

Kane County Farmer



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

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

VOL. 84 NO. 10 OCTOBER 2019

National Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit comes to Rosemont

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has partnered with USDA and others to coordinate the annual National Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit. The Summit will be held locally this year, October 7-9, 2019, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

The summit is an event that rotates around the country with approximately 500 attendees. IFB is honored to have the event hosted in Illinois this year. The Farm Bureau will be highlighting throughout the event some of the incredible direct agricultural marketing programs throughout the state.

The conference is designed

for anyone working in direct-to-consumer agriculture: farmers, farmers market managers, technical assistance providers, value-added producers, and more. The conference will hold sessions on technology, business development, finance, community impact, marketing and more. "Curbside Consulting" will also be provided throughout the summit. Individuals can register for one-on-one technical assistance time with various consulting services including website design, marketing, grant writing, business planning, and USDA programs.

During the first day of the conference IFB will be hosting

a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Class from 8AM-5PM. This is a course that produce farmers are required to take to receive certification and be in compliance with FSMA. There a limited number of classes available before compliance deadlines in January. Farmers unable to attend the entire conference that would like to attend just the FSMA class, can do so for FREE.

For more information, including an agenda, breakout session descriptions and registration, visit www.localfoodeconomics.com/agsummit/.



KCFB and Illinois Farm Bureau worked cooperatively with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to bring Consumer Safety Officer Teresa Klamon (right) from Minnesota to do a preliminary walk-through of Tom's Farm Market in April. Farmers Tom (center) and Liz Halat (left) walked Klamon through the farm and explained planting, irrigation, harvest, handling, cleaning and storage of different products on their farm in preparation for an upcoming inspection from the Food and Drug Administration under the Produce Safety Rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Farmers affected by the Produce Safety Rule can obtain free training at an October 7-9 Summit in Rosemont sponsored in part by IFB. See story at left or call Kane County Farm Bureau for more information, (630) 584-8660.

Harvest decorations on sale now - Don't miss out!

The KCFB FOUNDATION wants to help make Kane County the most festive county in Illinois again this year by providing Farm Bureau members with decorations to complement your homes. In October, while supplies last, the Kane County Farm Bureau office will be your one-stop harvest decoration shop. Choose from a variety of garden mums, Indian corn, gourds, pumpkins, straw bales and corn shocks all produced by local growers.



Straw bales (full bale)	\$8.00 each
Carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.)	\$6.00 each
Pie pumpkins (softball sized)	\$3.00 each
Assorted small gourds/mini pumpkins (3-6 in.)	4 for \$1
Indian corn (tied in 3's)	\$5.00 each
Mums (assorted colors) - 9" pot	\$8.00 each
Corn shocks	\$7.00 each

Don't wait, as products are only available while supplies last. Proceeds from all sales benefit the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarship and agricultural literacy programs. Hours: M-F; 9am-4pm and weekends 11am-3pm. For further inquiries, contact our office at (630) 584-8660.

NOW TEST YOUR WELL IN OCTOBER!

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District offer water testing in October this year. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and well testing helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The well testing program has three simple steps: (1) pick up and pay for a water test kit at Kane County Farm Bureau between Monday, Oct. 7, and Friday, Oct. 11; (2) at home, collect a water sample as close as possible to turning it in; and (3) return the water sample to

KCFB or Kane/DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Results will be mailed to your home.

Three kits are available and prices vary:

A. Basic Package (Nitrate Package) - \$45.00

Test for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, soluble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

B. Pesticide Screen - \$80.00

Test to indicate the presence of triazine herbicides, lasso, dual or harness.

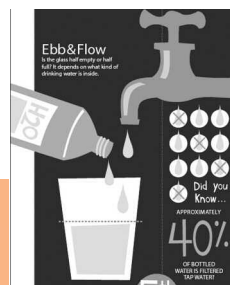
C. Metals - \$95.00

Test for 23 different metals.

All kits include detailed sampling instructions. KCFB or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District can provide additional information about each test.

The certified lab at Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, OH tests all samples. The lab is nationally recognized for its work testing rivers and lakes.

Call Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 with questions.



**Private well testing kits available
October 7-11**

Farm Toy of the Month - Harvest is here and we have something for you

This month KCFB features a full harvesting trio of farm toys! The 1/64 die-cast metal replica John Deere Harvesting Set includes the S680 Combine, 8360R Tractor, and Frontier GC1108 Grain Cart. The whole set is suitable for all ages of play. Your little ones can pick, thresh, winnow, and haul it away!

