

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. 89 NO. 3 MARCH 2024

Spring and Touch-a-Tractor right around the corner!

Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION's 18th Touch-A-Tractor weekend of family fun will be held Friday - Sunday, April 12-14 on the lawn at KCFB. Cooped-up kids get out of the house and have a blast at this farm-to-city event bringing the best in Kane County farming to the public.

Kids scramble to touch antique tractors and even sit in the seats of massive farm machinery they typically only see from the road. They can ask questions of Kane County farmers, participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, frolic in the corn corral, crawl through culverts, bang on pots and pans, play with toy tractors and farm equipment and see farm animals. Parents tell us their kids ask them to come back year after year, so be sure to add this event to your 2024 calendar.

Touch-A-Tractor is also the KCFB FOUNDATION's biggest community event and fundraiser. For 2024, a Vintage Truck Raffle ticket will get FREE family admission all 3 days, all others will pay \$2 (adult) or \$5 (family) admission. Proceeds from Touch-A-Tractor and the Vintage Truck Raffle benefit the college scholarship and agri-

cultural literacy programs of the not-for-profit Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This year, we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid's face, ALL tractors are welcome – the more, the merrier!

Touch-A-Tractor will again feature "Story Time", with volunteers reading farm-themed books to children at the top of every hour on Saturday and Sunday. Books featured will be from the Farm Bureau's indoor Ag Literacy Library, a collection of farm themed books for all ages located in the lobby of the KCFB on Randall Road, or its outdoor Little Lending Library. Books in both indoor and outdoor locations are available for free check-out or loan to Farm Bureau members, area teachers and the public. Both libraries are supported by the Konen Family Foundation in memory of Bob and Alyce Konen.

Along with tractors and farm equipment for display, Farm Bureau also welcomes groups and organizations to set-up informational booths that provide edu-

cation about farms and farmers to families and the public, or to arrange for farm themed games, activities or learning. The event attracts 1,000-1,500 visitors over the 3-day weekend.

Volunteers willing to assist with Story Time or other Touch-A-Tractor activities, and groups that would like to participate are encouraged to contact Steve or Kelcee at the Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.



ALL TRACTORS & TRUCKS Welcome!

The KCFB Foundation's Touch-A-Tractor open house and fundraiser is scheduled for April 12-14 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau. We are again looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. 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.



KCFB CALENDAR MARCH 2024

- 1 Teacher Institute Day, 8am-3pm
- 6 IFB Region 2 Managers, Kankakee CFB, 10 am
- 7 KCFB Foundation GALA Committee, 11 am
- 8 Last day to purchase Well Water Testing kits KCFB Board of Directors, 7pm
- Young Farmers Euchre Tourney, 6pm
- 10 Collect water sample from home water source Daylight Saving Time begins
- 11 Return water sample to KCFB or Kane/DuPage SWCD
- 11 Young Farmer's Meeting at Jason Biddle's Farm Shop, 6pm
- 14 Rules for the Road, DeKalb CFB, 6 pm (Call Kane CFB to register)
- 14 Board of Directors, 7 pm
- 19 National Ag Day First day of Spring
- 25 KCFB Foundation Board, 8:30 a.m.
- 27 Kane County Livestock Operator Workshop & Assessment, 5:45
- ^Kane County Board Ag Committee, 10:30am
- ^ County Administration Building, 719 S Batavia Ave, Geneva

Farm toy of the Month

Get the scoop on spring with this John Deere Dump Truck with Sand Tools. This big scoop truck is 15" long, sturdy plastic, and its bed is filled with sand toys for hauling, sculpting and shaping sand and earth. Recommended for ages 3 & up. The price for the JD Big Scoop with Sand Tools is \$28.50, but during the month of March, stop by and save

10% on this fun springtime toy. Supplies are limited, so stop by soon!



March Featured Special – 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 5-6 lbs. The Member price is \$6.00 per pound (not including tax). Plus status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Quantities are limited so please call ahead to reserve!

FB Policy available

Farm Bureau policy is developed from the ground up by the farmer-members that are the heart of the organization. Where few "interest-groups" are willing to divulge their leadership-developed, closed-door policies, Farm Bureau publishes the results of its annual delegate session resolutions, uses them to establish or influence public policy, and makes them available to members upon request.

To obtain a copy of our 2024 Policy Resolutions, members are asked to stop by our office on Randall Road at Oak Street in St. Charles.



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 12-14 right here on the Kane County Farm Bureau lawn: Touch-A-Tractor!

By buying raffle tickets for the KCFB Foundation's 2024 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 17. The winning ticket will take home a 1947 Dodge half ton pickup.

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 on page 8.

Since 1989 over \$500,000 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.



IFB finds success at AFBF Annual Convention

By Brian Duncan, President, Illinois Farm Bureau

Illinois agriculture had a strong showing across the convention. Our four Young Leader competitors found success in their events; the organization and three county Farm Bureaus received awards for excellent programming and member engagement; and a dozen IFB policies were adopted into the AFBF policy book.

