \$25000 OBO CALL 630-878-1726

## Kane County Farm Bureau members get \$500 bonus cash toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2018/19/20 Ford vehicle!

## Benefits abound with our Abenity app!

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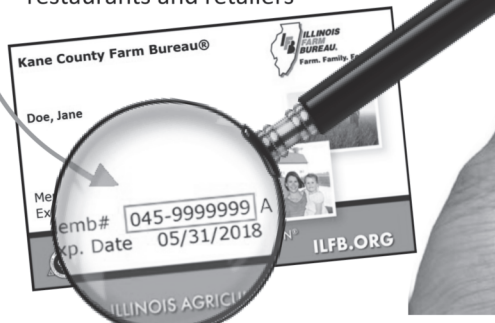
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OR head over to https://ilfb.abenity.com



- Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your Kane County Farm Bureau membership number, WITH NO LETTER(S) at https://ilfb.abenity.com
- Search offers using business names, locations, categories, and more
- Change your location to see deals near you
- Use our app to show and save mobile coupons
- Provides instant, in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers



### Recycle Scrap for CASH

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"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

Zimmerman Recycling, Inc.  
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(815) 756.8600



# Legislative update & Lunches to Legislators March 14 & 15

Farmer-members and Professional Members of the KCFB are invited to a March 14 meeting at the KCFB to receive an update of state legislative priority issues. Staff from IFB's Governmental Affairs division will provide an update on bills affecting agriculture in the General Assembly, followed by a light dinner.

The program will begin at 6 pm. There is no cost to attend but reservations are required.

The update is a prelude to Farm Bureau's annual Lunches to Legislators (L2L) program. Each year, Farm Bureau staff arranges visits for volunteers to district offices of Kane County's local legislators, (state

representatives and state senators). This year those visits will occur on March 15th.

L2L seeks to match local farmers/agriculturalist in pairs to travel to local legislative offices for a brief "get-acquainted" meeting and lunch. These annual visits help introduce farmers and legislators in an informal setting. KCFB will make the appointments, equip volunteers with boxed lunches, Farm Bureau policy books and farm and food facts literature, and provide the March 14 briefing and dinner.

For more information or to register for the March 14 update, contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

# Young Farmers Euchre Tourney—Mar. 22

The 14th year of competitive fun is happening March 22 at the Kane County Farm Bureau. Members 18-35 are reminded to mark your calendars for the Young Farmers Euchre Tournament. The evening will begin with a brief 6:30pm meeting, followed by 7:00pm pizza and snacks, and then the cards

will be dealt and the battle will begin at 7:30pm.

Young Farmers, ages 18-35, from surrounding counties are welcome to attend this highly competitive event to bring home the coveted title of Euchre Champs 2019.



For those interested in becoming a Kane County Young Farmer or a Professional Member, ages 18-35, please reach out to Steve or Marty by calling 630-584-8660 or e-mailing us at info@kanecfb.com.

Kane County Young Farmers Michael Long of Big Rock, Wayne Gehrke of Hampshire, and Carolyn Gehrke of Elgin were among the over 500 Young Leaders from across the state at the 2019 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference, in East Peoria. The conference for members ages 18-35 actively engaged in the agriculture industry focused on gaining knowledge, leadership development, and networking. Highlights included keynote speakers, breakout sessions, comedy, Silent & Live Auction Fundraisers for Harvest for ALL, line dancing, and more. The Registration fee for this annual conference is paid by the KCFB for ALL Regular and Professional members who attend as a benefit of membership in or association.



## Kane County Farm Bureau

Ensuring a healthy, safe and abundant supply of local food, fiber and renewable fuel.

Join today! Then download our NEW member benefit APP to start saving!  
302,000 Discounts!



## Who we are...

KCFB is a not-for-profit association of 16,000+ member families founded in 1912. It is not affiliated or associated with any agency or department of the federal, state or local government. Membership is open to all who "support a stable and profitable agricultural sector as an essential part of a prosperous economy in a free society".

The Farm Bureau has an associated not-for-profit Foundation, established to advance educational and community and community service activities that benefit agriculture, farm families and (rural) communities, and a local office staff to oversee internal functions of membership, governance, budgeting and H.R.

and external functions including programs, public policy, publications, member and public relations and community service.

Farm Bureau exists to help create and maintain public policies AND public support for an environment where farmers can operate profitably, and at their entrepreneurial best, to meet the food, feed, fuel and fiber needs of local and global populations.

Our major community service effort is Harvest for ALL, where our association's members contribute the products or profits from their farms to local food pantries. The equivalent of over 2 million meals have been provided through the program, and it is still going strong thanks

to the generosity of local farmers and their care for their communities and neighbors.