Regular price is \$39.99, but visit our lobby Farm Bureau

Country Store during the month of October and you can save an extra 10% when you reference this ad. Supplies are limited, so we'll see you soon!



Start planning your Thanksgiving feast!

Order a fresh, never frozen, Ho-Ka turkey from Kane County Farm Bureau for pick up at our St. Charles office the week of Thanksgiving. Watch next month's issue of the Farmer for an order form or call (630) 584-8660 for pricing and to order by phone.

KCFB CALENDAR OCTOBER 2019

- 4-5** Family Portraits
- 5-25** KCFB FOUNDATION Fall Harvest Décor Sale
- 7-11** Pick-up Well Water Test Kits
- 10** Board of Directors, 7pm
- 8-9** Defensive Driving Class, 9am -1pm
- 14-15** FFA Build Conference
- 15** Turn in Well Water Test Kits
- 17** Ag Committee, CAB, 10am, County Bldg
- 22** Farm Tour for Ingredient employees

OCTOBER FEATURED PRODUCT

Bratwurst

Back by popular demand and just in time for tail gate season! The special for October is Bratwurst. This box contains 20 award winning, delicious Bratwurst. We are selling each box for \$23 for PLUS members, \$24 for KCFB members and \$26 for non-members. Fire up the grill and grab a box! Available during the month of October or while supply lasts.

Harvest season is here - slow down, share the road. See page 3 for more info.

Statement from IFB regarding EPA's repeal of 2015 WOTUS rule

The following is a statement from Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) September 12 repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

"Illinois farmers care deeply about the land and water where they farm, going above and beyond to implement voluntary efforts to maintain and protect water quality. Unfortunately, the 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule was unreasonable and unworkable. It complicated farmers' conservation efforts and left farmers and

land owners with little information as to which portions of their property fell under the government's jurisdiction.

"We would like to thank the Trump administration and U.S. EPA Administrator Wheeler for seeing this process through to the end. While no regulation is perfect, and no rule can accommodate every concern, the 2015 rule was especially egregious. We are relieved to put it behind us. We are now working to

ensure a fair and reasonable substitute that will protect our land and our ability to work and care for the land."

The administration's repeal announcement follows a multi-year effort by the American Farm Bureau Federation, state Farm Bureaus and an array of allies to raise awareness of overreaching provisions of the rule.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national

organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county

Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 386,7291 and a voting membership of 79,159. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

2020 Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program

Local projects sought for reducing sediment and nutrient loss from farm fields.

Illinois Farm Bureau recently announced funding for the 2020 Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program. The organization has again committed \$100,000 for fiscal year 2020. This program is meant to support farmers in their efforts to address water quality challenges facing Illinois.

The Nutrient Stewardship program focuses on projects that allow farmer members to lead direction and outcomes. Illinois Farm Bureau environmental staff serves as partners on approved projects. This helps guide projects towards meeting statewide goals for voluntary nutrient reduction established in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/Pages/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy.aspx>.

Applications and program guidelines are available through the Kane County Farm Bureau by calling (630) 584-8660 or emailing steve@kanecfb.com. Kane County Farm Bureau staff will assist in the application process. A county Farm Bureau member, committee, leader, or staff should be the project lead. The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019.

KCFB summer scene



Kane County Executive Planner and Farmland Protection Manager Janice Hill (left) reviewed the progress and future of the County's farmland protection efforts at the September meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



"Dairying on the Edge" is the title of an article in the September/October issue of *The Furrow*, a nationwide periodical for customers of Deere and Company and the John Deere brand. The article features the Lenkaitis family, Andy and Sarah, and their recent expansion and upgrade to robotic milking on their family farm nestled in the suburbs of St Charles. Of the changes, Andy is quoted as saying, "We knew we had to make some big changes to ensure our farm would be around for the next generation." KCFB offers its congratulations to the Lenkaitis family on the expansion and its attendant publicity, thanks them for hosting the June 2019 Dairy Open House and hopes the farm will be around for many generations to come!

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

Welcome new members

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history-related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

Beef store is now open!
By appointment only

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Sample Packs make great gifts!

