

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. 86 NO. 3 MARCH 2021

Senator Villa & Rep. Hernandez gather groceries for food pantries Farm Bureau's 20th annual Shopping Spree donates \$1,000s to hunger relief

The Farm Bureau's 20th Anniversary Shopping Spree for local food pantries was conducted in a more subdued fashion than usual in February. An event that in the past has featured cheerleaders, a crowd of volunteers and even a marching band was conducted more quietly and without public notice in 2021. The event was arranged thus in deference to the health and safety of front line workers at the Jewel store on Randall Road in Batavia, our host for all 20 of the Shopping Sprees.

Regardless of the crowd, and the outdoor cold, it was an ideal day for Senator Karina Villa and Representative Barbara Hernandez to participate in a heated race for Kane County Farm Bureau's 20th annual Shopping Spree for food pantries. The two raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel-Osco, and helped to benefit local food pantries. During their 7-minute dash around the store, the pair collected \$3,088.14 in groceries, purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora.

Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager, began the pre-event announcements. He explained the concept of the Food Check-Out Week and why KCFB sponsors this celebration of food and farming.

"The event is traditionally held during February and is devoted to hunger relief, while teaching consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food," said Arnold.

"U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food

producers in the world," he said, "but, while food is affordable in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, the shopping spree recognizes the fact that for many people, their resources are stretched to the limit." Each year, the "Challenge" allows two food pantries to stock their shelves with much needed items. Two dozen local food pantries have benefitted since the event's inception.

Arnold thanked Jewel-Osco Store Director Gus Eliopoulos for the store's 20 years of support and for hosting the event. He told the crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Sprees have raised \$40,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau's Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort had con-

tributed the equivalent of 2 million meals to local food pantries since 2009.

Contestants were provided

took over the store's loud speakers, announced the start of the race, added play-by-plays, and counted-down the minutes.

of food from the shelves. Dry goods, canned goods, soups, baking ingredients, cereals and sauces were among the items their "helpers" pointed out to each to collect. Both then started the "check out" process at opposing registers that began the race for dollars. With each scan of each food item, the tension mounted and when it was all said and done, both contestants were winners as well as the food pantries they represented. It was an exciting race to the finish with everyone coming out a winner!

Senator Villa gathered groceries with the help of Rita Burnham from Elburn & Countryside Food Pantry. Representative Hernandez collected non-perishable items, assisted by Brisa Barraza of the Marie

Right: Ready to shop! (L-R) State Senator Karina Villa and Representative Barbara Hernandez are poised with their carts, ready for the challenge of gathering groceries for a good cause.

Below left: State Representative Barbara Hernandez watches closely as assistant Brisa Barraza points to products on the shelf for her to grab for Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry.

Right: Senator Villa (L), assisted by Rita Burnham, scoops oatmeal boxes off the shelf and adds them to the grain based food products in her cart. Groceries collected were purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau for local food banks.



with decorated and themed shopping carts. Northern Illinois Food Bank's Tom Hong

Both contestants were winded after piling up cart after cart

Wilkinson Food Pantry. (continued on page 7)

Farm toy of the month

Here's a machine in St. Patrick's Day green for our audience of pint-sized agrarians. This John Deere Semi comes pre-loaded with a JD utility vehicle like a grain hauler or end loader. That's plenty of hauling power for hours of play. The price is regularly \$12.60 with tax, but for the month of March you can save an extra 10% with your Farm Bureau membership. Stop in today and haul yours away!

a complimentary upgrade to John Deere Rewards (Platinum 1 status) which unlocks extra discounts on equipment, parts, and merchandise. Register today, and explore all that Rewards has to offer:

- Commercial Mowing – \$200 to \$1,700 off
- Residential Mowing – \$50 to \$150 off
- Utility Vehicles – \$100 to \$250 off
- Tractors – \$150 to \$250 off
- Compact Construction – \$550 to \$1,400 off

Visit JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau today to register!



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

Details and Restrictions
*Must be a valid member of Farm Bureau for 30 days
*A valid member email address is required for eligibility.

MARCH FEATURED FOOD 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!



Online produce safety training

Illinois growers seeking FSMA Produce Safety compliance can attend a virtual two-day session to meet the conditions of the FSMA Produce Rule. Farm Bureau will partner with other to host the 2021 Virtual Produce Safety Training March 23-24 during a live Zoom session.

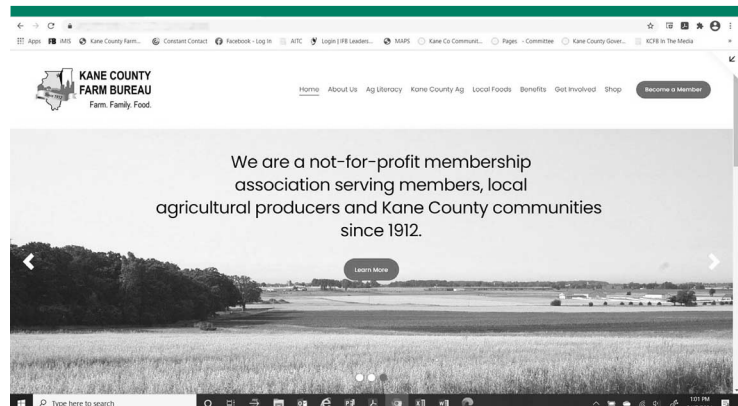
The first-day session will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m. The second-day session will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. Both will have a 30-minute lunch break at noon. Participants must be present for the entire program with their camera on to

receive certification.

Instruction time over the two days will cover: Introduction to Produce Safety, Worker Health, Hygiene and Training, Soil Amendments and many more topics.

KCFB members may register now through March 10 for \$5; non-members \$25. Limited to 25 participants. Costs have been reduced through grant funding and include the cost of certification and manual, a value of \$100.

For more information, contact Raghela Scavuzzo at 309-557-2155 or rscavuzzo@ilfb.org.



