

# 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. 87 NO. 3 MARCH 2022

## Protect your farm, join FB ACT

Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking farmers and members willing to stand on the frontlines and protect their farms, families and way of life. Members who join FB ACT, Farm Bureau's Agricultural Contact Team are better informed about the issues that affect agriculture at the local, state and national level. They are also asked to respond, through phone calls and text messages, when proposed legislation or public policy initiatives harmful to agriculture arise in the halls of government.

For 2022, KCFB has plans to host two exclusive events for FB ACT members. Both will be designed to give FB ACT members exclusive access to public officials that represent Kane County in an informal setting, to learn more about Farm Bureau priorities and to provide the opportunity to discuss concerns one-on-one with elected representatives.

2022 Kane County Farm Bureau FB ACT members will also receive a special gift to help them publicly display their support of Farm Bureau policies, farms and food. Don't delay, sign-up today. Text "FARM" to

52886. Our first FB ACT member event is coming soon!

Please feel free to call Steve Arnold, 630-584-8660 with questions, and be sure to mention FB ACT.



**ACT today and receive a special gift. Our first FB ACT member event is coming soon!**

## Local food pantries benefit from event



State Senator Don DeWitte and State Representative Suzanne Ness dashed through the

Batavia Jewel aisles on the morning of Monday, February 21, grabbing goods for a good cause.



The two lawmakers amassed \$2,806 in groceries during their 7 minute shopping spree.

Watch your April *Kane County Farmer* for more photos and a recap of the fun event.

Far left: State Senator DeWitte hustles canned fruit into the cart.

Left: State Representative Ness cheerfully rings up her gathered goods, which included an assortment of snacks.

## Pollinator Garden expansion update

An ad-hoc committee of KCFB leaders met in late February with representatives of The Conservation Foundation, Kane-DuPage SWCD and staff from the Kane County Environmental and Water Resources Division. The subject was expansion of the Farm Bureau's 750 sq. ft. Pollinator/Rain Garden into a larger feature for education and community.

The Pollinator/Rain Garden installed in 2020 was a joint project of the Farm Bureau and the Kane County Environmental and Water Resources Division. In addition to its aesthetic and environmental benefits, the dual purpose (rain garden & pollinator garden) was constructed to remind farmers of their opportunity to install water quality benefits, in lieu of detention, to meet stormwater management requirements for many on-farm development projects. The "in lieu of" provisions were a significant and

positive change to the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance, approved by the Kane County Board in 2018.

For 2022, the Farm Bureau has received an Illinois Farm Bureau grant for an expansion of the existing pollinator/rain garden to approximately 5 times its original 750 sq. ft. size. This will allow more space for pollinator plants, the addition of upland prairie and wetland species plants and provide for interpretive signage to help the public understand the benefits of pollinators and what farmers are doing to protect the environment. The expansion will also include a second water quality best management practice, a bio-swale, to reduce erosion from overflow from the Farm Bureau parking lot.

The group discussed additional grant opportunities including a Com Ed Green Region grant application and contributions from the partners mentioned

above. They also discussed engineering, design, potential contractors, hardscapes, soil amendments, interpretive signage and plant species. The goal is to add an Illinois shaped garden with walking paths to interpretive signs.

Contractors and additional partners are sought for the 2022 expansion. Needs include engineering and design, site excavation and preparation, soil amendments (sand, silt and compost), tile, hardscapes, plant materials and mulch. Local contractors, landscapers, garden centers and Farm Bureau members are encouraged to support the effort through donations, or to offer their professional services for hire.

Kane County Farm Bureau hopes to offer its members and supporters several opportunities to assist with volunteer planting in the spring/summer of 2022. Weather permitting, layout may begin as early as our April 8-10

Touch-A-Tractor event! For more information, questions, donations or to volunteer, call KCFB at 630-584-8660.

### Prairie Pollinator/ Rain Garden needs

- Garden design services
- Excavation & site preparation
- Soil amendments – (sand, topsoil, compost), mulch
- Field tile – 4" or 6", approx 100'
- Hardscapes – field stones, softball-basketball sized; limestone slabs 3+” thick, round river rock 3+”
- Prairie, pollinator & wetland plants in flats, pints or gallons
- Signage & installation
- Volunteers!

For more information,  
630-584-8660  
and ask for Steve.

### KCFB CALENDAR MARCH 2022

- 4 Last day to pick-up Private Well Water Test kits
- 6 Collect water sample for water test
- 7 Return water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage SWCD
- 10 KCFB Board of Directors, KCFB, 7pm
- 11 Young Farmers Euchre Tourney, 6pm
- 13 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 17 ^Kane County Board Ag Committee, 10am
- 21 KCFB Foundation Board, 9am
- 18 KCFB Finance Committee, 10am
- 23 National Ag Day
- 23-24 IFB Live Local Conference, East Peoria
- 24 \*Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day, 5pm

^ County Administration Building, 719 S Batavia Ave, Geneva

\* Northern Illinois Food Bank, 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva

### March Featured Food

## Homemade Corned Beef

The special this month is Inboden's corned beef rounds. Each corned beef will be brined in house and come sealed for your St. Patrick's Day celebration. Each package will be approximately 5 lbs. The Member price is (not including tax) \$6.60 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!**

## IFB Young Leader Conference attendees



In late January, a small group of KCFB Young Leaders (left to right – Michael Bohlin, Brett Dienst, Wayne Gehrke, Carolyn Gehrke-Brummel, Kelcee Miller, Joseph White and Michael Long) attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference in East Peoria. The highlight of the weekend was Dr. Temple Grandin, animal behaviorist and autism keynote spokesperson who spoke of her consulting experience in the livestock industry and how different thinkers help us innovate and improve. The weekend also consisted of a variety of workshops categorized by five different tracks

designed to provide something for everyone: on the farm (timely production-based agriculture topics for farmers; agribusiness management (resources to effectively manage and grow a successful business; young professionals (gain personal and professional skills for a successful career); education and engagement (learn the empowerment skills to effectively communicate and advocate the values of agriculture in everyday life); and, on the horizon (understand new and emerging trends, agricultural innovation, research, and technology). See more on page 6.

# Agriculture Committee updates

The County of Kane is unique among Illinois' counties in many ways, not the least of which is in its attention to and support of Agriculture as a desirable land use in planning and zoning. Unlike Illinois' 101 other counties, the County of Kane has a functioning and active Agriculture Committee, that meets each month to educate, inform and when necessary, take action on issues that affect farms, food and the environment.

Nine of the County's 28 Board members meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 am at the County Administration Building in Geneva. They hear monthly updates from the Kane County Farm Bureau and Northern Illinois Food Bank as well as County departments including Development and Community Services and Environmental and Water Resources. Various other county departments, businesses and not-for-profits in the farms, food and environment "space" routinely appear before the committee.