IFB policies adopted

IFB delegates always bring strong proposed policy positions to the AFBF Delegate Session, and this year was no exception. All our submittals were approved without much contention, a testament to our grassroots process and the time and effort put into developing policies at the county and state levels.

Adopted IFB policies covered topics ranging from food access and biofuels to carbon scoring and loan provisions for young farmers. Among them are:

- The new food waste policy from Cook County that was approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting. It supports ways to turn non-consumed food into a resource through composting and reducing the regulatory constraints for on-farm materials, urban food scraps and processing facilities.
- IFB policies supporting ethanol and fertilizer plants converting carbon dioxide into green methanol prod-

ucts and supporting use of the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model for carbon intensity scoring of agricultural biofuel feedstocks.

- An IFB policy that originated from our Young Leaders related to farm credit policy and federal loan programs.



Nineteen Illinois Farm Bureau voting delegates, including Illinois Farm Bureau Vice-President Evan Hultine (L) of Bureau County and IFB President Brian Duncan (R) of Ogle County, are back on their farms after attending the 2024 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Salt Lake City in January.

It supports making improvements in all USDA loan programs that include an option to have a six-month pre-approval for a loan and recognizing escalating land and equipment costs when determining the program's loan cap.

Progress on labor and Prop 12

AFBF delegates established positions on some other key issues, including farm labor, Proposition 12 and artificial intelligence.

On farm labor, delegates voted to adopt policy supportive of two priorities: freezing wage

rates for guest workers and rolling back the adverse wage rate methodology that was implemented in March 2023. We also discussed policy language related to visa caps, and broadened that language to allow the AFBF board to be accommodating of some concepts. Because the new policy doesn't set a number for visa caps, it allows us to have a seat at the table during congressional discussions on potential H-2A and H-2B reform legislation.

Regarding Prop 12, delegates unanimously approved a Resolution from Iowa Farm Bureau that requests AFBF prioritize and develop a legislative solution to the California provision. I've explained before how this initiative, Massachusetts Question 3 and measures in other states not only undermine interstate commerce and threaten farm profitability, but also erode consumer protections like food choice and food affordability.

Illinois hog producers are especially concerned about the future and the possibility that other states could regulate how they and other producers market ag products. I'm confident, however, that this resolution will put wind under the sails of AFBF as it seeks and advocates for a solution to Prop 12.

As a Farm Bureau policy geek, seeing the grassroots policy process take its full form at the AFBF convention always reminds me of why I fell in love with this organization: member

voices underpin everything we do. The diversity in ideas and perspectives from around the country is hard to measure, and the passion and patience that come with debating them is just tremendous.

A cord of multiple strands truly is hard to break. Although

IFB is strong and we have great influence, our influence is exponentially greater when we combine our voices with Farm Bureau members from other states and focus in on key issues. Those principles anchor our policy book, and I'm proud to represent it.

Long appointed to KCFB Board

Michael Long of Big Rock has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors caused by the passing of former Director William Keck. The appointment occurred at the regular meeting of the Farm Bureau's Board of Directors on February 11.

Long was the first non-incumbent Director to declare his candidacy for the upcoming election in May 2024. For that election, the Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of nine candidates, including Long, to stand for election for 3-year terms on the Board. Other candidates will include incumbent Directors Bill Collins, Mike Kenyon, Andy Lenkaitis and Wayne Schneider,

and newcomers Long, Russell Flanders, Nick Petit, Trent Pierson and Joseph White. Five will be elected.

Long farms with his father John in southern Kane County. He is the immediate past chair of the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers.



Michael Long

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

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

Farmers—enroll for ARC & PLC by Mar. 15

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

2024 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their

election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Web-Based Decision Tools

Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop

data specific to their respective farming operations. Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC elections.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit contact the USDA Farm Service Agency office at 815-756-3234 ext. 2.

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.

TRELLIS
PURINA

Your local source for feed, supplies, and so much more!

St Charles and Wasco 630-584-2024

Kane County Farmer

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Kane 4-H Foundation sets Pork Chop Dinner date

The Kane County 4-H Foundation will host its 15th annual pork chop dinner and auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 13 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.

Tickets are on sale now, with the choice of a 2-chop dinner for \$16, a 1-chop dinner for \$14, or a pulled pork sandwich dinner for \$12. 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 Katherine Thompson at 630-940-8880. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door for an additional \$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 at 630-484-6852 or Katherine at 630-940-8880. Donations must be received by March 20, 2024.

"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."



Northern IL Farm Bureau travel opportunity

Join Northern Illinois Farm Bureau members on the Danube Explorer river boat as you visit five countries: The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary, and enjoy a seven-night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard an Emerald Waterways Star-ship. Tour Dates: August

24-September 3, 2024. Please call for more information: 630-584-8660.



19th Annual

Young Farmers Euchre Tournney

For Young Farmers in IFB Districts 1 & 5

Friday, March 8th, 6:00pm

Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles
(6:00 pizza/lessons/socialize, 6:30 start)

For Young Farmers and anyone 18-35 years old in Northern Illinois with an interest in agriculture, farms and food.