New KCFB website in the wings

A new Kane County Farm Bureau website is almost ready to launch. It will have much of the same information as the current site but will be easier to navigate, read, edit and maintain. KCFB hopes to launch the website by mid-March. Check it out at kanecountyfarmbureau.com or kanecfb.com.

KCFB CALENDAR MARCH 2021

- 5 Deadline to pick up water test kits from KCFB
- 7 Day to collect water sample for water test
- 8 Return water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
- 11 Board of Directors, KCFB, 7pm
- 12 Young Farmers Euchre Tourney, 6:30
- 14 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 18 ^Kane County Board Ag Committee, 10am
- 22 KCFB FOUNDATION annual meeting, 8:30am

^County Administration Building, 719 S Batavia Ave, Geneva

February Farm Bureau report

Administrative and fiscal issues consumed the majority of the Board of Directors attention at their February meeting. With the easing of restrictions on group meetings, Directors were invited to participate in-person or virtually.

Invited for a pre-meeting conference with the FB President and Management were the five members of the KCFB Nominating Committee for 2021, Steve Ruh of Big Rock, Steve Pitstick of Maple Park, Randy Pauli of Elburn, Bruce Krog of Elgin and Wayne Kaschub of Elgin, all former Directors of the Farm Bureau.

Following a meeting of the Nominating Committee and dinner, the Board meeting commenced with Directors attending virtually, and appropriately socially distanced in-person.

After the Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of the Agenda, Directors received minutes, financial statements and membership reports; reviewed contracts including building improvements, summer landscaping and a fiber-optic agreement; distributed Committee agendas from recent meetings of the Finance and Young Farmers Committee; and, received reports on the progress of the 2020 Audit and a Cares Act Employee Retention Tax Credit filing.

Bob Gehrke, former KCFB President and current Chair of the Food-for-Thought Regional Advertising Committee provided an update on the work of the 16 county Farm Bureaus engaged in the consumer outreach group. Gehrke reported that the group had an approximate \$40K budget for 2021 from County Farm Bureau contributions and an Illinois Farm Bureau "match." After deliberation, nearly half was committed to running

ads produced by Illinois Farm Families on various streaming services and on YouTube. An additional 10K was earmarked for maintenance of Food-for-Thought signage at Brookfield Zoo and a presence in the Zoo's communications, as well as opportunity for a physical presence of CFB's in 2021 Zoo promotional events. The remainder of the budget will be used to

Reporting to a Board of Directors can be stressful in any business enterprise. Relieved of that pressure following their reports on February 11, KCFB staff struck a lighthearted pose after last month's board meeting with tools of the office trade in hand. Left to right: Liz "Tape Gun" Polovin; Sindhu "Stapler" Saveen; Audre "The Whole Punch" Pack; Kelcee "This is a Stick Up" Miller; and Alice "Scissorhands" Macha. Stop by the office to meet them anytime. They promise not to point any tape guns or staplers in your direction!



address current events in agriculture through the summer/fall of 2021.

KCFB staff provided updates in their areas of responsibility, including a report from 42+ year veteran Bookkeeper Audre Pack. Member Services Coordinator Liz Polovin reported on membership retention and recruitment programs proposed for 2021, including programs to encourage and incentivize affiliated company personnel. Membership Assistant Sindhu Saveen told the Board about her

were concluded by Communications Coordinator Alice Macha, who walked the Directors through a preview of a new Kane County Farm Bureau website that will be published in March.

Directors shared concerns on a number of topics in a monthly open forum, including news of improved crop varieties for animal feed; thanks for information

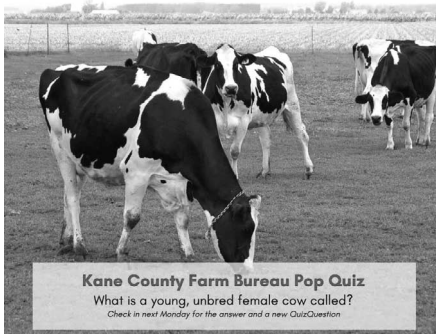
on local grants; harm caused to dairy farmers by changes in milk pricing in the last Farm Bill; concerns about rising property taxes and energy costs; the cost to the farm community of redirecting \$30 billion to climate initiatives; and, the importance of responding to Action Requests from Illinois Farm Bureau and AFBF. Directors were also reminded of the March 27 drive-thru pork chop dinner fundraiser for 4-H & Extension. Tickets will be available at the Farm Bureau until the March 15 ticket order deadline.

In unfinished business, the 2021 Annual Meeting was discussed. President White reported on the 2021 goals for the KCFB as reported to the Illinois Farm Bureau.

In New Business, the Board reviewed and approved a budget for programs, activities and staffing for the 2021 fiscal year. They also received the 2021 IFB Board action plan for 2021, along with sheets to record KCFB and personal actions to advance that plan.

Monthly reports of the activities of local government, including the Kane County Board, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Kane County

responsibilities in database management, developing Constant Contact email communications and a monthly newsletter for COUNTRY Financial personnel. Kelcee Miller reminded the Board of new fundraisers through Amazon Smile and Prairie Farms Dairy, and announced new "Group Raise" fundraisers with local restaurants that return a portion of their profits to the KCFB Foundation. Staff reports



Kane County Farm Bureau Pop Quiz
What is a young, unbred female cow called?
Check in next Monday for the answer and a new QuizQuestion!

Coming soon to KCFB's Facebook page – A weekly pop quiz with questions about agriculture. Like us on Facebook and get quizzical!

Defensive Driving Class

After a COVID hiatus, the Kane County Farm Bureau will schedule a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for September of 2021. The class will run from 9am to 1pm on two consecutive days at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

The eight hour course covers driving in various road and

weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defensive driving methods. Many insurance companies may offer a discount on auto insurance to those aged 55 and older who qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

Attendees must be licensed

drivers. Pre-registration will be required. Cost will be \$20 per person for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (payable the first day) to cover the cost of materials.