Below is a partial report from the February 2022 meeting.

## Compeer Financial to Back County Assessment of Local Livestock Market

Kane County was recently awarded a Rural Feasibility Study Grant by Compeer Financial. The \$5,000 award will be matched with County economic development and agriculture program funds to conduct an assessment of the local market for livestock products.

Like smaller, more specialized operators across the country, livestock farmers in Kane County have faced challenges that preceded the pandemic. Moving products to consumers has been exceptionally challenging in a sector that has seen unprecedented consolidation. This has made competing with large, low-margin enterprises on price alone an untenable proposition for many farmers.

The pandemic has only exacerbated those challenges. According to a 2021 Kane County survey, the consumer and supply chain disruptions resulting from the pandemic cost livestock farmers several thousands of dollars in lost contracts. Access to meat processing facilities was cut off for many farmers in the face of plant labor shortages and closures. Multiple farmers reported having to cull a portion of their livestock herd for being unable to reach consumers with their finished products.

Imported products are providing additional market pressures. According to the Pasture Project, 75-80% of grass-fed beef sales in the US consist of imported products.

The grant-funded market assessment will serve two goals. The first will be to help County officials, the Farm Bureau, and others obtain a more complete understanding of the market challenges faced by Kane County's livestock farmers across the supply chain. This input will better enable the County and partners to more effectively channel financial support, training & technical guidance, and other resources to address those hurdles. The sec-

ond goal of the assessment will be to identify untapped market opportunities in the region for the sale of finished and specialized livestock products. The finished report will provide farm-

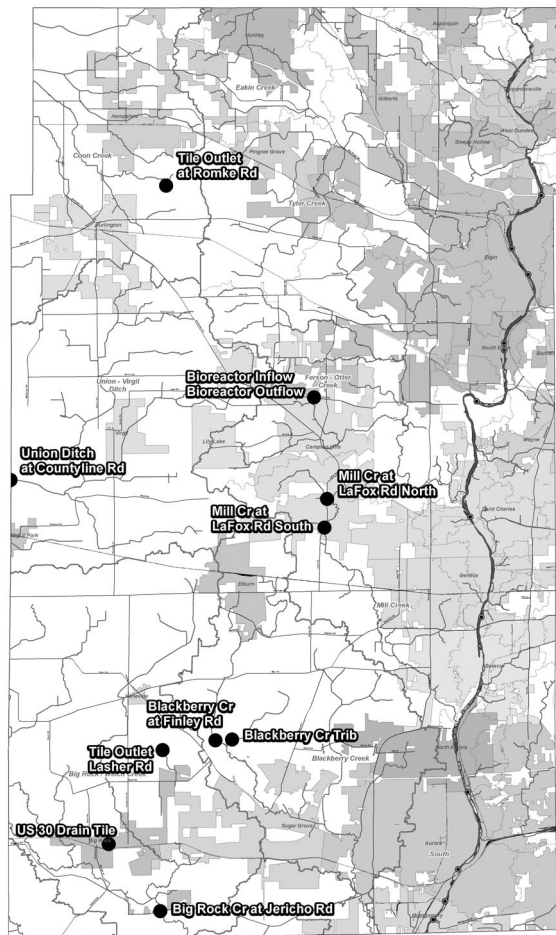


Beef cattle graze on pasture on a farm in Northern Kane County. Photo credit, Matthew Tansley.

Kane County Livestock Operations (2017 Census of Agriculture)	
Cattle & calves inventory	77
Hogs & pigs	9
Sheep & lambs	25
Layers	67
Broilers / meat chickens	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>

ers with a nuanced and localized picture of where and how they might reach new customers.

Once the project team has been assembled, there will be opportunities for livestock farm-



Kane County Locations for 2021 water quality sampling data.

ers to share what they have experienced in the marketplace. Anyone with questions or feedback on this project may contact Matt Tansley, Planner with the Kane County Planning Division at [tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us](mailto:tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us).

## Bees & Apiaries

The Agriculture Committee took action on a proposed amendment to the County's Nuisance & Property Maintenance Ordinance regarding the keeping of bees. If approved by the full County Board on March 8, it would establish definitions, prohibit the keeping of non-domestic bees, and establish set-backs and limits on the number of hives on parcels of varying sizes, up to 5 acres in Kane County.

The Ordinance was drafted in cooperation with local beekeepers and reviewed by the Kane County Farm Bureau. It exempts any parcel which is both zoned and primarily used for any agricultural purpose.

## Water Quality Sampling

Kane County Water Resource staff reported on their first year of water quality sampling of drain tiles and ditches at the February Agriculture Committee. The goal of the study is to identify differences in nutrient levels in predominantly farmed areas of the County, then use that information to develop practices for Kane County farmers to best reduce nitrogen and phosphorus leaving fields and getting into tiles and ditches.

Due to unseasonably dry weather in 2021, the sampling all

occurred during low flows. The Water Resource team will start up sampling again in March of 2022 to try and obtain some higher flow samples for comparison. Initial results show large variations in nitrate in the various tiles sampled so additional data will be important to the results. Once the 2022 sampling is complete, the team will be looking at different nutrients comparing the rural to the urban areas of the county and identifying focus areas for potential nutrient management strategies.



Kane County Sr. Water Resources Engineer Rob Linke pulls a sample from Big Rock Creek for 2021 water sampling data. Photo credit, Jodie Wollnik.

## 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 2022 THRU DECEMBER 2022

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

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

## Kane County Farmer

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# Kane Co. 4-H Foundation sponsors 13th annual dinner & auction

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 13th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Prairie Events Center of the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles.

“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 services,” said Bill Collins, treasurer of the Kane County 4-H Foundation and event co-chairperson. “Prior to 2020, the annual event raised about \$20,000, and the goal this

year is to match that.”

Tickets are on sale now, with the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$15, a 1-chop dinner for \$13, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$10. The pork will be prepared by the Elburn Lions Club and served by 4-H Foundation, clubs, families, and other Extension volunteers and supporters.

Tickets may be purchased through your local 4-H club or 4-H Foundation volunteer, or by contacting the dinner co-chairs Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 or Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an addi-

tional \$1 per meal.

The event also features a silent auction of popular items and themed baskets donated by Kane County 4-H Clubs, Master Gardener volunteers, local Home and Community Education (HCE) groups, and other area supporters. Silent auction bidding ends at 7 p.m. and the live auction begins.

Proceeds from the dinner and auctions 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.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at bronze, silver, and gold levels, and all donations are tax deductible. Donors may request a set number of complimentary tickets based on sponsorship level, and they will receive recognition at the event. To donate, contact Bill Collins at 630-484-6852 and Karen Sunderlage at 815-766-2955.