Cash Prizes
Lessons
Refreshments
B.Y.O.B.

\$5 entry fee
Cash prizes
Pizza, Snacks, & Sodas
Euchre refresher lessons

RSVP to Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660 or airc@kanecfb.com, Brett Dienst (815) 693-6888 or Joseph White (630) 659-8975 by Thursday, March 7th.

Get your soil ready for spring

Kane County Farm Bureau offers soil testing to its members at a discount, a great service to make sure your soil is ready for spring planting. Three different tests are 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.

Soil test costs

Basic PH Test

\$25 per sample for members,
\$35 non-members
\$22 Plus members

This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test

\$35 per sample for members,
\$45 non-members
\$32 Plus members

This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and timing of fertilizer.

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 & 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.

Labor, Prop 12 dominate AFBF meeting

Farm labor, Proposition 12 and artificial intelligence were key issues American Farm Bureau Federation delegates established positions on during AFBF's convention in Salt Lake City.

Recognizing the challenges of maintaining a flexible and strong agriculture workforce, delegates voted to stabilize wage rates for guest workers and revise H-2A and H-2B programs to better meet the needs of America's farms.

A lengthy discussion from the delegate floor centered on one piece of language stating: "We may accept visa caps for a year-round program as long as they do not restrict farmers and ranchers from using the visa program and getting their labor needs met." While some delegates were concerned about opening the door for caps, others, including Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan, said Farm Bureau policy that's too rigid prevents AFBF from having a seat at the table during congressional discussions.

"What the delegates did today is broaden our language to allow the AFBF board to be accommodating of some concepts. The new policy didn't set a number for visa caps, but just said we're open to that discussion that's kept us out of the negotiation room before. Now we can be in the room to talk about that," Duncan told FarmWeek. "And again, we stressed the two priorities that we've identified already: freezing of the H-2A wage rates and rolling back of the adverse wage rate methodology that went into place in March of 2023.

"The delegates really emphasized, and I think streamlined our labor policy, and hopefully positioned this organization better to do good work on behalf of our members around this issue."

AFBF President Zippy Duvall said "no one in this room wants to solve this problem more than I do."

"It's crucial that Congress

pass a new farm bill and address the labor shortage in 2024. The policy set forth by Farm Bureaus in all 50 states and Puerto Rico will guide AFBF in its efforts through the process," Duvall said.

Iowa Farm Bureau also presented a 700 Resolution, which is different than policy but represents a request for a board priority, that emphasizes a request to AFBF to put effort toward a solution to the recently-enacted Proposition 12 in California. The voter-approved initiative, which impacts pork producers across the nation, went into effect starting this year.

The unanimously approved resolution urges AFBF to prevent the "harmful consequences" of Prop 12 and similar initiatives. "The enactment of Proposition 12 and similar initiatives not only undermine the intent of the commerce clause, but they also threaten farmers' livelihoods and erode basic consumer protections such as food choice, food affordability and food availability," the resolution states. "A renewed emphasis should be given to a legislative solution that will protect American consumers and farmers while preserving interstate commerce."

The resolution puts "wind under the sails" of AFBF, Duncan said from the delegate floor.

"Hog producers in Illinois are concerned about the future," said Duncan, who also is an independent pork producer. Prop 12 is dangerous because of the potential for states to regulate what other states do. "It would make it impossible to market our products."

IFB also was supportive of a 700 resolution submitted by the Ohio Farm Bureau on renewable energy, which states: "Considering the difficulties surrounding land use management and preserving farmland, we request the AFBF review federal green energy policy, including commercial solar projects, as it

relates to farmland impact and reliable power generation, supply and grid reliability."

IFB Vice President Evan Hultine spoke from the delegate floor, noting this is a hot topic as it relates to private property rights.

"Anything we can do to bring some balance and understanding to the issue..." he said.

On foreign investment, delegates added policy in support of additional funding to improve data collection on the foreign ownership of agricultural land. Delegates also voted to support the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. reviewing foreign investments in U.S. agribusinesses, natural resources and real estate.

"I think having accurate data is key when we make any decisions," Duncan said.

Delegates also approved:

- New policy to address the growth of artificial intelligence in agriculture. AI has the potential to enhance farming practices and conserve resources, but privacy rights must be respected.
- Reaffirming AFBF's support for increasing reference prices in the farm bill and maintaining a strong crop insurance program, including an expansion of eligibility to ensure more commodities are covered.
- Adding policy to recommend Congress investigate fertilizer supply chain outages and tariffs placed on imports.

Duncan, a self-proclaimed "policy geek," said seeing the grassroots efforts from the county level to the national level is why he fell in love with Farm Bureau.

"There's strength in numbers," Duncan said. "Yes, Illinois Farm Bureau is strong, and we have great influence. But when we combine our voices with Farm Bureau members from other states, and we focus in on key issues, our influence is exponentially greater."



AG LITERACY CORNER

By Kelcee Miller, Development & Ag Literacy Coordinator



Hello Kane County!