Watch your *Farmer* newspaper for more information and specific event dates. Contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 for more information.

Touch-A-Tractor– ALL TRACTORS & TRUCKS welcome!

The KCFB Foundation's Touch-A-Tractor open house and fundraiser is scheduled for April 16-18 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. Again this year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vin-

tage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – and trucks too! The more, the merrier.



If you are interested in bringing a farm tractor or truck to this family-friendly event, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz.

Help us make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

Agriculture Committee and Kane County Regional Planning Commission were given by members/representatives of each. Jerry Gaitsch reported on upcoming virtual "Rules for the Road", sessions on laws affecting agriculture and trucking.

Membership and P.R. Committee Chair Bill Collins of Geneva reported on recent contributions to the KCFB Foundation from the Konen Family Foundation, Jay Schrock of Heinz Brothers Greenhouse, Mark Tuttle of

Somonauk and Kathy Konishi of Elgin. Collins also announced numerous contributions to the AGCO scholarships administered by the KCFB Foundation, from employees of AGCO Parts in Batavia. He circulated a new "Farm Bureau Pop Quiz" on farm and food topics, coming to the KCFB Facebook page regularly to help spread agricultural literacy.

In other Ag Literacy news, directors received viewer comments from the more than 2,500 (continued on page 6)

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 2021 THRU DECEMBER 2021

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

* Attendance by electronic means. ^ Attending IFB Leaders to Washington program.

Kane County Farmer

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Audre Pack, Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Polovin, Member Services Coordinator

Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator

Alice Macha, Communications Coordinator

Sindhu Saveen, Membership Assistant

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847-669-2003

Wayne Schneider
Vice President
721 Lindsay Lane
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847-428-0488

Items sought for T-A-T

Another year, another exciting Touch-A-Tractor event coming your way! April 16-18 marks our 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 and polished or muddied and 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, social distancing 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!



The joy on these children’s faces is genuine – it’s not every day that they get to take the wheel of an antique John Deere tractor. Antique tractors, new tractors, and even ATV’s and UTV’s are all available for you and your family to see, touch, and climb up on once a year at the Kane County Farm Bureau’s Annual Touch-A-Tractor event. This year, mark your calendar for April 16-18, you don’t want to miss it!

Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service the Farm to make sure your soil is ready for spring planting. Three different tests available and results are sent by e-mail or mail directly to you. For a soil test form, visit www.kanecfb.com and click on benefits and services, or pick one up at the KCFB office. Deliver samples to Kane County Farm Bureau with payment. Prices listed are for Kane County Farm Bureau members, non-members, and PLUS status members. Ask us how to save even more when you upgrade your membership to a PLUS status.

Call 630-584-8660 for more details.

Why test your soil? Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth’s store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs and the greatest yield of fresh

veggies.

When is the best time to test soil? Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

How often should I test? Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for the best comparison.

Why does Farm Bureau provide this service? Kane County Farm Bureau was founded in 1912 as the Kane County Farm Improvement Association, to help farmers improve their production practices and increase the fertility and productivity of their soil. This program is an extension of that. It helps you take the guess work out of gardening!

Additional help for your

lawn and garden is available through the University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Contact them at 630-584-6166 or visit their office at 535 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles.

Soil test costs

Basic PH Test

\$20 per sample for members, \$30 non-members
This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test

\$30 per sample for members, \$40 non-members
This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

Lawn/Garden Plus

\$50 per sample for members, \$60 non-members
This test includes the Lawn & Garden test plus nutrients, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur and boron. This test also includes recommendations.

Kane 4-H Foundation sponsors pork chop drive-thru dinner

Take a night off from cooking dinner and support your local community with the Kane County 4-H Foundation’s drive-thru dinner fundraiser. Ticket sales are now open for the event, which is 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at Lions Park in Elburn.

“This fundraiser is in lieu of our annual pork chop dinner and auction event,” said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event chairperson. “With everything this past year, we wanted to still find a way to support 4-H Youth Development programs in our communities, as well as other valuable University of Illinois Extension programs.”

Dinner tickets are \$20 and include a 2-chop meal with sides and dessert, as well as a 50/50 raffle chance. The pork chops will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club, and served by that group, as well as Kane County 4-H families and

Extension volunteers. COVID-19 safety precautions will be taken.

Pre-sale tickets for the drive-thru dinner are available through March 15 by contacting Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Doris Braddock at dbraddock@illinois.edu or 217-300-8664. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit University of Illinois Extension programs in Kane County including: 4-H Youth Development, Home and Community Education Association, Horticulture, Master Gardener, and Nutrition and

Wellness Programs.

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

To learn more about University of Illinois Extension in Kane County and all the programs they offer, visit go.illinois.edu/extensiondkk.

March Lessons and Activities Schedule

Theme: Soil
Subtheme: Specialty Crops

February 24th	March Classroom Challenge: Eggshell Seed Starting
February 25th	Lesson for the week of March 1st: Ode to a Vegetable
March 4th	Virtual Field Trip: United Soils
March 4th	Lesson for the week of March 8th: Say it with Soil
March 5th	Family Engagement Challenge: Soil My Undies
March 11th	Lesson for the week of February 15th: Play-Doh Core Sampling
March 11th	Virtual Author Visit: Darcy Pattison, <i>Erosion</i>
March 12th	April PD in Your PJs; Available Online
March 17th	Family Cooking Challenge: Dirt Pudding
March 18th	Lesson for the week of March 22nd: Tops and Bottoms
March 25th	Lesson for the week of March 29th: Soil Sam

All activities and lessons will be released on the IAITC Facebook and Instagram pages on their release dates.