“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.”

At this event, face coverings are required for all participants, spectators, volunteers, and staff in any indoor space. Anyone who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms within the previous five days of the event is asked to please stay at home. The planning committee may adjust events in response to evolving guidance as provided by the CDC, IDPH, and University of Illinois. Additional local venue guidelines will be followed.



Save the Date for the April 9 Fundraising Event

## Build a little library?

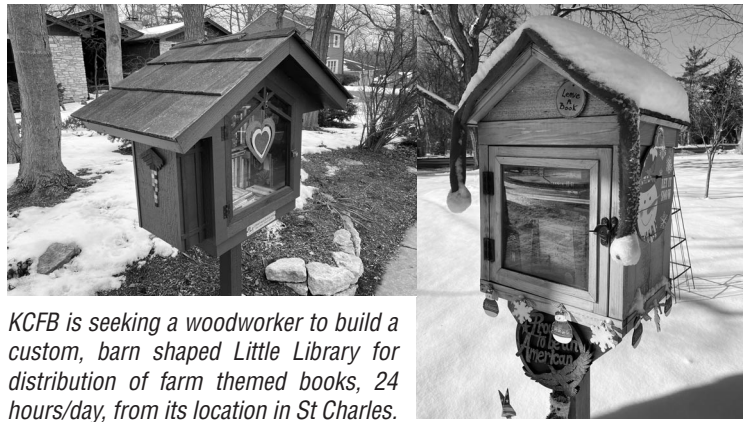
Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking an experienced woodworker willing to tackle the challenge of building a barn-shaped “Little Library” for year-round, outdoor distribution of agriculture themed books.

We’ve searched Google, Etsy and Pinterest and have not found the ready-to-order, barn-shaped library that we are seeking. Our aim is to have the library compliment the recently installed windmill and further the agriculture theme to visitors and reading enthusiasts who stop by to stock up on books that promote and explain agriculture,

food production and farming to the general public.

Through generous gifts to our KCFB Foundation from members and recurring gifts from the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen, we are fortunate to be able to undertake this project to improve agricultural literacy.

If you or someone you know is up to the task, building from your own design or from plans obtained from other sources, please give us a call at 630-584-8660. Who knows, it may develop into a profitable sideline business!



KCFB is seeking a woodworker to build a custom, barn shaped Little Library for distribution of farm themed books, 24 hours/day, from its location in St Charles.

**Farming Funnies**

Sadly, Santa and Mrs. Claus are getting a divorce. There are no divorce attorneys at the North Pole, so they got a semicolon. Semicolons are very good at separating independent clauses.

Like us on Facebook for a weekly helping of humor – our Friday Farming Funnies. You'll also find the latest info about ag education, local farming folks and news and upcoming events and specials at Kane County Farm Bureau.

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## Young Farmers Committee announces 2nd Coloring Contest

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 23rd, and National Agriculture Week March 20-26, 2022, the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring its 2nd coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received in the office will be April 11th, 2022 and all entries need to be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 11th.

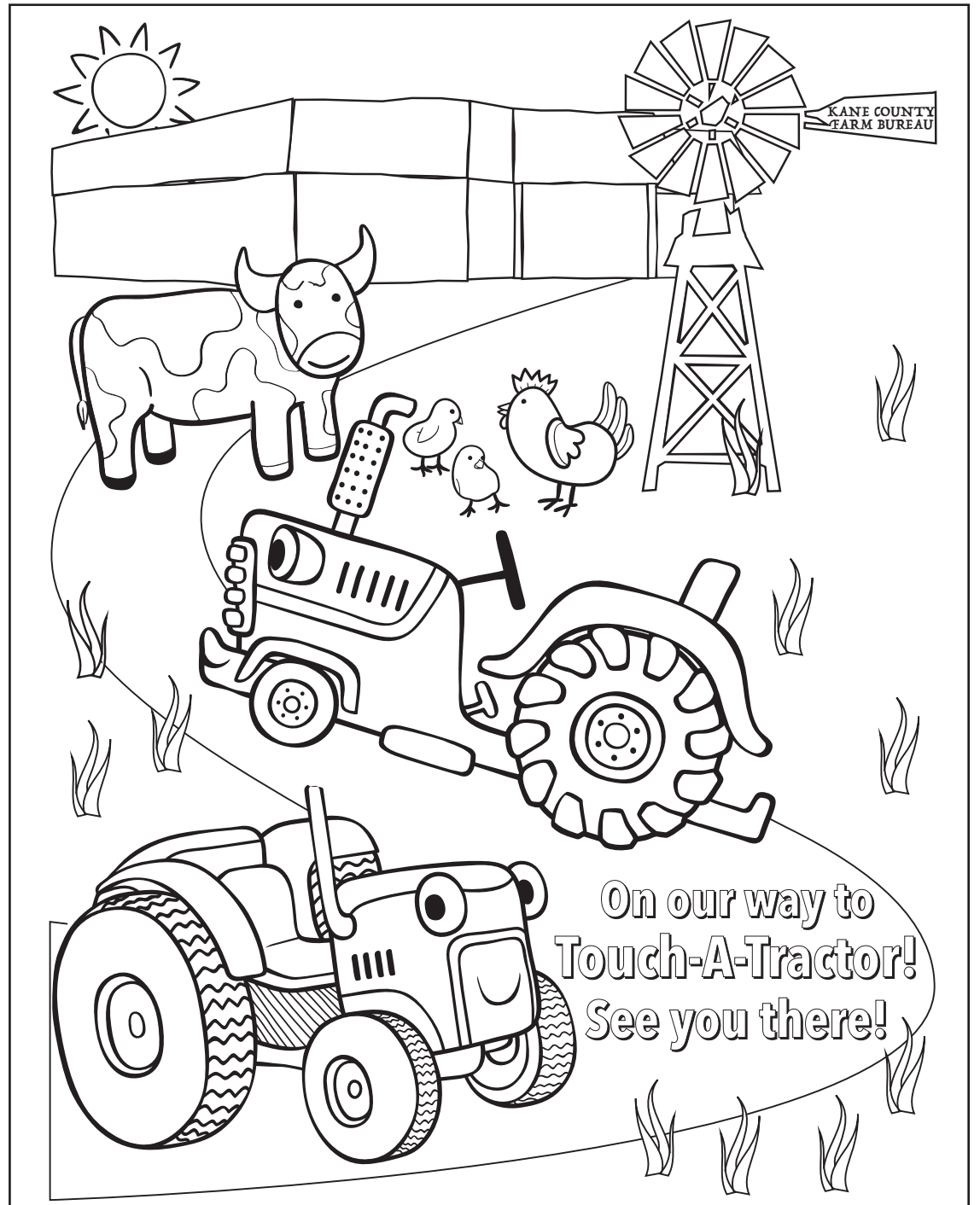
The contest is open to all

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, neatness and truthness-to-life. 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 collected prior to April 8 will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau’s April 8-10 Touch-A-Tractor event. 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 a student to participate in the contest.