As we celebrate National Agriculture Week and National Agriculture Day later this month, I think there is no better time than now to reflect on and appreciate the influence of agriculture in our daily lives, today and every day.

It can be easy to take both farmers and the professionals in the field of agriculture for granted. We all get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our own lives. We can all be at fault for mindlessly rushing through the grocery store or adding items to our online carts and not think twice about where they came from or how much work was necessary in order to produce the products we enjoy right at our finger tips. Think about it. Would you have the tools and resources to grow and harvest all of your own food? How about to make your own clothing items from scratch? Did you brush your hair and teeth this morning? Would you be able to make those items all on your own? What about the paper you have in your hands right now? Do you see where I'm going

with this?

Agriculture influences every aspect of our daily lives whether we recognize it or not. If it weren't for farmers and ag professionals working hard, educating themselves in their crafts, being a voice in local and state agricultural policies, and being good stewards of the land, our lives would be completely different. They are an essential backbone to the lives we have today.

In our technology and media driven world, it is important for the right message about agriculture to be communicated to consumers. Leading the charge, Illinois Farm Families launched their "We Are the 96" campaign that kicked off last year and again this year during the Super Bowl, we continue to build more of an awareness with consumers about where their food and products come from. To help put faces and names to the men and women who dedicate a large portion of their lives to help keeping the world fed and clothed. To we help break stigmas and barriers and have conversations so we can strengthen trust between consumers and

KANE COUNTY FARMER

farmers. To educate ourselves about agriculture and the need for the hardworking individuals who never quit until the job is done and done properly. To support and appreciate the work that farmers and ag professionals do each and every day.

This month I encourage you to reach out to any friends or family who are farmers and/or work in the field of agriculture and give them a call – or better yet stop by their house and sit down and have a conversation! Ask them about their experiences in farming, lessons they've learned along their journey, their favorite moments, look through old photo albums, listen to their crazy stories – and most of all thank them. Thank and appreciate them for their years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance! Farming to them is more than just a job or a piece of land, it's their family legacy and future.

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude and thank your local farmers each and every day for the positive impact they have in our daily lives. Don't know a farmer but would love to hear more about farming experiences? Swing on by Touch-A-Tractor next month at KCFB April 12-14 and meet one or two!

Happy March and Thank you farmers!

Book of the month

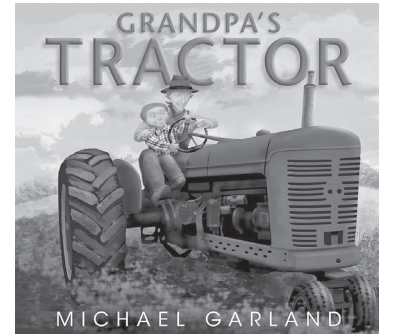
Did you know that 96% of farms in the state of Illinois are family owned? Farms come in all shapes and sizes – some big and some small. Some have been passed down from generation to generation and some host first-time farmers. Some farms specialize and produce one or two crops or farm animals.

To help celebrate the "We Are the 96" campaign and National Ag Week this month, the book of the month for March is *Grandpa's Tractor* written by Michael Garland.

Grandpa Joe takes his grandson, Timmy and the readers on a trip down memory lane, back to the old farm where Grandpa Joe lived as a young boy. When they arrive, they see an old boarded-up farmhouse and faded red barn with the roof fallen in. "It's hard to believe," Grandpa says, "but this was a beautiful place. There were no other houses around here, just open fields and pastures for the cows." As they walk around the old farm, they see "it." All Timmy sees is an old rusty hulk of machinery, but Grandpa Joe sees one of the most important things a farmer can own and all of the memo-

ries he had as little boy growing up. As they admire the piece of equipment, Grandpa Joe tells his grandson about how as a young boy, that tractor was new with shiny red paint and he and his father used it for almost all of the chores around the farm.

To join in on the nostalgic trip down memory lane and hear more about grandpa's tractor,



Grandpa's Tractor by Michael Garland

come on in to the Kane County Farm Bureau office and visit our FREE KCFB Library to check out *Grandpa's Tractor*. The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was made possible by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, and later supported by the Bob Konen Family.

March Ag Literacy news

Are you Kane County teachers – have you been searching for new ways to inspire your students? Then you NEED lesson in a Bucket! KCFB has monthly themed ag lessons in a 5-gallon bucket – yes, like the ones you would find on the farm! Each bucket is loaded with themed books, activities, and Ag-Mags geared toward K-5 classrooms, concentrating on ag topics like apples, dairy, and corn.

members or not. Agriculture is everywhere and plays a crucial role in your daily life. Our Little Lending Library helps bridge the gap between consumer and farmers and make a positive impact in the name of agriculture.

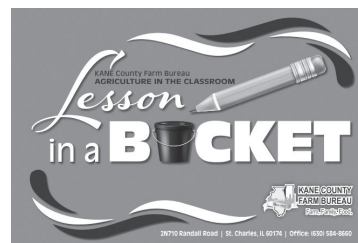
The book spotlight for our young readers is *Dirt* by Steve Tomecek. We also have copies of our Soil-AgMags for children and their parents to enjoy, and coloring contest sheets! Supplies are limited, so get them while you can!