Make check payable to:
Kane Co. 4-H Foundation
Saturday, March 27, 2021
Serving from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. at
Lions Park
500 Filmore St.
Elburn, IL 60119

2-Chop Dinner and one 50/50 Raffle Ticket

ILLINOIS Extension

Pork Chop Drive-Thru Dinner
Monies raised will support programming for all Extension programs including 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition and Wellness, Home & Community Education and Master Gardeners

Saturday, March 27, 2021 @ Lions Park, 500 Filmore St., Elburn, IL 60119
Dinner served 4:00-6:30 p.m.
2-Chop Dinner \$20, includes one 50/50 Raffle Ticket
All meals include: sides and dessert

Pre-Sales only by March 15th
Thank You for your support

No. 0003

Return this ticket stub with Payment to the Extension Office by Monday, March 15th.

Young Farmers meet near Big Rock

The KCFB Young Farmers gathered in the farm shop at the John and Nan Long farm in rural Big Rock, on the chilly evening of Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30pm for dinner and conversation. The group decided to expand meeting locations across the county to make future meetings more accessible to more young Farm Bureau members.

Congratulations were in order for Carolyn Gehrke, who was recently named Runner-Up in the 2020 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Statewide Discussion Meet. The Discussion Meet was held virtually on Saturday, December 2020. An additional congratulations goes to Wayne Gehrke who was elected the 2021 Chair of Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Committee.

KCFB Development & AITC

Coordinator Kelcee Miller filled the group in on current Ag literacy efforts as well as fundraising ideas for 2021. These included AmazonSmile, Prairie Farms Dairy’s “Our Caps, Your Cause” fundraisers, and a local dining-out fundraiser in cooperation with local restaurants through GroupRaise fundraisers scheduled for May. These efforts will supplement other KCFB Foundation fundraising efforts for Ag Literacy, Scholarships, hunger relief and other community support.

The group also brainstormed ideas for the Foundation’s Vintage Truck Raffle (including locations throughout the county to park the truck to increase its visibility) and discussed volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their annual FFA Acquaintance Day with local FFA Chapters.

Looking ahead into 2021, potential community service activities including creating their own agriculture friendly Little Free Library outside in the KCFB parking lot and possibly offering a concealed carry classes this summer. Social and educational activities discussed included an annual Euchre Tournament for Young FB members in March and traditional annual KCFB events for students, public officials and the general public.

Our next gathering will be Friday, March 12 at 6:30pm at KCFB in St. Charles for a brief meeting, followed by the group’s annual Euchre Tournament for Young Farmers across Northern Illinois. Dinner will be provided. Farm Bureau members from 18-35 are welcome and encouraged to attend and get acquainted.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



Hello Kane County! Can we believe it's already March! Good news for us – that means warmer weather is just around the corner and spring will be here before we know it! With the thought of warmer weather on the way, I can't help but think of symbolism that it holds. Shaking off the old and in with new opportunities, growth, development and the beauty that will soon bloom.

Speaking of new opportunities to blossom, I recently attended a Zoom meeting with other Ag Literacy Coordinators and we learned about two new platforms where teachers, students, and their families can go to make the connection and realize not only the importance but the impact of agriculture in our everyday life.

The first resource we were introduced to focuses on science through the lens of agriculture on a site called *Nourishthe future.org*. This site is full of FREE resources and content and they also offer events and workshops to train and educate teach-

ers about various topics connecting science and agriculture. The six main content areas include: biotechnology, energy/ethanol, growing America, populations, soils and sustainability, and water equality. While this site is mainly targeted for middle and high school educators, lessons and activities may be adapted for younger students.

How will we sustainably feed nearly 10 billion people by the year 2050? The second resource, *Journey2050.com* helps students answer this big looming question by taking them on a virtual simulation that explores world food sustainability. In this FREE program, students are allowed to make decisions on a virtual farm and witness the impact their decisions have on the society, the environment, and the economy at a local and global scale. And one of the best parts is that teachers do not need an agricultural background to facilitate the learning outcomes. A special feature of this program is that it offers students the opportunity

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to experience the lives of farm families in different countries all over the world, and experience the impact of agriculture in someone else's shoes.

Agriculture plays a huge part in our everyday lives and this resource does an awesome job at capturing how agriculture impacts our lives, whether we realize it or not. The goal of this resource is to engage students in positive and open discussions about the importance of sustainable agriculture, best management practices and to generate new ideas.

As we continue to navigate in-person, virtual, or blended

learning settings, educators and leaders in the agricultural field are coming together to create new resources, lessons, and videos to help emphasize the significance of agriculture not just on the special occasions, but everyday life.

While not a Hallmark holiday, we are celebrating National Ag Day on Tuesday, March 23rd and I think the mission statement of Journey2050 not only highlights the theme of the holiday and both resources, but the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. It reads: "Feeding the world is the responsibility of all. We need to think about the

ways we act now so that future generations and our natural environment may prosper."

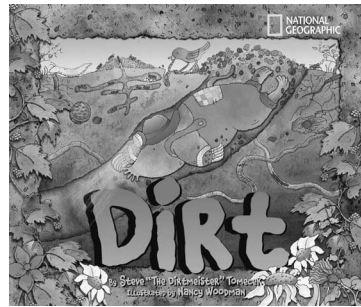
National Ag Day is a great opportunity to take a step back and realize all of the things made possible from the hard-working men and women in this field. Did you eat today? Did you put clothes on? Do you have a safe and warm place to sleep at night? If the answers to these questions are yes, we need to thank the agricultural community for it. National Ag Day is also a time to recognize the impact of sustainable agriculture for the generations to come and what we can do today for a better tomorrow.

Book of the month

The book of the month for March is *Dirt*, written by Steve "The Dirtmeister" Tomecek and illustrated by Nancy Woodman. The friendly mole tour guide, takes readers on a fact-filled and fun little journey on the importance of soil to the world. Many people think that dirt is just something that we clean up from our kitchen floors or wash out of our clothes, however dirt is much more than that.