On our way to Touch-A-Tractor! See you there!

Entry Form:

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline to submit:**  
**April 11, 2022**  
 Mail all entries to:  
 Young Farmers  
 Coloring Contest 2021  
 Kane County  
 Farm Bureau  
 2N710 Randall Road  
 St. Charles, IL 60174

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Program Coordinator



### Hello Kane County!

I don't know about you, but these last few weeks – shoot, even these past few months have been so busy! The old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun." could not be more true! I cannot believe it's already March! And as you may or may not know, I love to learn, so when opportunities were presented at the beginning of the year I jumped on them. Last month I wrote about my experience and takeaways from the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Atlanta. Well this month, I am going to tell you about three more opportunities I had the privilege of attending. Yes, you read that correct. Three!

In the first opportunity I had the pleasure of attending my first Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader/Young Farmer Conference in East Peoria with a small group of our very own KCFB Young Leaders. I had been looking forward to attending this conference ever since

we received notice back in late fall! Why so eager you may be asking yourself? First was the keynote speaker, Dr. Temple



Kelcee Miller poses with Dr. Temple Grandin during her book signing event during the Young Leader/Young Farmer Conference in East Peoria.

Grandin. I can remember growing up and my parents and older siblings saying her name periodically in conversation as my sister was going to veterinary school and my older brother was working on Jamie Willrett's beef farm in Malta, Illinois. At the time, I didn't really think much of it until I got older and

realized how much of an inspiration she was in many different fields, but especially in the field of agriculture. It is one thing to read her bio, read her books, and hear stories and it's another to hear her speak in person. One of my biggest takeaways from her keynote speech was quote, "Now when you recognize that different kinds of thinkers have different approaches to problem solving, then you can figure out how to work together in complementary ways." Grandin went on to explain in her speech that we need different thinkers to continue to innovate and encourage us to get kids away from screens and expose them to real-world critical and creative experiences such as courses in schools like art, music, shop classes, and being out in nature. I appreciate her way of thinking because there is no "right" or "wrong" way for children to learn and to critically think, however her view on real-world hands on learning is something I hope schools do not lose sight of in this technology driven world. Another fangirl moment I had during this conference was having the opportunity to actually meet and greet Dr. Temple Grandin during her book signing event! I walked away with several books for my siblings and one of my own, all personally signed by the one and only Dr. Temple Grandin.

Additionally, this conference

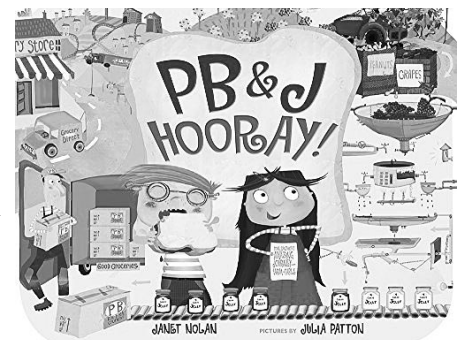
was full of education workshops to attend and of the four I attended, my favorite was the workshop all about navigating change. In the workshop, we did an exercise in which we stood face to face with a random partner and were not supposed to exchange any words, only to stand quietly and observe them head to toe for a full minute. (You want to talk about an awkward moment, stand and stare at someone for a full on minute while they are staring right back at you without any words being exchanged!) Then we got 30 seconds to turn back to back and change seven things about our appearance and then turn back to our partner and have our partner point out the changes we made to our appearance. We repeated this exercise several times and at the conclusion we

shared our experiences of how awkward and hard it was as we were not prepared to change our appearance – very similar to how change happens in our own lives. We may not always see it coming or necessarily be prepared. The relevance of the exercise was to illustrate that change can be awkward and hard to navigate at first, that it is okay to ask for help from our neighbors/friends, and that when we learn to execute 80% of the time, when the 20% occurs in our lives we are able to handle it and be prepared.

My next opportunity was and will continue to be for the next month, participating in Illinois Farm Bureau's Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) leadership program. I'm about halfway through this eight-week *(continued on page 6)*

## Book of the month

I am so excited to share with you how this special book of the month found its way into our KCFB Library. This past January, while in Atlanta, Georgia for AFBF National Convention the snack of the exhibitor hall was the grilled peanut butter and jelly sandwiches made fresh by one of the farm bureau booths. If you have not tried them, you need too! They provide the right kind of crunch with the savory pb&j combo we all love! While engaging with the folks working the Ag Literacy booth and discussing the conference with my grilled treat in hand, they encouraged me to check out the book *PB&J Hooray!*, that they had on display. After looking through it briefly, I knew it was a must add to my list of books to purchase.



*PB&J Hooray!*

by Janet Nolan, illustrated by Julia Patton

Fast forward to today. The theme of the month for March for Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is wheat along with celebrating National Ag Day and National Ag Week and I could not think of a better book to showcase all of it in a sweet and simple way than with *PB&J Hooray!* This cute story written by Janet Nolan and illustrated by Julia Patton, is all about where our food comes from and the processes it takes to get into our homes. Nolan takes readers on a journey back-

products we know and love, like a good ol' pb&j! To see this fun exploration of how peanuts become peanut butter, grapes made into jelly, and wheat turns into bread, come on into the Kane County Farm Bureau office and check out our FREE KCFB Library and check out *PB&J Hooray!*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

## Join IAITC for an after school S.N.A.C.K.

Teachers, learn more about how to incorporate lessons about wheat and apples into your classroom with Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's After School S.N.A.C.K (Sharing New Ag Content and Knowledge) on Wednesday, March 2 at 4:00pm. Teachers will learn new lesson ideas, book recommendations, and more! Sign up for the FREE webinar here: <https://ilfb->

[org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_U158-G3VTAuLLREt9peP3w.](https://ilfb-)

### There's a Pig in My Classroom!

Team up this school year with the Illinois Pork Producers for a virtual field trip to a pig farm that includes everything except the oink! Hosted by the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center and sponsored by the LEAP Foundation, There's a Pig in My Classroom is a virtual program designed to teach students in grades 3-6 where and how pork gets to their plate. Students will learn about how pigs are raised on the farm, production terminology, and purchasing pork in the grocery store.

Learn more about this exciting opportunity for you and your students by visiting: [educationaboutpigs.com/theres-a-pig-in-my-classroom](https://educationaboutpigs.com/theres-a-pig-in-my-classroom).