Summer Ag Institutes

Kane County teachers 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 10.

The Summer Ag Institute is scheduled for 4 days, beginning on Monday, June 10, 11, 12, and 13 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, production, processing, marketing, transportation and retailing that takes food from farm fields to dinner tables. They 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.

Topics may include GMO's, sustainability, organic practices, local foods, global populations and other topics that are current in agriculture today.



March's Lesson-in-a-Bucket theme is all about Soil. Stimulate students with a bucket of lessons about soil and its importance to agriculture including a classroom set of Soil Ag-Mags and Soil Ag-Ventures. Teachers will dig into soil themed activities like "Soil Sam," that is designed to help students deepen their understanding of seed growth.

Also included is a Multi-disciplinary Agriculture Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) lesson in which students will learn about the different layers and identify the components of a soil profile with "Soil Logic Puzzle."

Bring agriculture and a bucket full of Soil knowledge into your classroom – call Kelcee at 630-584-8660 to reserve your bucket today.

Next month, students will learn about soybeans!

Little Lending Library Spotlight

Each month our Little Lending Library has a special feature, book, resource, helping us connect with the community whether they are KCFB

Helping you protect what matters most



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



Bob Effner
St. Charles
630-588-2002



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



Jeff Jones
St. Charles
630-492-5293



Norma Grathoff
St. Charles
630-492-5324



Laura Osters
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Chris Regula
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0002



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Miryam Cabrera
Elgin
630-762-1329



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

"COUNTRY Financial" is the marketing name for the COUNTRY Financial family of affiliated companies (collectively, "COUNTRY"), which include COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company, and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, Illinois.

1220-509HC_07683-5/2/2023



Illinois' specialty farmers raise a big variety of livestock and crops. There are 612 duck farms, 51 pheasant farms and 142 rabbit farms in Illinois. Illinois crops range much farther than corn and soybeans, including asparagus (153 farms), bell peppers (386), grapes (314), peaches (278) and tomatoes (619).



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Kelcee Miller, Ag Literacy Coordinator



WE ARE THE 96%

Left to right: Krista, Sarah, Alex, Matt, Henry and Chris Klein.

Klein's Farm and Garden Market started in the early 1960s, and now is a third generation local farm flourishing with a wide assortment produce including sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers, along with hanging baskets, planters and bedding plants.

The produce and plants are grown on their Burlington farm, and make their two farmstands in Elgin popular places for locals in search of spring plants and summer produce. Matt Klein recommends that local gardeners "Look at smaller, independent garden centers or people with farms who grow their own plants because ... local plants are generally going to be better adapted to your area, meaning they'll perform better."

Klein's farm stands are in two locations in Elgin:
39W130 Plank Road 1175 Lillian St.
visit kleinsfarmmarket.com for more information.

Photo credit: Jeff Adkins, Illinois Farm Bureau



What is a farmer's favorite Bruce Springsteen song? *Born in the USA!*
Why were the baby strawberries crying? *Their ma and pa were in a jam!*
What farm animal keeps the best time? *A watch dog!*
How did the farmer find his lost cow? *He tractor down!*
What new crop did the farmer plant? *Beets me!*

For more laughs check out: <https://www.scarymommy.com/farm-jokes>

Families dominate ownership of Illinois Farms

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

- Campaign
- Casey's Communities
- Crops
- Families
- Farms
- Feed
- Generations
- Illinois
- Impressions
- Livestock
- Local Memories
- Operated
- Owned
- Pizza Boxes
- Plant
- Protect
- Seed
- Serve
- Teach
- Trust

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by March 15, 2024 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.

Snack on seasoned pretzels

Celebrate National Ranch Day with this Young Farmer inspired social snack that will sure be a hit at your next gathering!

Ingredients

- 12 oz bag honey wheat pretzels twists (or any pretzels of your preference)
- 1 stick or 8 Tbsp butter melted (may sub for olive oil)
- 1, 1 oz. envelope dry ranch dressing
- 1/2 tsp lemon pepper
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp garlic salt
- 1/8 - 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Instructions

Preheat oven to 250 degrees and place pretzels in a gallon Ziploc bag. In a medium bowl mix together your melted butter, roughly about half of the ranch dressing, and all of the other seasonings. Then add the butter seasoning mixture to the bag and close it up. Shake and mix around until all the pretzels are coated in the mixture.

Open the bag and add the rest of the ranch mix, close the bag, and shake again.

Dump the pretzels onto a foil-lined baking sheet and spread them out into an even layer and bake for 20 minutes stirring every now and then to ensure the pretzels get dry and toasted.

Remove from the oven, let it cool for a few minutes, and enjoy!