Tomecek emphasizes throughout the book how dirt is actually one of the most important things on Earth. Tomecek

and his adventurous tour guide dig into the nitty-gritty details on what soil is, who lives in the



Dirt
by Steve Tomecek and illustrated by Nancy Woodman

dirt, how it changes overtime, the different uses of soil and more! Readers will get down in the dirt and not only have a better understanding of what dirt is, but why it's important to everyday life.

To view the fascinating exploration for yourself, come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and check out our FREE KCFB Library. Check out *Dirt*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

S.P.R.O.U.T.S. 2021

In another COVID related concession, KCFB is approaching its program of Spring Reading and Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students (SPROUTS) from several angles in 2021.

This program traditionally consisted of sending volunteers into 3rd grade classrooms in the spring to read a popular children's book about farming, food or agriculture. Volunteer readers were provided a resource "kit" and topical Ag Mags to supplement the classroom visits, and a copy of the book to be left for the school or classroom library.

For 2021 that option will still be available and offered to teachers though a monthly electronic newsletter, however due to COVID restriction, we don't expect much "uptake" on the in-person offer.

In view of COVID, Farm Bureau will also inform area elementary teachers of options to: take delivery of (or pick-up) the book (and resources) FREE from the Kane County Farm Bureau, or, schedule a virtual visit from one of our volunteers

to read the book and present additional classroom information. Farm Bureau will facilitate this virtual method with volunteers through a Zoom meeting, scheduled directly with the classroom(s).

The book to be read in 2021 is "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl Detlefsen. Volunteers who are interested in delivering books, reading to classrooms or presenting virtually are asked to Call Kelcee Miller at Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 for details.

A companion program also provides these books to public libraries in Kane County. Volunteers willing to deliver these books are also welcome to contact the Farm Bureau.

Funds for SPROUTS and library book donations are provided to the KCFB Foundation by the Konen Family Foundation, in memory of long-time Farm Bureau volunteers Bob & Alyce Konen of Aurora. Bob was a former KCFB Director and Alyce a member of the organization's Women's Committee. Both were tireless promoters of Farm Bureau and agricultural literacy.



Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers will have a unique and exciting opportunity to tour local farms, meet farmers and earn college graduate credits from St. Francis University this summer. Kane County Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Ag Institute beginning July 12.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days, Monday,

July 12th - Thursday, July 15th from 8 am to 4 pm each day. Kane County Farm Bureau is the gathering point for teachers to board a bus and tour local farms, agri-businesses and manufacturers, where they will get a clear picture of how agriculture affects our daily lives. The tours will reveal the essentials of research, (continued on page 7)

Helping you protect what matters most



Bob Effner CLU, LUTCF
St. Charles/Elgin
Agency Manager
630-584-0001



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Todd Wilcox
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Deb Stob
Geneva
630-208-0890



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Bobbi Boston
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Sherri Schramer
Elburn
630-365-9500



Keith Eakins
St. Charles
630-762-1324



Jeff Jones
Geneva
847-989-9989



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Chuck Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0001



David Berreles
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0001



Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Ashraf Gerdes
Aurora
630-898-3750



Bob Kearns
S. Elgin
847-888-3200



Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

NATIONAL AG DAY



What is Ag Day all about?

Ag Day is about recognizing – and celebrating – the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

Why celebrate agriculture?

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training.

Each American farmer feeds more than 165 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply,

American agriculture is doing more – and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.

- **DYK?** There are more than 72,000 farms in Illinois, 96% of which are family owned and operated? Combined, these farms generate more than \$19 billion in gross sales, stimulating local economies.
- Illinois farmers care for more than 27 million acres of farmland, which makes up about 75% of the state's land mass. Learn more about Illinois farmers' commitment to continuous improvement at www.watchusgrow.org/innovation-grows-here.
- Did you know agriculture encompasses much more than farming? Today, we celebrate an entire industry, including our veterinarians, mechanics, agriculture teachers, truck drivers, food scientists, and more!
- More than 40 different types of food crops commonly found in farmers markets, restaurants, and grocery store shelves are grown right here in Illinois.

Tuesday, March 23 What is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. National Ag Days falls during National Ag Week.

SNACK

Did you know Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world?

Pumpkins range in size from less than a pound to over 1,000 pounds and are made of 90% water. They are also considered a fruit!



Ag Day

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

- Agriculture
- Careers
- Cattle
- Commodities
- Corn
- Crops
- Dairy
- Dirt
- Education
- Erosion
- Farmer
- Feed
- Harvest
- Organic
- Pork
- Production
- Sediment
- Seed
- Soil
- Soybeans
- Specialty crops
- Vegetables
- Wheat
- Worldwide

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by March 15, 2021 to be entered in our drawing for an agriculture themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within one month of newspaper publication.

Dig into delicious dirt cups!

Ingredients

- 3.4 oz. Jell-O chocolate pudding mix
- 2 cups milk
- 8 Oreo cookies finely crushed
- gummy creatures

Instructions

1. Beat pudding mix and milk in a medium bowl with whisk for 2 minutes
 2. Spoon pudding into cup/bowl
 3. Add Oreo crumbs to the top of the pudding
 4. Add desired toppings of gummy worms/crushed Reese's PB Cups
 5. Serve right after making or put in fridge for later
- Recipe found by McKenna Berglind at: <https://www.spendwithpennies.com/oreo-dirt-cups/>



Seed germination with egg cartons

Materials

- Paper egg carton
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Toothpicks
- Plastic Wrap

Directions

1. Take an empty paper egg carton and poke a small hole in the bottom of each dimple to allow for water drainage
2. Fill each individual dimple with seed-starting soil
3. Plant seeds according to the planting-depth instructions found on the back of the seed packet in each individual dimple
4. Mist with water regularly, keeping the soil moist, but not soaked. You may want to keep the carton on a plate so the water doesn't run everywhere
5. To give extra warmth and humidity (if needed), cover the top of the egg carton with plastic wrap, which can work as a little tent. Use the toothpicks to prop it up.
6. Place the carton in a sunny spot and watch the plants grow!
7. Once the seeds start to sprout, cut apart the individual dimples and plant the seedlings straight in your prepared garden or pot. No need to remove the sprouting seed from the carton, plant the whole thing!