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630-208-0890



Michael O'Brien  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



Victor Alvarado  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



Luke Fawkes  
Elgin  
847-742-0002



Sherry Lochen  
Elgin  
847-742-0004



Bob Kearns  
Elgin  
847-888-3200



Bob Riedel  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



Gary Bolger  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



Sherri Schramer  
Elburn  
630-365-9500



Dominick Davero  
Elburn  
630-365-3737



Charles Quick  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



David Berreles  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



Dan Cooper  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



Ted Schuster  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600

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# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator

## National Ag Day 2022



Our country's farmers care for the land – tending it for future generations. They lead the way in preservation and innovation for the health of our planet ... and the health of our families. Farmers are proud stewards of our land, water and air – Growing a Climate for Tomorrow!

Ag Day is about recognizing – and celebrating – the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. We encourage 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.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution.

Each American farmer feeds more than 165 people. 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.

### Plastic bottle pig plant pot

#### Materials

- Large plastic bottle
- Acrylic paint (pink, white)
- Felt
- Googly eyes
- Marker
- Glue gun (or PVA glue)
- Scissors

#### Directions:

Draw a line around the bottle, approximately 6" from the bottom (this will be how tall your pig plant pot is) and make sure to draw two triangular shapes on the line for the pig's ears

Mix the pink and white paint together until you have a shade of pink to your liking, then paint the whole outside of the plastic bottle. Set aside to dry.

Cut an oval shape and two triangles out of the pink felt to make the nose and inner ears. Then cut two small ovals out of

the black felt for the pig's nostrils and glue the black shapes onto the pink oval.

Finally, glue the nose, eyes, and inner ears onto the pig. Color the feet with paint or marker.

Plant, nurture, and admire! This craft and other ideas found here: [https://doodleandstitch.com/kids-crafts/craft-ideas/pig-plant-pot#\\_a5y\\_p=6106243](https://doodleandstitch.com/kids-crafts/craft-ideas/pig-plant-pot#_a5y_p=6106243).



### Slow cooker vegetable beef soup

This nutritious, delicious meal is simple to prepare in a slow cooker and stars food that will fuel you for hours. These vegetables and meats are grown and raised by the stewards of the land – hardworking American farmers.

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 2 pounds of chuck roast
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt divided
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper, divided
- 4 russet potatoes peeled and diced
- 3 carrots peeled and diced
- 1 cup green beans diced
- 1 cup corn
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 1 yellow onion diced
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 tablespoons beef base or beef stock
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 5 cups water (or enough to cover the ingredients by about 1/2 inch)
- 1 cup frozen peas

#### Directions:

Heat a cast iron skillet or other heavy skillet on medium

heat with olive oil

Season the beef with half salt and pepper

Sear the beef for 5-6 minutes on each side until you see a deep golden crust formed on each side

Trim any large sections of fat and cut the rest of the beef into 2 inch chunks

To slow cooker add the beef, rest of the salt and pepper, potatoes, carrots, green beans, corn, garlic, yellow onion, bay leaves, beef base (beef stock) and tomato paste

Add water to your cast iron skillet on medium high heat and scrape up the browned bits in the skillet & add to the slow cooker

Stir well and cook for 8 hours on low

Before serving add in the frozen peas and stir. Serve & enjoy!

This recipe and nutritional information found here: <https://dinnerthendessert.com/slow-cooker-vegetable-beef-soup/>.



### Jokes



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 provided by: <https://www.scarymommy.com/farm-jokes/>

### Congratulations

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

### National Ag Day

T	D	I	P	S	X	B	G	E	A	C	D	C	M	G	C	K	C	J	P	Agriculture
S	C	Y	S	O	T	J	D	G	N	J	A	V	R	O	L	P	I	K	R	Careers
C	N	C	Y	C	R	I	T	O	H	F	F	R	R	F	F	O	M	T	O	Cattle
F	V	A	A	Y	W	K	I	Z	E	W	W	N	E	P	M	R	O	S	D	Corn
G	C	P	E	D	R	T	B	E	F	T	C	J	F	E	M	D	N	E	U	Crops
Q	M	I	L	B	A	I	D	S	A	A	A	E	E	F	R	O	O	V	C	Dairy
I	G	R	T	C	Y	X	A	N	R	E	T	Y	B	D	M	S	C	R	T	Economic
E	O	E	U	E	G	O	Q	D	M	H	T	W	N	Z	G	N	E	A	I	Education
W	D	D	J	L	N	K	S	L	E	W	L	A	L	C	Z	I	R	H	O	Environmental
S	E	L	O	C	A	L	Q	L	R	C	E	B	T	D	J	E	Z	R	N	Family
R	A	R	B	T	J	S	P	O	R	C	T	S	N	K	S	K	U	S	D	Farmer
E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	A	L	L	O	O	N	J	T	C	Feed
Y	A	R	E	Z	I	L	I	T	R	E	F	V	U	E	K	V	D	R	Z	Fertilizer
J	I	B	U	D	T	K	T	J	Z	L	Z	R	K	A	U	D	D	Z	L	Fuel
I	T	Z	N	N	V	H	R	F	I	U	C	W	G	C	Q	F	P	M	V	Harvest
H	J	T	Q	C	B	K	O	P	A	E	D	S	O	K	R	Z	Z	V	K	Impact
D	E	E	S	T	E	R	A	G	S	M	M	T	Q	C	M	D	F	S	L	Local
A	G	R	I	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	I	R	Q	K	S	J	G	H	B	Pork
C	J	E	I	U	P	Y	E	S	G	F	E	L	C	J	H	I	Q	X	H	Production
A	R	L	A	L	A	O	Y	J	A	F	K	H	Y	K	K	D	T	R	N	Resources
																				Seed
																				Soybeans
																				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, 2022 to be entered in our drawing for a fun prize.

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

March is ...  
*National*

Pig Day	1st
Peanut Butter Lover's Day	1st
Pancake Day	1st
Read Across America Day	2nd
Cold Cuts Day	3rd
Frozen Food Day	6th
Oreo Cookie Day	6th
Cereal Day	7th
Peanut Cluster Day	8th
Meatball Day	9th
Lover's Day	10th
Ranch Day	10th
Plant a Flower Day	12th
Pi Day	14th
Artichoke Day	16th
St. Patrick's Day	17th
Corned Beef & Cabbage Day	17th
Sloppy Joe Day	18th
Poultry Day	19th
Ravioli Day	20th
Crunchy Taco Day	21st
World Water Day	22nd
Ag Day	23rd
Puppy Day	23rd
Cheesesteak Day	24th
International Waffle Day	25th
Spinach Day	26th
Black Forest Cake Day	28th
Crayon Day	31st

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

# Young Farmers meeting recap

KCFB's Young Farmers group gathered for pizza and conversation on February 7 to hear about Farm Bureau updates and upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

The group heard Kane County Farm Bureau updates from KCFB Manager Steve Arnold and learned about new for 2022 Touch-A-Tractor events and activities that will be happening on April 8, 9, and 10 including "Story Time" and "Make & Take" activities for kids. They also decided on a "surprise" activity for kids during the 3-day weekend that will be announced on Facebook as Touch-A-Tractor nears.