This quick and easy recipe found here: <https://kitchenfunwithmy3sons.com/seasoned-pretzels-dots-copycat/>



craft a Soil Sam

This Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom lesson is a fan favorite! This activity is designed to help students deepen their understanding of seed growth by creating a fun character named Soil Sam! Take it a step further and test variables such as light, liquid source (juice, carbonated water, coffee, etc.) that might affect seed growth!

Materials

- Potting soil
- Untreated grass seed
- Baby food jars
- Knee-high stockings
- Water
- Jiggle eyes
- Fabric

Instructions

Using a knee-high stocking, place some grass seeds in the toe where you want the grass to grow. The toe of the stocking is the top of the head for Soil Sam. The grass will look like hair when it grows.

Pack a handful of soil in the end of the stocking on top of the grass seeds. Make sure the ball of soil is slightly larger than the baby food jar.

Tie a knot in the stocking under the ball of soil.

Completely wet the head of Soil Sam. Place the opened end of the stocking (the bottom of Soil Sam) in the jar filled with

water, making sure the head is above the mouth of the jar. The end of the stocking will absorb the water to feed the grass seeds, which will germinate through the stockings. You may have to poke a few small holes in the top of Soil Sam to help the grass get through.

Now decorate! Give your Soil Sam a face!

Water as needed and be sure to cut the grass (hair) and style as desired.

Optional: Will the grass grow better or faster with fertilizers? Try it out. Add different fertilizers to the soil and water to see which grows best!

This craft and other sprouting ideas found here: <https://www.aginthe classroom.org/media/1jklxmgv/soil-sam.pdf>



Congratulations

Patricia Blaida of Aurora! 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 Patricia, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
Happy Spring (March 19th)
Happy Easter!



Families dominate ownership of Illinois farms

I work every day with the people who raised me. Four desks in the farm office provide space for mom, dad, brother, and sister. It's the same crew I sat with at the dinner table in the 1980s. The ones I made memories with on family vacations at theme parks with the fastest roller coasters. The quartet that spent weekend afternoons cleaning field edges and dining on pizza at sundown on Sunday nights.

Relatively speaking, we're among the mainstream. An overwhelming 96% of Illinois farms are owned and operated by families like ours, a statistic worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on

March 19, 2024. Contrary to popular belief, parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, children, cousins, aunts, uncles and even in-laws make most decisions about how food, feed and fuel are grown. Not faceless corporations.

That's a pleasant surprise to most citizens of the state, according to surveys that show consumers trust family-owned farms but largely believe corporations own them. Motivated to debunk the ownership myth, the Illinois Farm Bureau partnered with the state's commodity groups. Together, they launched the "We Are The 96" campaign a year ago with a big-time commercial during Super Bowl 2023.

Afterward, advertisements

KANE COUNTY FARMER hit regional TV stations. Social media messaging exceeded 6 million views on Facebook and Instagram. Pizza boxes from more than 500 Illinois Casey's stores promoted the family farm message during National Pizza Month. The family ownership of farms even made appearances in Chicago movie theaters and transit stations, helping initiate the more than 30 million impressions logged with Illinois

consumer audiences.

The campaign with beautiful images and videos of farm families lured looks from farmers who related to the message and non-farmers who desired to know the decisionmakers behind their food choices. On 96% of Illinois farms, family owners select the seed, plant the crops, feed the cows, protect the land, serve their communities, teach the next generation, and hire local talent to

help them get it done.

As the most-watched TV event of the year, nothing comes close to the Super Bowl. That's a striking similarity to families owning 96% of Illinois farms. Super Bowl 2024 delivered another campaign commercial touting the family ownership of farms. Keeping with tradition, three generations of our farm family gathered around the TV to watch.

Young Farmers meeting recap

KCFB's Young Farmers group gathered for Michael Bohlin's famous smoked BBQ dinner and conversation on February 12 at the Bohlin's Farm Shop in Burlington to hear about Farm Bureau updates and upcoming educational opportunities offered by the Farm Bureau.

The group learned about Kane County Farm Bureau updates such as Ag in the Classroom events and upcoming activities from Kelcee Miller and ways they can get involved this summer as well as the scoop on director elections and nominations.

Additionally, the group will host their annual Young Farmer/FFA Acquaintance Day with

local FFA Chapters in Kane County where they will be trying something new and going bowling! The group also voted to volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank as a way to continue to give back to our hungry neighbors in need. More details such as dates and times will be coming later this spring!

A unanimous vote agreed to continue that in observance of National Agriculture Day on March 19th, 2024 and National Agriculture Week March 17-23, 2024 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring its 4th coloring contest. Please see the details on page 7.

Looking ahead into 2024, the group plans to continue to meet monthly, organize a social night out, as well as ideas for educational and volunteer events to be more evolved in the community.

The next gathering will be Monday, March 11th 6:00pm at Jason Biddle's farm shop in Elburn. Dinner will be provided. Farm Bureau members from 18-35 are welcome and encouraged to attend and get acquainted. 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!

Kane-DuPage SWCD elects new board members

Constituents in two counties cast their votes for three Director positions on February 8, at the Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) office in St. Charles. Of the six candidates vying for these Director positions this year, Melinda Bossenga, Tom Konen and Jera Piper were elected.