This craft and more germinating ideas are found at: <https://survivalife.com/egg-carton-seedlings/>



March is ...

National

- Pig Day March 1st
- Read Across America Day March 2nd
- Oreo Cookie Day March 6th
- Cereal Day March 7th
- Meatball Day March 9th
- Ranch Day March 10th
- St. Patrick's Day March 17th
- Poultry Day March 19th
- Ravioli Day March 20th
- Ag Day Tuesday, March 23rd
- Cheesesteak Day March 24th
- Spinach Day March 26th
- World Water Day March 22nd

Month-long national celebrations

- Celery Month
- Crafting Month
- Frozen Food Month
- Noodle Month
- Nutrition Month
- Peanut Month
- Sauce Month

- Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?
Because they lactose!
 - What kind of pigs know karate?
Pork chops
 - What kind of things does a farmer talk about when he is milking cows?
Udder nonsense!
 - How did the farmer find his lost cow?
He tractor down!
 - What do you call cattle with a sense of humor?
Laughing stock!
 - What kind of new crop did the farmer plant?
Beets me!
 - What do you get when you pamper a cow?
Spoiled milk!
- Jokes found at: <https://www.scarymommy.com/farm-jokes/>

Congratulations

Dolores Groneman of Elgin! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a garden themed prize! Thank you Dolores, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

KCFB Board sets goals for 2021

To remain relevant and accountable to our member and measure progress towards our mission, the KCFB Board of Directors annually undertakes an exercise to establish goals and objectives for the upcoming year. In discussions at the January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following five goals (in no particular order) for the organization to achieve in 2021, in order to advance its mission to: "Enhance the quality of life for members families; Promote agriculture, farms and food; and, Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources."

KCFB welcomes comments

on these goals and suggestions for program and activities, both internal and external, to achieve them and further our mission. Comments can be directed to management at steve@kanecfb.com or to any Director listed on page 2 of the *Kane County Farmer*.

Goal # 1

Engage volunteer leaders to interact with Legislators and local government officials both virtually and in person through traditional IFB and CFB programs including: Action Requests; Shopping Spree hunger relief activity; Lunches to Legislators program; Legislative receptions; Touch-A-Tractor; a bi-ennial "Victory Mixer" and regular atten-

tion provides gives Americans the nutritional energy for the day, the shirt on their backs, the shelter overhead, and the renewable fuel to drive away from home when COVID allows.

Economically, agriculture ranks the No. 1 industry in Illinois. Environmentally, farms grow more with fewer resources, essential in a world where the population grows larger by the day. Emotionally, agriculture remains at the core of our nation's greatness with an overwhelming majority of farms (97% in Illinois) still owned by families, often generations of them.

A century ago, nearly one-third of the American population farmed, suppressing the need for a National Ag Day. More people held a direct farm connection, largely lost now that fewer than 2% of Americans farm. Modern advancements allow people to pursue careers unrelated to farming and for each farmer to feed more than 166 people, a dramatic increase from 25 in the 1960s, according to the American Agriculture Council of America.

Since Thanksgiving, I have intended to replicate the beloved turkey dinner with classic fixings that we anticipate and enjoy only once a year. Why not savor it more. I decided that National Ag Day will dictate the occasion, a fitting way to celebrate how food brings everyone to the table.

Learn more about National Ag Day at www.agday.org.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

dance/representation at County Board and committee meetings.

Goal # 2

Maintain and improve the Farm Bureau building and property to:

- Make our facilities a comfortable and attractive place to do business for our members;
- Visibly demonstrate our purpose to support farms, farmers and food;

- Attract the public to support our programs, events and mission;
- Encourage non-dues revenue through our commercial activities;
- and, retain quality tenants and 100% occupancy.

Goal # 1

Host a board retreat for a comprehensive review of Bylaws and Policies.

Goal # 1

Develop and improve activities and programs that build agricultural knowledge among students, consumers and the public.

Goal # 1

Take advantage of our location, amenities, programs and service to attract more Farm Bureau members and the public to the Farm Bureau, and the support of its mission.

FB report

(continued from page 2)

viewers of a January 14 virtual tour of Lenkaitis Holsteins Dairy Farm in Campton Hills, reviewed and approved a proposal for KCFB to provide individual shelters to farms and organizations that come to the Touch-A-Tractor open house in April to present educational information to families, and saw preliminary information on custom built trailers for mobile agricultural education.

Management shared updates on the building and grounds, including office improvement needs and on-site inspections for proposed outdoor projects in

2021. The Board also discussed a full-day summer "retreat" to discuss bylaws, policies and finances.

V.P. Wayne Schneider gave a report on government affairs and public policy issues, encouraging Directors to register for a 3-day, noon time virtual Leadership Conference in mid-February. A contact list of legislators and Congress serving constituents in Kane County was distributed. A 20th anniversary Shopping Spree for local food pantries was discussed along with continuation of the annual Lunches to Legislators acquaintance program. Schneider circulated the LINK (local news and know-how) publication that was

emailed January 21 to the Kane County Board and local public officials, and announced that 2021 policy books for the Illinois Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation were available for distribution.

In his capacity as Chairman of the KCFB Foundation, Joe White reported on scholarship deadlines, the annual meeting of the Foundation and plans for the annual Touch-A-Tractor open house, April 16-18. In his Farm Bureau President's Report, White shared information from recent meeting of area CFB Presidents and from a "Future of the Organization" task force he serves on representing CFB's in Northern Illinois.



Food brings everyone to the table

On a recent winter evening, my kids announced that we had missed National Blueberry Pancake Day.

"Alexa" had told them about it. They continued to chuckle, ask questions and give commands to this internet-connected smart speaker, which responds to the name Alexa. On their cue, the robotic female voice delivers generally unimportant facts and plays exaggerated noises of passing gas. And that, of course, generates more laughter.