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Tips for Motorists

SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY with farm equipment. He is moving the planter to the next field. She is hauling corn to the grain elevator. Farm equipment travels at a slow rate of speed and may be wider than other vehicles. If road and shoulder conditions are safe, the farmer may try to pull over to let you pass safely.

Above all, slow down and be patient.

- ▶ Reduce speed when encountering farm equipment on public roads. Flashing amber lights mean "caution."
- ▶ Slow down when you see the Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem—the orange and red reflective triangle warns you that the tractor or combine travels at a slow rate of speed.
- ▶ Keep a safe distance from the farm equipment so the farmer can see you. If you can't see his mirrors, he can't see you.
- ▶ Pass wide, large farm equipment only if you know conditions are safe and you are sure the farmer will not be making a left-hand turn. Be cautious when pulling back in.
- ▶ It is illegal to pass in a no passing lane or within 100 feet of an intersection, railroad crossing, or bridge.
- ▶ Be prepared to yield to wide equipment.
- ▶ Always wear a safety belt and heed the road's speed limit.
- ▶ Watch for the farmer's indication of a turn. Newer equipment has one or more amber lights flashing rapidly to indicate a turn. Older equipment is typically not equipped with turn signals so watch for the farmer's hand signals.

Endorsed by **JESSE WHITE**
SECRETARY OF STATE
Illinois Sheriff's Association
Illinois High School & College
Driver Education Association, Inc.

FSXX5428WM0409

Education isn't enough to keep roads safe; rules, commitment to change needed

A talk about road safety isn't a conversation you have once. But no matter the number of highway safety forums, driver education workshops or social media campaigns, road safety is unlikely to improve without powerful help from law enforcement. Unless we, as drivers, really make a change.

Currently, "there is little evidence that education is effective in reducing crashes," according to congressional research. Many crashes are not "accidents" at all. The federal government updated its report, *Federal Highway Traffic Safety Policies: Impacts and Opportunities*, in July. It explained "the vast majority of crashes are due to driver behaviors ..., and these are errors of judgment rather than of ignorance or lack of skill." The report gave a common statistic: "as many as 90% of road deaths

are due at least in part to driver error or misbehavior."

Speeding, distracted driving, and driving while intoxicated were listed as examples of crash-causing behavior.

If education is not working, then the government suggests states enforce speed limits, prohibit drunk driving and require seat belts. "The establishment and enforcement of rules governing road use ... is a proven method of improving safety."

There is much to improve. The same report cited motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of death for Americans overall, and the number one cause of death for teenagers. It also said "motor vehicle crashes are estimated to have cost some \$242 billion in 2010 in lost productivity, medical costs, legal costs, property damage, and time lost in congestion caused by crashes."

Last, data showed Illinois residents in rural areas are more likely to die in car crashes than residents in urban areas.

Certainly we need to keep the conversation going.

In August, Kane County Farm Bureau invited law enforcement, farmers and transportation and local officials to discuss safety problems and identify potential solutions. The forum resulted in a commitment to coordinate Farm Vehicle campaign messaging for electric signs, display roadside banners and to share resources to help educate the public about farm equipment and slow moving vehicles on the road.

This month, the Kane County Farmer offers reminders and tips for changing our driving habits before we have more negative consequences, whether a dangerous crash or a traffic ticket.

Right: Hampshire area farmer Joe Engel chats with Trooper Elizabeth Clausing, Safety Education/Public Information Officer for Illinois State Police District 2, following an August 20 Rural Road Safety program at the Farm Bureau. State Police, the Kane County Sheriff's office and municipalities in attendance all indicated a willingness to step up harvest time patrols and enforcement. Members are asked to call the Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to request contact information for local law enforcement agencies.



KCFB summer scene

Left: KCFB member Jeffrey Glaser (l) chats with Farm Bureau Manager Steve Arnold after hanging a farm safety banner along Randall Road in Geneva across from the entrance to Northwestern Medicine's Delnor Hospital during National Farm Safety & Health Week. Farm Bureau reminds motorists to be on the lookout for farm equipment on the roads, and urges everyone, "CAUTION, SLOW DOWN, SHARE THE ROAD".

KCFB farmer-members can pick up FREE replacement Slow Moving Vehicle signs and Harvest Safety signs at the Farm Bureau office while supplies last. Quantities are limited.

Photo credit: Elizabeth Clausing, Safety Education/Public Information Officer/ Illinois State Police.

Time to update your family portrait?