Additionally, the group will host their annual Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day with local FFA Chapters in Kane County on Thursday, March 24 at 5:00 pm at the Northern Illinois Foodbank where the group will have a brief meeting for FFA'ers to learn about Young Farmers/Young Leaders and KCFB Foundation scholarship opportunities and then group as a team to sort, pack and assemble meals for our hungry neighbors.

A unanimous vote agreed that in observance of National Agriculture Day on March 23rd, 2022 and National Agriculture Week March 20-26, 2022 the

Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring its 2nd coloring contest. For details, see page 3.

Looking ahead in 2022, the group hope to erect a Little Free Library underneath the newly placed windmill during Touch-A-Tractor, April 8-10. The group also decided to sponsor concealed carry classes. Other topics discussed among the group included ideas for educational, volunteer, and social events for this year as well as next year.

Our next gathering will be Friday, March 11 at 6:00pm at KCFB in St. Charles for 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 acquaint-

ed. If you are interested in networking and socializing with others who share an interest in the agriculture field, give us a call (630-584-8660) or better yet stop on by the office to become a member today!



KCFB's very own Liz Polovin and Young Farmers Carolyn Gehrke-Brummel and Michael Bolin work together in an assembly-line fashion to organize and pack potatoes for our hungry neighbors during the FFA Acquaintance Day at the Northern Illinois Foodbank in Geneva.

At NIFB volunteer events, Young Farmers, FFA members and FB supporters repackage food for distribution to the Food Bank's network of food pantries. In 2021, they repackaged nearly 1,500 pounds of food, providing over 1,200 meals for hungry neighbors in Northern Illinois. To join the Young Farmers and FFA Chapters this year on Thursday, March 24th from 5-7:30 pm and provide local hunger relief, RSVP to the Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

# Young Farmer euchre tournament

The 17th 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 6:00 pm at Kane County Farm Bureau with pizza and snacks. Euchre teams will be chosen by drawing lots, then the cards will be dealt and the Round Robin competition starts at 6:30. A \$5.00 buy-in gets pizza, snacks

and free lessons. No experience or partner necessary – just an



Friday March 11th at 6:00pm at KCFB

appetite for fun and competition with peers. The winners of this highly competitive event will take home the coveted title of Euchre Champs 2022.

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 [aite@kanecfb.com](mailto:aite@kanecfb.com), or reach out to any current Young Farmer member!



## Ag Day celebrates impact of family-dominated industry

Some families gather only for the major holidays. I work every day with the people who raised me.

Dad and I pair as a combine-and-cart duo for 14-hour days during harvest. In the off-season, Mom and I work from facing desks, handling bills and agency reporting requirements as a team. I communicate with my brother daily, together managing the details of running our crop and livestock farm, one of 71,000 such farms in Illinois.

An overwhelming 96% of Illinois farms are family owned and operated, a statistic worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on March 22 of 2022. That means families, not corporations, make most decisions about how food, feed and fuel are grown. Those

farming partners represent any combination of spouses, siblings, cousins, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and even in-laws and grandpar-

ents. My grandpa helped with harvest until he was 85. I soaked in those after-school moments when four generations of our family worked together in the same field.

We plant fields, harvest crops and manage books as a family with critical support from local employees who feel like family. We seek guidance from a variety of industry professionals – including my husband's precision farming expertise – to improve the farm's economic and environmental viability. We shop local for fertilizer, seed, pesticides, insurances, tractors, trucks and fuel, adding to the collective efforts to support the local community and provide a financial livelihood for multiple households within it.

By nature, farmers problem-solve on and off the farm with

the passionate intent to make a difference. In rural towns across Illinois, farmers serve as Sunday School teachers, 4-H leaders, sports coaches, school volunteers and FFA supporters. Farm shops host community gatherings, and farmers pool their unique resources to meet needs. A few years ago, farm families in our community provided the equipment and skilled labor necessary to erect a park playground, a volunteer effort that even the governor recognized and awarded.

The value and impact of Illinois agriculture extends beyond the state and even nation's borders. Blessed with a navigable river system, Illinois ranks third nationally in the export of agricultural commodities, providing feed, food and fuel around the globe from farms owned and operated by families – families like ours who work together and gather around the table for Easter dinner, too.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.

# 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 June 6.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 3 days, beginning on Monday, June 6. Educators will also meet on June 7, and 9. The Institute will be 8 am to 4 pm each day.

Kane County Farm Bureau will be 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 agri-

culture affects our daily lives. The tours will reveal the essentials of research, production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They will learn from farmers, growers, experts in various fields and a crew of dedicated volunteers who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture, while networking with like-minded peers.

Topics may include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today. For more information or to register, contact Kelcee Miller at 630-584-8660 or [aite@kanecfb.com](mailto:aite@kanecfb.com).

## Ag Literacy

(continued from page 4) program and I am loving it! I am so happy that I decided to say yes to this opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and learn not only more about leadership and the field of agriculture but also myself as well. I don't want to spoil it for anyone who may be interested, but if you are on the fence or have been wanting to participate I encourage you to do so or stop into KCFB and let's have a chat!

One of my favorite experiences so far in the program has been our trip to Springfield, Illinois. Initially, I was not all that thrilled to go to Springfield because I'm not really a political guru or one who necessarily knows the ins and out of how government operates and all the processes involved. However, since attending my perspective has changed. Our group had the opportunity to attend the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) in Springfield along with other county farm bureau members, staff, and directors. It truly was an eye-opening experience for me because all along I was never one to participate or throw my hat in the ring about anything

remotely political, but since attending I can confidently tell you I walked out of that conference with a new outlook and a greater appreciation for the field of agriculture and all of the hard working men and women who strive to make a positive and lasting impact. On the first day of our trip, the ALOT participants, including myself had the opportunity to listen to a handful of keynote speakers, attend a variety of workshops, and meet and network with not only other professionals in the field of agriculture but converse face to face with local legislators and senators. Then the following day, our group of leaders had the opportunity to listen to a few guest speakers and tour the capitol building too!

Some of my takeaways from my experience in Springfield are: 1) Building relationships and networking are essential to creating an impact. 2) No matter what at the end of the day, we are all human and we have feelings too – be kind, respectful, and courteous to others. 3) Don't be afraid to get involved locally and learn along the way. The time will never be "right" and you don't need to know everything before getting involved. 4) Don't be afraid to fail.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August, 2011. His



Felipe Rocha

office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora and may be reached at: 630-897-7746.