Through our Touch-A-Tractor farm-city event, we help the community welcome the coming of spring and help teach our urban neighbors about the history of agriculture, its necessity and productivity. Touch-A-Tractor is our association's "Open House" where we fill the Farm Bureau's lawn with antique and new tractors and farm equipment and invite the public in to learn more about the world's most essential industry ...

### Agriculture!

## Farm Bureau?

Think of us as an advocate for the local food and fiber system. Kane County Farm Bureau is a membership association and is not part of any local, state or federal government agency.

Formed in 1912 to help farmers improve their production practices as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, our name was changed to Kane County Farm Bureau in 1923. We soon became involved in efforts to improve rural roads, provide rural telephone and electric services, and improve farm living conditions. Banks and newspaper editors were active in our founding. Today Kane County Farm Bureau serves both rural and urban people who are interested in the well-being of agriculture.

The Kane County Farm Bureau is a strong, respected voice for farmers and others who have a vested interest in agriculture. Members of Kane County Farm Bureau are also members of the Illinois Farm Bureau and associated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest organization of farmers and ranchers in the US.

**Kane County Farm Bureau's public policy influence has helped secure several important firsts for Illinois farmers. Kane County was Illinois' first county to:**

- protect farms by ordinance from nuisance lawsuits, 1991
- develop a stormwater ordinance to protect farmland, 2000
- establish a Farmland Protection Program, 2001
- assist farmers in maintaining productive soils with a farmland drainage assistance program, 2003.

Our goal is to maintain an organization through which rural and urban people can think, act, and work together to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong and prosperous economy. We exist to provide programs, services, and benefits for our members.

Farm Bureau is...

- over 15,000 member families in Kane County
- over 400,000 member families in Illinois
- over 5 million families nationwide

Illinois Agricultural Association  
1701 N. Towanda Avenue  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-557-2111  
www.iffb.org



Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
630-548-8660  
www.kanecfb.com

### Kane County Farm Bureau\* and Illinois Farm Bureau\* APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Our goal is to maintain an organization through which farm people and others can think, act, and work together to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong and prosperous economy in a free America. We work to better the conditions of those engaged in agriculture, improve the grade of agricultural products, and develop a higher degree of efficiency in the production of agricultural products. I believe in and support these goals and purposes and seek to promote them by joining Kane County Farm Bureau.

I hereby apply for membership in Kane County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association. This application is for the membership year beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_ and from year to year thereafter, so long as the membership dues are paid in advance. Such membership is subject to the bylaws of these organizations. The membership dues of \_\_\_\_\_ for the first membership year are paid herewith. I agree to pay membership dues in the total amount fixed in the bylaws of the county Farm Bureau and in the bylaws of the Illinois Agricultural Association for each succeeding membership year in advance so long as this agreement remains in effect. I understand that \$3.00 of my annual membership dues is for a year's subscription to the Illinois Agricultural Association's official publication as checked: ( ) FarmWeek (designed for farm operators) or ( ) Partners. Also, \$2 of my annual membership dues is for a year's subscription to Kane County Farmer, the official publication of Kane County Farm Bureau.

I understand that this application for membership is subject to acceptance by the Kane County Farm Bureau board and the Illinois Agricultural Association. In the event this application is not accepted, the membership dues paid herewith shall be refunded. Further, the Kane County Farm Bureau board has the authority to classify my membership in accordance with the bylaws of Kane County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association on the basis of the personal information contained in this application.

Either party may terminate this membership agreement as of the end of any membership year by notice in writing to the other party during the last 60 days of such year.

\*Membership dues are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail with check for appropriate dues to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174

\*\$37 - annual dues - farmers/farmland owners & \*professional mbrs.  
\$20 - annual dues for all other. See reverse for qualification details.

### Kane County Farm Bureau\* and Illinois Farm Bureau\* APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Please sign below left

Office Use Only  
Contract #: 045- \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PYMT METHOD \_\_\_Cash \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_Credit

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION (check one):

- \_\_\_ MM (Farmer-member-\$37/yr.)-Gross farm income over \$2500/year
- \_\_\_ PM (Professional member -\$37/yr.) - farm/food related occupation
- \_\_\_ A (Associate member - \$20/yr.) - not qualifying for MM or PM status

MM*	PM^	A
Farmers & Farmland owners	Identify as having farm/food related careers/occupations	Those with no economic interest or stake in the production of farm products.

^Occupation/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\*Those who qualify for MM membership will ONLY be accepted as MM members, per Kane County Farm Bureau bylaws. ^PM member classification subject to approval by guidelines established by the KCFB Board of Directors.

**Recommended by:**  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form with payment to:  
Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174

Questions? Call  
630-584-8660