For nearly a pandemic year, our household motto rather has provided a lesson in life: Be happy making the best of the situation. Alexa helps with that. And had I known about this special day for fruity flapjacks on January 28, I would have made blueberry pancakes on that Thursday morning. Just for fun.

Most of my life, I passed off "National Day" events with a no-need attitude. For sake of humility, we didn't need cause holidays. Maybe we do. Besides making the best of things, this pandemic era has taught us the desperate need to listen more and practice empathy.

That said, agriculture deserves its day, too. National Ag Day is March 23, 2021, a date to recognize that modern agriculture sustains life. The food, fiber and fuel this industry

Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the FOUNDATION. These contributions help in the areas of to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from January 15, 2021-February 14, 2021.



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

Donor	Beneficiary
Christine Wennerstrom	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Joshua & Stephanie Converse	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Juventino and Laurie Jean Cantu	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
James and Sandra Enockson	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Anthony & Belinda Meyer	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Carla Burkhart Kile	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Rita Williams	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Mary Quiles	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
R.M. Vitellaro	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Valerie England	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Joann Rodriguez	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
William and Hannah Huber	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Jan and Judy Schuett	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Paul & Kelly Nicks	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
David & Patricia Rotolo	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Stephanie & Ralph Visscher	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Jeffrey & Lynne Turk	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
John Sloan	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Harshana Reyhart	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Mike & Karen Petingalo	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Christopher Mansour & Rana Dar-Ayyad	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Jessica Pall	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Jennifer Ring	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Kevin & Mary Ann Lasswell	AGCO Scholarship funds, KCFB Foundation
Thomas & Janet Runty	KCFB Foundation – General Fund
Ken Teeple	KCFB Foundation – AgDays
Harvest for ALL	
Craig & Angela Bradley	Food for Greater Elgin

*For more information on KCFB Foundation scholarship, education or community service programs, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director at 630-584-8660.




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FORAGE



Left to right: KCFB President Joe White, Representative Barbara Hernandez, KCFB Manager Steve Arnold, Senator Karina Villa and Batavia Jewel/Osco manager, Gus Eliopoulos are all smiles behind their masks as trophies are awarded and the contestants learn the results of their 7-minute shopping sprees.

Travel opportunities

We have teamed up with neighboring Northern Illinois county Farm Bureaus to offer a wonderful group trip in 2022.

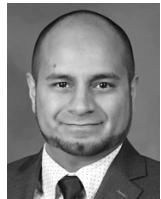
Alternate dates have been chosen due to COVID-19 for the Tulip Time River Cruise.

New dates are: March 25, 2022. It's never too early to start planning for this beautiful trip!

Trip brochures and pricing are available by calling Kane County Farm Bureau at: 630-584-8660.

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Victor Alvarado! Victor has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since December 2017.



His office is located at 1750 Grandstand Pl., Elgin and may be reached at: 847-742-0003.

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

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Sherri Schramer has been named the Rep of the Month for January 2021 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Sherri has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Sherri's expertise help you! You may reach Sherri at 630-365-9500, or sherri.schramer@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/sherri.schramer/>.

Congratulations, Sherri!

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Greg LeBeau, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for January, 2021. Greg began his career with COUNTRY Financial in October of 1987 and services clients out of his office located at: 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6900. Greg's professionalism and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, and commercial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Greg!

HELP WANTED

Farm Employee. Some experience necessary. FT and PT available. CDL helpful. Call 630-951-9238

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

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

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.

Recycle Scrap for CASH

Steel, Copper, Aluminum & Cars

Trucking & Dumpster Service Available

"Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years"

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

Submission deadline: March 12, 2021
Mail entries to: Young Farmers Coloring Contest 2021
Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

Child's Name _____
Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Age: _____ Phone No. _____
Name of Teacher _____



Shopping Spree

(continued from page 1)

Special thanks to Jewel-Osco

and the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their partnership in this Food Check-Out Week activity, sponsored by the KCFB Government Affairs Committee.

Summer Ag

(continued from page 4)

production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. Teachers will learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields and a

crew of dedicated volunteers who share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

If you are interested in learning more about GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations or other farm and food related

issues consider attending our KCFB Summer Ag Institute!

For more information on the Summer Ag Institute, contact Kelcee Miller at KCFB, 630-584-8660 or aitc@kanecfb.com, or look for the course listing online through the Kane County Regional Office of Education.

Welcome to the next level

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

Regular Members

- Erik Bellon** Maple Park
- Mark Haan** Batavia
- Anthony Pragovich**
- Alexa Rutherford** Elgin

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 discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John

Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel

- Discounts at the KCFB Country Store on in-house sales of featured local foods

*KCFB Regular membership is required of all who join our association that have a vested interest in and receive income from the production of farm products as an owner or operator of a farm business. Professional Membership status is available for all those employed in agriculture-related occupations, even with no farm income. If you are interested in "next level" membership and the benefits it carries, please contact KCFB in St. Charles at (630) 584-8660.

Young Farmers coloring contest

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 23, 2021 and National Agriculture Week March 21-27, 2021 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring a coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received in our office will be March 12th. Feel free to copy or reproduce this page, or stop by the KCFB for entry forms.

The contest is open to all children ages 3 through 11.

Categories are as follows: Ages 3-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each category.

The entries will be judged on originality, true-to-lifeness and neatness. The picture should be the sole work of the child with no parental help or assistance. No pictures will be returned to the children unless requested. Parents/teachers ... please have the children fill out the address form completely with their home

addresses.

All entries will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's Touch-A-Tractor event during the month of April after they are judged. No child's address or phone number will be exhibited at the display, only their names and ages. Play a part in helping the Young Farmers committee in saluting the agricultural community. Get a child, grandchild or student to participate in the contest.