Serving as a Director on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board is a privilege, as well as an opportunity to serve on a local public body that makes decisions and cre-

ates programs regarding natural resource conservation in Kane and DuPage Counties.

The 2024 Board of Directors will take their seats at the March Board Meeting and the Officers will be determined.

The Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District mission is to support residents' quality of life by leading efforts to ensure healthy soil, clean water, sustainable land development and regenerative agriculture. More information can be found at their website kane.dupageswcd.org/kd/

In early February, a small group of KCFB Young Leaders (back row, left to right – Logan Wright, Alex Olson, Wayne Gekkre, Davis Epse, Michael Long. Front row: Kelcee Miller, Joseph White, and Carolyn Brummel) attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference in Springfield, IL. The highlight of the weekend was keynote speaker Eric Snodgrass, Sr. Science Fellow and Principal Atmospheric Scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions.



What's new at COUNTRY?

Aurora Agency, Alonzo Nevarez, Agency Manager

Andy Johnson, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for January 2024. Andy began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2012 and services clients out of his office at: 1921 Wilson St., Batavia, 60510, (630) 907-0870.

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

Congratulations, Andy!

Lulu Medina, Insurance Agent with the Aurora Agency, is our Property & Casualty Representative of the Month for January 2024. Lulu began her career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2017 and services clients out of her office located at: 2000 W. Galena Blvd, #207, Aurora, 60506, (630) 907-0870.

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

WANTED

Love to sew? Looking for a creative team member to join our St. Charles custom sewing studio. Duties would include preparing fabric for production, tracing and cutting patterns, design embellishment, and sewing. Sewing experience preferred. Flexible, part-time hours to fit your schedule. Perfect for retiree, home maker, or student. Training on our equipment is provided. Call Susan at 925-336-0934 for further information.

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.

Kane County Livestock Operator Workshop

Livestock Market Assessment & Workshop Invitation

Kane County will be hosting a workshop for livestock operators and farmers to learn about and discuss the findings of an ongoing local Livestock Market Assessment. The County has engaged a consulting team to prepare the study and to ensure that regional producers are engaged and have an opportunity to provide feedback. **The purpose of the workshop is to share key market findings impacting producers and buyers as well as to explore strategies for opening pathways to new market opportunities**

Workshop Details

Date & Time: March 27, 2024 – doors open at 5:45 pm / event start a 6 pm

Location: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL

Meal: A catered dinner will be provided for attendees that register in advance

The workshop is expected to conclude by 8 pm

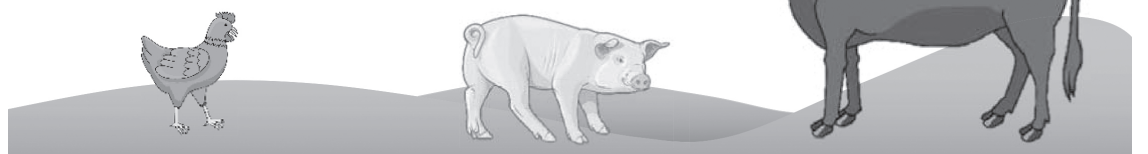


To Register

To register for the event, please RSVP to Matt Tansley, Kane County Development and Community Services at

TansleyMatthew@KaneCountyIL.gov or 630-232-3493. Please provide the following in your RSVP to assist planning for the event:

- Attendee name
- Farm name
- Email address
- Dietary restrictions (if any)



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

- Russell Flanders Elburn
- Janice Klich Hampshire
- Jennifer Walker Geneva

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 sta-

tus 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.

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.

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.

work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of Kane County and all its residents.

As the proposed resolution makes its way through County Committee in February and early March, KCFB leaders will be available to answer questions of County Board members about the resolution's history and purposes. We hope to see the "PROCLAIMING KANE COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE" resolution presented and approved at the Tuesday, March 14 meeting of the Kane County Board, solidifying Kane County governments role as a ally in and for agriculture.

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

At the January 2023 meeting of the Committee, KCFB presented a draft resolution for the County of Kane to go on record in support of agriculture. The resolution references the County's past support of many agricultural initiatives and land uses, and encourages the newly elected Board and county staff to continue their tradition of

Plus Membership winner

Congratulations this month to **Arlene Koukol** of Elgin, the March 2024 winner of our Plus (+) member monthly drawing for a FREE KCFB monthly special food product.

food product or seasonal prize.

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

The next time Arlene stops in our office, she will receive a FREE box of pork chops from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, one of the fine food products we offer each month.

In addition to the discounts and benefits of Plus membership, ALL KCFB PLUS (+) members are entered in a monthly drawing for a featured

Young Farmers Committee 4th coloring contest

In observance of National Agriculture Day on March 19th 2024 and National Agriculture Week March 17-23, 2024 the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will be sponsoring its 4th coloring contest. Deadline for entries to be received in the office will be April 8th, 2024 and all entries need to be dropped off at the Farm Bureau office or received in the mail on or before April 8th.