Kane County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer members a memory-making opportunity. Gather the family for a FREE professional portrait sitting at the KCFB office in St. Charles. As a Farm Bureau member family, you will receive a FREE 8"x 10" full-color family portrait. Individual poses are available. However, this program is limited to one (1) FREE portrait per family or household. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in the free portrait. You will be able to view your photos immediately on a digital viewing system.

Appointments are available Friday, October 4th, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, October 5th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family photos make a wonderful gift or keepsake. Appointments fill quickly. Call KCFB at (630) 584-8660 to schedule.

Say, "Cheese!"
KCFB offers FREE portrait to members.
Make your appointment & get a FREE 8x10.

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
James Sandberg Elburn
Steve & Janice Larson Frankfort

Professional members
Bill Marlowe Aurora

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

- Professional networking

opportunities and engagement with farmers

- Agriculture, farm and food news delivered to your door
- New subscription to *FarmWeek*, the largest weekly agriculture newspaper
- Access to FarmWeekNow.com
- KCFB voting rights & ILFB delegate opportunities
- Continuing subscription to the *Kane County Farmer* newspaper
- Free annual registration at one of 7 statewide conferences
- 302,000 member discounts, including Ford, Lincoln, John Deere, Case IH, restaurants, hotels & travel

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

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

KCFB members save on admission to Santa's Village Azoosment Park

Plan a visit to Santa's Village Azoosment Park with the 2019 KCFB member benefit. The park is open weekends only August 24th–October 27th. General admission tickets are \$24.99 + tax (age 2 and under are free). KCFB member ticket price is only \$18.99. NO

BLACKOUT DATES. Enjoy 20 rides and 100's of animals. Target audience is 12 and younger. Parking is FREE and food & drink can be brought in. Call the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to purchase tickets or for more information. Check the Santa's

Village website, www.santasvillagedundee.com for further details.



Farm Bureau 2020 calendar gifts to members

In appreciation of our members, we have 2020 wall calendars featuring antique tractors, country barns and scenic agricultural landscapes. Pick one up at our St. Charles office while supplies last!

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AG FOR KIDS, FOOD FOR THE FUTURE

By Erin Real



Teachers and students have an obligation to get ready for the future. We're going to need a lot of food to feed the world in 30 years. Scientists expect our population to reach nine billion people by 2050. To meet the world's nutrition needs in the not-so-distant future, experts say we need to double our current agricultural production—with less land and water—while sustaining the planet.

That's the job of agriculture, more than just farming. Agriculture is our food, health, environment, technology and economy. It means preparing people now to feed themselves in the future.

American agriculture is not just about need. It is also about opportunity. From the National Center for Agricultural Literacy, statistics in the last decade show the following:

- About 15% of the total U.S. workforce is employed in the food and fiber industries.
- "There are approximately 54,000 annual jobs in agriculture [nationally], but only about 29,000 students... are

graduating in directly related degree programs," representing a 45% gap between employment opportunities and prepared candidates.

- "The U.S. agricultural industry... [annually nets] a \$37.4 billion trade balance."

The problem suggests its own solution. Teach kids about agriculture. At home, at school, on the move. Teach them an "appreciation of the food and fiber system that [we] rely on every day," according to an AITC press release.

The Farm Bureau organization is generally devoted to a healthy, sustainable agricultural sector. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, empowerment and education. Farm Bureau and the National and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Organizations want to teach "students, teachers and parents about where food comes from and who grows it," explained the American Farm Bureau Foundation president. And so these groups collaborate in order to

- provide resources for inte-

KANE COUNTY FARMER
grating lessons about food and agriculture in K-12 classrooms,
• provide scholarships to American college students for pursuing higher education and career opportunities in food and agricultural sciences, and
• supply educational events and workshops.
I double as Kane County Farm Bureau's Agricultural Literacy Coordinator, so I admit a proper bias. A former teacher, community member and witness to hunger, I believe the most important activity of Farm

Bureau is education and its corresponding Agriculture in the Classroom program, fondly known around here as AITC. I also agree with AITC that it is entirely possible to "improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition."

Ag for kids. I see no better way to go about education. Food for the future. We continue feeding the world. We simultaneously prepare children to participate in an unpredictable

future job market. More than that, we show them what it means to be human, to be healthy, to nurture the things we all need, to be stewards of themselves, their neighbors, the animals, plants, soil and water.