Dine out with 2 delish ways to support KCFB Foundation

Fundraising is an important component of the mission and resources of community groups and non-profits, KCFB Foundation included. It is well known that COVID restricted many daily activities and social gatherings, and decimated restaurants, from local cafes and kitchens to national chains. It also forced non-profits like the KCFB Foundation to think outside the box.

Enter "GroupRaise," a fundraiser that encourages members of various communities to order food from a local restaurant on a specific date and time, to support a particular group or cause. Not only does the group raise funds and awareness for their cause, but the hosting restaurant also benefits from the increased traffic. GroupRaise allows a portion of the total sales to be donated directly to the group or cause.

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION is excited to announce not just 1, but 2 GroupRaise fundraising opportunities THIS May!

1. In the first event, we encourage you to help us celebrate National Salsa Month (& Taco Tuesday), on Tuesday, May 4th at Salsa Verde at 1850 Lincoln Highway, St. Charles, from 11:00am-9:00pm.



1. Salsa Verde, St. Charles
2. Oberweis Dairy/Woodgrain Pizzeria/That Burger Joint, Geneva



2. The second event we will be celebrating is National Hamburger Month, with an opportunity on Friday, May 28th from 11:00am-10:00pm at the new Oberweis restaurant complex at 2150 S. Randall Rd., Geneva. As a tasty bonus, customers may eat at any of the

three restaurants, Oberweis Dairy, Woodgrain Pizzeria, or That Burger Joint – the choice is yours!

Eat-in, takeout and online orders are all eligible for the fundraiser to benefit the KCFB Foundation. However, both require a minimum group to RSVP to "Commit to Eat" on our Meal Page, otherwise our event(s) will be canceled.

To assist the KCFB Foundation and commit to Eat at Salsa Verde on Tuesday, May 4th between 11:00am and 9:00pm, visit: <https://www.groupraise.com/events/179785-kcfb-foundation-at-salsa-verde>.

To assist the KCFB Foundation and commit to Eat at Oberweis, Woodgrain Pizzeria, and That Burger Joint on Friday, May 28th between 11:00am and 10:00pm, visit: <https://www.groupraise.com/events/179311-kcfb-foundation-at-oberweis>.

Whether you dine-in, drive through, or order online we hope you bring your appetite, family, and friends and join us in celebrating these fun national

food holidays, the good food, and a good cause! Follow us on Facebook for links and information regarding our upcoming events.

One more thing – and the

most important – please make sure when purchasing your meal to mention that you are supporting KCFB FOUNDATION so we can receive your donation percentage!

Win a pedal tractor at Touch-A-Tractor

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation will draw the name of one lucky child to win a FREE pedal tractor at the conclusion of Touch-A-Tractor on April 18. Return the form below to KCFB by April 18 or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 16, 17 and 18. The pedal tractor drawing is open only to children 8 and under. Entrant's name, age, and phone must appear on the form.

You can also receive one (1) additional entry to the FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing for each child or grandchild in your family by bringing non-perishable food items to Touch-A-Tractor. Food items will then be donated to a local food pantry. Winner need not be present to win.



Give your child or grandchild the chance to win a pedal tractor! In 2018, 5-year old Liam Sickafoose of St. Charles was the winner of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Pedal Tractor Drawing at Touch-A-Tractor.

Young Farmer Euchre Tourney—Mar. 12

The 16th annual Young Farmers Euchre Tournament promises a competitive, fun evening for young farmers ages 18-35 from Kane, Winnebago-Boone, McHenry, DeKalb and Kendall-Grundy counties.

The evening will begin at Kane County Farm Bureau with a brief, 6:30 pm meeting followed by 7:00 pm pizza and

snacks. Euchre teams will be chosen by drawing lots, then the cards will be dealt and the Round Robin competition starts at 7:30. A \$5.00 buy-in gets pizza, snacks and free lessons. No experience or partner necessary – just an appetite for fun and competition with peers. The winners of this highly competitive event will take home the

coveted title of Euchre Champs 2021.

Farm Bureau members and others aged 18-35 with an interest in farms and food are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve Arnold or Kelcee Miller by calling 630-584-8660, email aic@kanecfb.com, or reach out to any current Young Farmer member!

FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing

(For children 8 and under. Entrant's age must appear on the form below)

Please enter me in the Kane County Farm Bureau's FREE Pedal Tractor Drawing.

Name _____ Age _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Return by Sunday, April 18 to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Breeze through the T-A-T line with your Vintage Truck Raffle ticket stub

One of the biggest events of the year is coming up April 16-18th right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor!

By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2021 Vintage Truck 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 September 9. The winning ticket will take home a 1972 Chevrolet C/20 camper special. Second prize is \$500 in groceries and third prize \$500 in fuel.

Tickets are \$15 each, 2 for \$25 or 5 for \$50 and are avail-

able 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.

Since 1989 over \$400,000 in tuition assistance has been 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 or contact Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660.

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 # _____ Exp ____ / ____

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Celebrate Agriculture & the coming of Spring!

ADMISSION:
A donation of
\$2—Adults,
\$5—Families
or
show a
Vintage Truck Raffle
ticket stub for FREE
family admission all



Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION



An outdoor farm-city & community open house & fundraiser that brings a little bit of the farm to the city. Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION welcomes urban & suburban neighbors to learn more about farming.

Bring the whole family!

- Visit with local farmers
- Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- See technology that makes America's farmers the most productive and efficient in the world, side-by-side with machines of days gone by
- Learn about America's most essential industry ... Agriculture!

Bring non-perishable food items for an additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.



Friday-Sunday, April 16-18

Fri. 12 - 4
Sat. 10 - 4
Sun. 10 - 3

Kane County Farm Bureau
Randall Road
at Oak Street,
St. Charles, IL

Vintage Truck RAFFLE



2021 Grand Prize: 1972 Chevrolet C-20 Camper Special pickup truck
2nd prize: \$500 in groceries 3rd prize: \$500 in fuel



Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION
2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174
info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