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 collected prior to April 8th will be exhibited at the Kane County Farm Bureau's April 12-14 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.

SEE YOU AT TOUCH-A-TRACTOR APRIL 12-14

Touch-A-Tractor

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

WE ARE THE 96%

Entry Form:

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Age: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

School: _____ Name of Teacher: _____

Deadline to submit: April 8, 2024

Mail all entries to:
 Young Farmers Coloring Contest 2024
 Kane County Farm Bureau
 2N710 Randall Road
 St. Charles, IL 60174

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 16–February 15, 2024.



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

Donor	Beneficiary	Program
John Tucci III	KCFB Foundation	Pollinator Garden Upkeep
Craig & Angela Bradley	KCFB Foundation	Harvest for All (Food for Greater Elgin)
Merrill Lynch – A Bank of America Company	KCFB Foundation Silver Event Sponsor	
IL State Senator Don DeWitte	KCFB Foundation Bronze Event Sponsor	
Michael Wurtz	KFCB Foundation	Memorial Donation for Marie Gehrke
Daniel F. Brummel	KCFB Foundation	Friend of KCFB Foundation

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

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

IFB hosts Rules for the Road seminar

Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour programs focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

DeKalb County Farm Bureau will host one of the sessions on Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau in Sycamore.

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misunderstood rules. Topics may include

the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, farm exemptions, and driver’s license classifications to name a few. In addition, one of the events will also be broadcast virtually on March 5th at 10 am. “These presentations take a closer look at the rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking questions that they can’t seem to find clear answers for,” said Rodney Knittel, IFB Associate Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Knittel specializes in farm

transportation issues and will lead the seminar series and will be joined by Illinois enforcement agencies.

Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free, courtesy of Kane County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required. Please call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 to reserve your place at the Rules for the Road Seminar by March 8

For more information, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



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 14th. Return the form below to KCFB by April 12th or sign up at Touch-A-Tractor, April 12-14. 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.

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 12th to: Kane County Farm Bureau,
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Vintage Truck Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$20 each or 3 for \$50)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

___ Visa ___ MC ___ Discover

Exp ____ / ____

Signature _____ Date _____

Help Wanted – The KCFB Foundation is seeking opinions and/or assistance with various annual fundraising activities it undertakes to raise funds for college scholarships, agricultural literacy, support for FFA and Extension, and for new ideas that bring together our supporters and donors. If you’d like to offer opinions or assistance, or gather with like-minded supporters of our Foundation, call KCFB at 630-584-8660.

Touch-A-Tractor – ALL Tractors, Farm Equipment and Farm & Food Education *Welcome!*

We will be hosting Touch-A-Tractor April 12-14, 2024 on the lawn at the Kane County Farm Bureau! This year we are looking for tractors or farm equipment of ANY vintage. If you would like to put a smile on a kid’s face, ALL tractors are wel-

come – the more, the merrier! If you are interested in volunteering for this family-friendly event, have tractors or equipment to “loan”, or activities/learning to share, please call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve.

Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success!

— Contact me about volunteer opportunities (Friday, April 12; Saturday, April 13 or Sunday, April 14)

— I would like to bring the following farm equipment, vintage truck, educational display or livestock to Touch-A-Tractor for the education and enjoyment of your guests.

— I would like to participate in Story Time readings of farm friendly books to kids.

SAT. _____ AM / PM • SUN. _____ AM / PM

Please provide a brief description of the equipment/display/livestock. For truck or tractors, include year, make, and model.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

18th Annual Touch-A-Tractor

Celebrate Agriculture and the coming of spring!

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 and suburban neighbors to learn more about farming.

ADMISSION: A donation of \$2 adults, \$5 families **OR** Show a Vintage Truck Raffle Ticket stub for FREE Family admission all weekend long

Continuous viewing of View the first episode of **Fields Apart: Rooted TOGETHER**

Illinois Farm Bureau’s NEW series about farmers and agriculture across Illinois. Learn how urban and rural farmers in Illinois are deeply connected.

WE ARE THE 96%

Find out why

Bring the whole family!

Friday-Sunday, April 12-14
Friday noon-4pm Saturday 10-4 Sun. 10-3

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

- Enter children & grandchildren 8 & under in a FREE drawing for a pedal tractor (1 entry per child)
- Explore modern farm machines & antique tractors
- Climb the steps to the cab of a giant combine
- Play on the seat of real farm tractors
- 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!
- Free IFB zip sandwich bag with grilling guide and recipes

Kids Story Time every hour, on the hour, Saturday and Sunday. Fun, FREE, hands-on activities including marshmallow catapults, paper origami and garden in a glove.

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

VINTAGE TRUCK RAFFLE

2024 Grand Prize: This 1947 Dodge half-ton pickup truck

Tickets are \$20 each / 3/\$50

Proceeds benefit college scholarships & ag literacy programs.

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

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

AGCC

Find us on **Facebook** 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174 info@kanecfb.com 630-584-8660 www.kanecfb.com

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