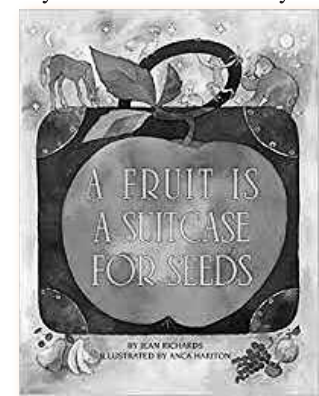
I hope you join Kane County Farm Bureau in our educational mission, whether you are teacher, student, farmer or citizen. If you would like to know more or have suggestions or requests for AITC resources and programming, please contact us at info@kanecfb.com or (630) 584-8660.

Book of the month

Did you know seeds travel? Come to the KCFB Library—yes! we have a library!—and check out *A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds* (1997) by Jean Richards, illustrated by Anca Hariton. Our October Book of the Month tells us most plants grow from seeds. Seeds need room to grow, just like boys and girls. And seeds must travel to find enough space to grow into big, strong plants. But seeds do not have feet to walk away! Can you use the title of our Book of the Month to help you guess how seeds travel? *A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds* uses easy words and watercolor illustrations. You will learn why the

tomato is really a fruit, not a vegetable! The book explains how seeds spread out to find room to grow. It tells us some seeds are big and some seeds are small. The author lists different seeds and fruits. She also explains why fruit is both beautiful and tasty! At the end of the book, there is a special part for questions and answers about using seeds to grow plants. This book is a very good introduction to seeds for young children, especially if they like to eat fruits and vegetables every day. We hope you will visit our library to learn about traveling seeds! The Kane County Farm Bureau Library was the

idea of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. Funding has been provided by the Bob Konen family.



A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds by Jean Richards, illustrated by Anca Hariton

Thanks to our Donors...

Our FOUNDATION is dedicated to providing agriculture-based education for the next generation and to meeting the challenge of providing food for a hungry planet. We look forward to continuing support for these scholarships and for local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education with additional grants to local 4-H and FFA chapters.



The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education, and scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are pledges received from August 17 through September 16.

Donor	Beneficiary
Mary Grommes	Kane Co. Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Fund
Tom Richter	Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation
Chris Arnold	Kane Co. Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Fund
Rita Brummel	Kane Co. Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Fund
James O'Connell	Kane Co. Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Fund

Save time & renew online

It's easy to make sure your Farm Bureau Membership is current. The Illinois Farm Bureau provides many services to all Kane County Farm Bureau members, for example, online membership renewal through their website.

Did you know you can renew your Farm Bureau membership online? You can also view your payment history, print a lost or updated membership card, and update your account information including address, spouse/dependents, phone and e-mail all through the Member Center of the website.

To do this, simply visit www.ilfb.org. Click on the Membership tab at the top, and then Renew your membership. You will be asked to register

using your Farm Bureau number and to create a username and password.

The ability to check your membership information anytime, anywhere can help prevent unwanted Farm Bureau membership late fees and keep you eligible for COUNTRY Mutual and COUNTRY Preferred insurance coverages. Don't delay, check to make sure your information is updated today!

REMINDER: Regular (voting) and Professional Members are due for renewal in September. Associate members' renewal dates vary, please sign on to the website or call the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660 to check on the status of your membership.

KCFB summer scene

Workers from Spring Bluff Nursery install hydrangeas as part of the landscape installation at the Kane County Farm Bureau on September 12. The design was based in part on plans developed by a University of Illinois Extension Kane County Master Gardener's class on landscaping for commercial structures.



Even the biggest goals start with simple steps

Bob Effner , CLF®, LUTC St. Charles – Elgin Agency Manager St. Charles 630-584-0001	Ashraf Gerges Aurora 630-898-3750	Bob Riedel West Dundee 847-428-5434
Todd Wilcox St. Charles 630-762-1326	Bob Kearns S. Elgin 847-888-3200	Gary Bolger West Dundee 847-531-6110
Bobbi Boston St. Charles 630-485-5155	Michael O'Brien Geneva 630-762-0852	Sherri Schramer Elburn 630-365-9500
Keith Eakins St. Charles 630-762-1324	Mehul Patel Geneva 630-492-5317	Dominick Davero Elburn 630-365-3737
Kelly Landorf St. Charles 630-762-1328	John Baine Geneva 630-492-5324	Chuck Quick Hampshire 847-683-2100
Donna Tonovitz St. Charles 630-549-7694	David Berreles Elgin 847-794-1244	Josh Austin Hampshire 847-683-2100
Orazio Difruscolo St. Charles 630-549-7696	Victor Alvarado Elgin 847-742-0003	Dan Cooper Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Edward Stuehm Geneva 630-845-8245	Luke Fawkes Elgin 847-742-0001	Ted Schuster Sugar Grove 630-466-9600
Deb Stob Geneva 630-208-0890	Sherry Lochen Elgin 847-742-0001	