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

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**Growing To Serve You Better**

# KCFB Foundation to offer Mother's Day quilt raffle

The KCFB Foundation will be conducting a quilt raffle with proceeds to benefit Scholarship and Ag Literacy programs. Raffle tickets will be available

for purchase in early March with the quilt viewable during the 3-day Touch-A-Tractor Open House on April 8-10. The handmade 55" x 75"

throw quilt has a super soft "Cuddle" back and is blue and grey with a "Forge New Paths" pattern. It was made and donated to the Foundation by Bonnie White of Kaneville and Patty Pallansch of DeKalb.

The winner will be drawn on Friday, May 6th – just in time for Mother's Day!



Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift this spring? Look no further than this large throw quilt, handcrafted and donated by Bonnie White and Patty Pallansch. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20.

## What's new at COUNTRY?

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

Congratulations to Jeff Jones, who has been named the January Agent of the Month in the COUNTRY Financial® St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Jeff is a great asset to our team and is dedicated to providing tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long-term insurance needs of his clients through our Auto, Home, Farm, Life, Business, and Retirement products and services. Let Jeff's expertise help you! You may reach Jeff at 630-492-5293, or [jeff.jones@CountryFinancial.com](mailto:jeff.jones@CountryFinancial.com), or <https://representatives.Country>

### Financial.com/JeffJones/. Congratulations, Jeff!

### Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for January 2022. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at: 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora, 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

## 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

Wanted: Woodworker, to build outdoor, barn shaped "Little Free Library" for KCFB to distribute ag Literacy books from its office location in St Charles. Call Steve: 630-584-8660

### WANTED

Barn help needed. Wayne area. Approx 10 hours weekly. Call: 630-940-6778

Wanted: farm employee. Operate equipment. Some experience necessary. Full and Part time. CDL helpful. Call: 630-951-9238

WANTED: Kane County Farm Bureau Prairie Pollinator/Rain Garden needs, in the form of contributions or services for hire: Garden design services; Excavation & site preparation; Soil amendments – (sand, topsoil, compost), Mulch; Field tile – 4" or 6", approx. 100'; Hardscapes – field stones, softball - basketball sized; limestone rocks, slabs 3+” thick; round river rock 3+”; Prairie, Pollinator & Wetland plants in flats, pints or

gallons; Interpretative Signage and installation; Volunteers! Call Steve: 630-584-8660

Wanted by kids: Farm and antique trucks, farm and antique tractors, farm implements, farm animals, pedal tractors, straw in large round, large square and small bales - for Touch-A-Tractor event April 8-10 at Kane County Farm Bureau. Be a hero to a kid – call Liz or Kelcee, 630-584-8660

CUSTOMER SERVICE-30-35 hours weekly, M-F. Applicant must be a computer literate, self-starter, with pleasant voice and manner. Some travel possible. Office located East side of St. Charles. We offer vacation pay, self-directed savings plan, and partial tuition reimbursement. Perfect position for stay-at-home-mom or college student. Call Bob or Laurie at 630-377-7797 to arrange interview.

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

Want to purchase old chainsaws: 1960's or older. Do not need to work. Call Drew, 630-514-2153

### FOR SALE

Barn wood for sale, barn siding and beams available and misc. Located in Burlington. Call: 847-652-6339

2000 New Holland Manure Spreader. Rebuilt. Great Shape. Bed chain great shape, works well. Ready to go. PTO driven. Call for a test drive, 630-940-6778

## Thanks to our donors

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received January 14 – February 15, 2022.



Donor	Beneficiary
Roger & Theresa Biddle	KCFB Foundation
Micheal Wurtz in memory of Todd Wilcox	KCFB Foundation
Micheal Wurtz in memory of Robert Miller	KCFB Foundation

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

## FB seeks local farmers & food businesses with recruitment incentives

Farm Bureau membership helps support resilient local food systems that include farmers, businesses and consumers that work together to promote food and agriculture and improve their communities. We are seeking partners and members to join over 300,000 members statewide in supporting agriculture and local food systems.

For those interested in personal and professional development, Farm Bureau has resources that can help. Joining Kane County Farm Bureau as a Regular or Professional member allows for attending IFB conferences, networking opportunities and the ability to make your voice heard in policy development surrounding farms and food, from local to global.

Farm Bureau also provides technical assistance through conferences, trainings and workshops designed to take individuals, and food or farm businesses, to the next level. Check out the list of resources at [ilfb.org/livelocal](http://ilfb.org/livelocal).

Be a voice for local farms and food. Farm Bureau works on behalf of our members to ensure a bright future for agriculture. As a grassroots organization, our efforts are driven by individuals like you, who are passionate about food and farming.

Call Liz Polovin at 630-584-8660 to learn

### Recruit & Win!

KCFB is running a member recruitment special incentive thru May 31. Recruit a NEW Farm Bureau member, individual or business, with local foods connections (farmer, processor, marketer, etc) as a Regular or Professional Member at \$37.00 annual dues, and both you and the member will receive a certificate for a gift box of 4-12 oz. or 6-9 oz. New York Strip steaks, and a Kane County Farm Bureau, Illinois Farm Bureau or KCFB Foundation logo cap from our Farm Bureau Country Store on Randall Road in St Charles.

### APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

**Farm Bureau and Illinois Agricultural Association**

Membership Class (Check first that applies):

Farm Owner/Operator with \$2500 Gross Farm Income  
Regular Voting \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full-Time on Farm Employee  
Member Choice:  Regular Voting \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Associate \$20

Employed in Ag-Related Occupation  
Member Choice:  Professional Voting \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Associate \$20

None of the above  Associate \$20

Individual  Business/Entity

Our goal is to maintain an organization through which people work together to strengthen agriculture. I believe in this cause and seek to further it by joining. I am applying for membership with the county Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association for this membership year, and from year to year thereafter as long as dues are paid in advance. The membership dues stated above are for the first membership year.

County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Application Membership Year:  
Beginning Month \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ / Ending \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Name (Please Print) Last First Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Name Spouse/Civil Union Partner Last First Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation & Employer (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (required) Applicant (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Civil Union Partner (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information Email Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone Number (required) \_\_\_\_\_

This application is subject to acceptance by the county Farm Bureau board and the Illinois Agricultural Association. I agree to pay membership dues in the amount fixed in the bylaws of the county Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association for each succeeding membership year in advance so long as this agreement remains in effect. In the event this application is not accepted, the membership dues paid will be refunded. The county Farm Bureau reserves the right to re-classify my membership in accordance with the bylaws of the county Farm Bureau and the Illinois Agricultural Association. This agreement can be terminated by either party by supplying written notice to the other party 60 days prior to the end of the membership year, but membership dues are not refundable.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
While dues, contributions or gifts to IAA and your county Farm Bureau are not tax deductible as charitable contributions, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. IAA estimates that a portion of your dues (\$10 for associate members and \$22 for other member categories) is allocable to nondeductible lobbying expenditures. \$3 of annual membership dues are for a year's subscription to the IAA official publication (FarmWeek® or Partners).

For Office Use Only: Amount Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Recommended By: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Make your check payable to \_\_\_\_\_ County Farm Bureau and include account number or you may pay by credit card.\*

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER  
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Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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(815) 756.8600

# Story time at T-A-T sign up sheet

Have you heard the moos, we mean, news! An all-new Story-Time is coming to Touch-A-Tractor this year! Saturday and Sunday, every hour, on the hour, volunteers will read a farm-themed book from the list at right to children and their families. Are you or someone you know interested in helping bring these books to life and promoting Ag Literacy? Sign up today!

Clip and return the form at right to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174.

### Title List:

*April Foolishness* by Teresa Bateman • *Clarabelle* by Cris Petersen • *Extra Cheese Please!* by Cris Peterson • *Leah's Pony* by Elizabeth Friedrich • *Pizza for the Queen* by Nancy Castaldo • *Pod to Plate* by Julie Blunier • *Pumpkin Jack* by Will Hubbell • *Right This Very Minute* by Lisl H. Detlefsen •

*Seed, Soil, Sun* by Cris Peterson • *The Apple Orchard Riddle* by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas • *The Barn at Night* by Michelle Houts • *The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza* by Philemon Sturges • *The Reason for a Flower* by Ruth Heller • *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco • *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto and Ed Martinez • *Water Dance* by Thomas Locker • *Who Grew My Soup?* by Tom Darbyshire • *With Love, Little Red Hen* by Alma Flor Ada • *You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees!* by Alex Woolf

I would like to participate in Story Time readings of farm friendly books to kids.  
Sat. \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm     Sun. \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm  
Book(s) preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

# Items sought for T-A-T

Touch-A-Tractor is coming your way! April 8-10 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 & 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, 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](mailto: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!

# New this year at Touch-A-Tractor-- a make-and-take craft for kids

This year Touch-A-Tractor visitors under the age of 12 can make a wet felted Easter egg or soap scrub in a fun, easy, make-and-take project workshop. The soap scrub is great for baths and showers and makes a lovely, handmade gift for a friend or Mother's Day.

The project will be under the direction of Farm Bureau member, Fiber Artist and Educator Natasha Lehrer-Lewis, of Esther's Place in Big Rock. Esther's Place, a fiber arts stu-

dio is known for its harmonious integration of art and education using agricultural products.

Kids will roll a soap bar in merino wool, decorate, dampen and roll to create a compact soap scrub bar or Easter egg to take home. The project takes about 15 minutes to create and complete. All project materials will be supplied.

Make and Take kids workshops will be offered on the afternoon of Saturday, April 9th only, on the half hour between

1:00-4:00. (1:30, 2:30 and 3:30) The workshops are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Make a Wet Felted Soap Scrub or Egg!



for such a time as this

# Farm toy of the month

Here's a machine in St. Patrick's Day green for the young farming fans in our readership. This John Deere 4020 tractor with hay wagon and bales is just what's needed to keep hungry livestock happy. The price is regularly \$41.71 with tax, but for the month of March you can save an extra 10% with your Farm Bureau membership. Hay, stop in today and haul yours away!

Grown-up Illinois Farm Bureau members can sign up to receive an automatic John Deere Rewards membership upgrade to Platinum 1, unlocking BIG SAVINGS on select agriculture and turf equipment. Platinum 1 members will also receive monthly offers for Rewards-exclusive discounts on parts,

merchandise, and much more!

Check out the savings on the following equipment categories:

- Commercial Mowing — \$200 to \$1,700 off
- Residential Mowing — \$50 to \$150 off
- Utility Vehicles — \$100 to \$300 off
- Tractors — \$200 to \$300 off
- Compact Construction — \$550 to \$1,400 off

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.
- \* Discounts are subject to change without notice



# 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 8-10 right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor!

By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2022 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 1971 Chevrolet C/10 in beautiful blue and white. Second prize is \$500 in groceries and third prize \$500 in fuel. CHECK TICKET

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.

Since 1989 over \$420,000 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](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 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 days



# Touch-A-Tractor

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION

16th ANNUAL

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!

- ▶ 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!

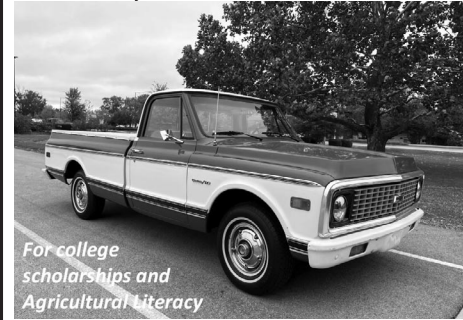


Friday-Sunday,  
April 8-10  
Fri. 12 - 4  
Sat. 10 - 4  
Sun. 10 - 3

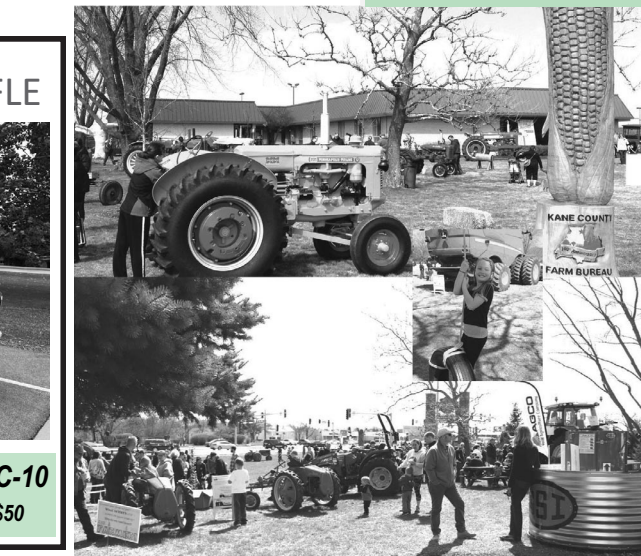
Kane County Farm Bureau  
Randall Road  
at Oak Street,  
St. Charles, IL

**Kids Story Time:**  
Every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday.  
Bring non-perishable food items for one additional ticket for the free pedal-tractor drawing for kids 8 & under.

## Vintage Truck RAFFLE



For college scholarships and Agricultural Literacy  
2022 Grand Prize: 1971 Chevrolet C-10 V8, 3 speed Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50



Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION  
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174  
[info@kanecfb.com](mailto:info@kanecfb.com) 630-584-8660 [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com)