0119-513HO



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Erin Real

Tomatoes

Fun facts about this fruit... er ... vegetable

- Tomatoes are the State Fruit of Ohio and the State Vegetable of New Jersey. In Arkansas, the South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato is both the State Fruit AND State Vegetable!
- The State Drink of Ohio is tomato juice.
- In 1887, the U.S. placed a tax on vegetables but not on fruits. And in 1893, the Supreme Court ruled tomatoes were legally – not botanically – a vegetable, since they were typically served with dinner and not as dessert.
- Botanically speaking, tomatoes are a fruit.
- 94.5% of the weight of a typical tomato is nothing but water!
- Tomatoes gain weight even after they are harvested because they keep ripening.
- The Guinness World Record for Heaviest Tomato is 7 lbs 12 oz for a tomato grown by G. Graham in Oklahoma in 1986 (left).
- Tomato seedlings have been grown in space before!
- La Tomatina is a festival in Spain where people throw 150,000 tomatoes at each other (below right).
- Found at Walt Disney World Resort, Florida, USA, the largest single tomato plant in the world covers an area of 56.73 meters sq. That's bigger than an Olympic size swimming pool!
- Did you know Heinz Tomato Ketchup has a speed limit? If the sauce pours at more than 0.028mph when it's in the Heinz Tomato Ketchup factory, it's considered too runny and rejected!
- Tomatoes are an excellent source of vitamin C, biotin, and vitamin K. They are also a very good source of copper, potassium, dietary fiber, vitamins E and B6, folate, niacin, and phosphorus.



The love apple.

You say "to-MAY-to," I say "to-MAH-to." Hm, but I don't. In fact, I say "to-may-to," probably just like you.

I hope you have your chili recipes handy. There are tomatoes everywhere this time of year. You can't give them away. And if you try, your neighbors will be insulted: "No! Please! No more tomatoes!"

Did you know tomatoes are a South American plant? They come from the Andes Mountains originally. The famous poet from Chile, Pablo Neruda, wrote a poem about them. He titled it "Ode to the Tomato" and it tells a juicy story. The story goes like this. First, tomatoes fill the streets. Then they invade our kitchens, recline in our pantries, marry the onions, and fill our salads. Neruda's poem celebrates the tomato. It applauds the tomato's shape and, well, its fruitfulness. Neruda obviously had my mother's garden-giveaway problem, but maybe he also knew the history of the tomato. Tomatoes first reached Europe after 1492, that year when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. And, when Italians tasted tomato juiciness and felt tomato squishiness, they dubbed our rosy American fruit "the love apple." It makes sense when you think about it. The tomato is heart-shaped, after all.

Tomatoes word search

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

- ANDES
- AZTECS
- BEEFSTEAK
- CANNED
- CHILI
- COLUMBUS
- FRUIT
- JUICE
- KETCHUP
- LOVE APPLE
- NIGHTSHADE
- OXHEART
- PIZZA
- PURPLE
- RED
- ROMA
- SALAD
- SAUCE
- SEEDS
- SOUP
- TOMATINA
- VEGETABLE
- WOLF PEACH
- YELLOW

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by October 15, 2019 to be entered in our drawing for a tomato themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

A fruitful history

The Incas and Aztecs first cultivated tomatoes in 700 AD. Tomatoes' name in Nahuatl, the Aztec language, is *tomatl*. It means something like "plump thing with a navel." Explorers introduced the tomato to Europe after Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas. Back in Italy, they called it the "apple of love" or perhaps "the golden apple." In Germany it was "the apple of paradise." The first American colonists, however, knew tomatoes belonged to the nightshade family. So it was assumed the tomato was poisonous until 1820. That's when, according to legend, the gentleman farmer, horticulturalist,

judge and soldier, Robert Gibbon Johnson, stood on the steps of the New Jersey courthouse and "ate a tomato – with no adverse effects, to the amazement of the town" (University of Arizona Tomato fact sheet). In the 20th Century, the tomato was selectively bred for shape, higher crop yield, shelf-life, taste and nutrition. Today, the tomato is the world's most popular vegetable – er – fruit. The average American eats nearly 80 pounds of tomatoes every year and, "among all vegetables except potatoes, tomatoes contribute the greatest amount of nutrients to the American diet," according to a University of Arizona fact sheet.

Simple chili

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Serves: 6

- Ingredients**
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
 - 2 (15 oz.) cans crushed tomatoes
 - 1 can (15 to 16 oz.) kidney beans, drained
 - 1 packet McCormick Chili Seasoning
 - 1 tsp. olive oil

- Instructions**
1. In a large pot, add 1 tsp. oil and brown the meat over medium heat for 5 minutes, breaking up the meat as you stir.
 2. Pour in tomatoes, kidney beans and chili seasoning; stir

to mix.

3. Cover and cook for an additional 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Serve with toppings, such as shredded cheese and sour cream.

*To make in a crockpot, add oil to the bottom, then uncooked beef, then other ingredients. Cook on high for 4 hours or on low for 6 hours.



Many uses for tasty tomatoes

Tomatoes are the world's most popular fruit, followed by bananas, then apples, oranges and watermelons. The world produces more than 60 million tons of tomatoes a year. We eat them in many different ways. Sometimes we eat them raw like a fruit or in salads. Some tomatoes are processed as ketchup, soup and juice. We also eat them

cooked in pizza sauce and spaghetti sauce. If it's cloudy with a chance of meatballs, then let's hope it rains marinara made of tomatoes, too!

Jokes

- What type of tomato smells best? *A Roma.*
- What happens when you run away from tomatoes? *They ketchup!*
- How do you fix a broken tomato? *Tomato paste.*
- What do you call a tomato with a trumpet? *A tooty fruity.*



Congratulations

Joanne O'Brien from St. Charles is the September Word Search winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle about honey! For her participation, she receives local honey from White Farms Apiary in Kane County, local oatmeal honey soap from Prairie Soaps & Salts and a honey dipper stick!

October is ...

- National**
- Farm to School Month
 - American Cheese Month
 - Celebrating The Bilingual Child Month
 - Eat Better, Eat Together Month
 - International Walk To School Month
 - Apple Month
 - Book Month
 - Caramel Month
 - Chili Month
 - Cookbook Month
 - Stamp Collecting Month
 - Tackling Hunger Month
- Special days**
- 4 World Smile Day
 - 5 World Teacher's Day
 - 6 Oktoberfest ends
 - 9 Leif Erikson Day
 - 10 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch at 12:00 p.m.
 - 11 World Egg Day
 - 14 Columbus Day
 - 25 Frankenstein Friday
 - 31 Halloween

PLUS-status membership—like a KCFB Booster Club—with perks

All Kane County Farm Bureau members are an integral part of the Farm Bureau family. Your annual support is important to the future of farms and food. On behalf of all those in the agricultural industry – from farm gate to dinner plate – we thank you for continued membership in our organization and your important contribution in the form of

JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB

annual membership dues.

All members may choose to upgrade their KCFB membership to PLUS status for an extra \$25 a year, an extra level of committed support to the Kane County Farm Bureau. PLUS members SAVE more money, add CONVENIENCE and show greater SUPPORT for farms, food and agriculture, and not for nothing!

PLUS members receive perks in addition to existing membership benefits. For adding PLUS status to your existing membership, you receive one FREE 9” fall mum, FREE admission to KCFB’s annual Touch-a-Tractor spring event, one FREE 16” or 18” tractor-shaped Pillow Pet, and a 10% discount at our in-house KCFB Country Store when you purchase merchandise like farm toys, apparel, accessories and

books (excludes perishable foods and monthly specials).

PLUS status is a membership upgrade, an add-on for members who want to do more for Farm Bureau. It’s like joining the KCFB Booster Club, without having to work a shift in the concession stand!

Whether you elevate to PLUS status or not, your membership is important to Kane County Farm Bureau and its mission – more profitable farms, more literate citizens, stronger communities and

healthy food for all. You are a part of our continued efforts and can lend further support with a PLUS upgrade.

To upgrade to PLUS status, please fill out and return the form below. Current KCFB membership and a \$25 payment are required. Checks should be made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau. For more information or to pay with a credit card, call (630) 584-8660 or visit our office at 2N710 Randall Rd. in St. Charles, IL 60174.

iPhone app, IFB membership benefit platform alert members to nearby perks

You already know how to use your phone to find nearby gas or the closest Walgreens with a Redbox. Now let the ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU BENEFITS app send alerts to your iPhone or iPad when you are close to discounts at participating businesses.

No iPhone? You can access nearby discounts and get the same alerts using the MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT PLATFORM, <https://ilfb.abenity.com>, from any web browser. Save the page to your favorites or your phone’s home screen!

Kane County Farm Bureau members enjoy more than 302,000 savings and discounts, now usefully linked in the IFB Benefits iPhone app. KCFB recommends you get the app and let it notify you, as you drive by, about savings on tires, beef sandwiches, gym memberships, haircuts and more! “We’re extremely pleased to offer this



new platform for our members, giving them added discounts on hotels, theme parks, restaurants, movies and everything in between,” said Melissa Rhode, Marketing Director at Illinois Farm Bureau.

“Best of all, the app shows both local and national discounts and can even notify members when they’re near a business that offers discounts,” she added.

It’s easy to download and use the iPhone app, or to access the membership benefit platform from a web browser, for member discounts. From your iPhone’s App Store, search ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU BENEFITS and choose the app that matches our picture here. To use the online benefit platform from your web browser, visit <https://ilfb.abenity.com> and create an account right there online.

Once inside the app or the

web platform,

- Use your Illinois Farm Bureau membership number to create an account.
- Include the dash but NO LETTERS (ex. 045-99999).
- Search offers using business names, locations, categories and more.
- Show and save mobile coupons.
- Customize the app to include frequently used offers.
- Cash in on instant in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers.

“Our members have nothing to lose and everything to gain with this new platform,” Rhode said. “Members will find more than 302,000 discounts on top of what is already available through their Illinois Farm Bureau membership.”

Members who have questions about the app, membership benefit platform, or about member benefits may contact Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.



Mrs. Mildred Diehl renewed her PLUS Status membership at the Kane County Farm Bureau this year and got a yellow Pillow Pet! Last year her Pillow Pet was green. Mrs. Diehl and her husband, James, of Maple Park donate their Pillow Pets to St. Mary’s silent auction, supporting their church’s charity and KCFB’s not-for-profit mission at the same time. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Diehl!

What’s new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

LUKE FAWKES has been named the Rep of the Month for August 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Luke has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial’s diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Luke’s expertise help you! You may reach Luke at (847) 742-0002, lucas.fawkes@countryfinancial.com, or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/lucas.fawkes/>. Congratulations, Luke!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for August, 2018. 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!

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 of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake St., Aurora and he may be reached at: (630) 897-7746. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Felipe Rocha



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“Helping to keep America Picked up for 45 years”

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(815) 756.8600



KCFB Summer scene
Kane County Young Farmers (l-r) Michael Long, Brett Dienst, Wayne Gehrke and Michael Bohlin were among the 144 golfers who participated in the 19th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing at Randall Oaks Golf Club in Dundee on a rainy August 26. The outing raises funds for the John Buck Memorial Scholarships administered by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. Awards have been presented to over 25 local scholars since the scholarship was established in 2001.



Illinois the nation's pumpkin powerhouse

Like farming in general, our kids' plan to grow pumpkins worked better in previous years than this one. From spring's relentless rains to the summer's hot and droughty spell, our home-grown pumpkin luck ran out by August like the creek water in the cattle pasture.

But life moves on and pumpkin season has arrived, nonetheless. The gourd's appearance at local orchards, box stores and voluntarily on our compost pile embrace my soul like walking into the aroma of a home-cooked meal. I love fall, harvest, crisp air, wiener roasts, comfort foods, corn shocks and pumpkins.

Unbeknownst to most, Illinois handily ranks No. 1 in production of pumpkins for carving, eating and decorating for the fall holidays. Farmers

here harvest from three to five times more acres of pumpkins than any of the other top pumpkin states, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our state's pumpkin plethora started almost a century ago with the establishment of pumpkins processors in the Illinois River area of Illinois, home to a favorable pumpkin-growing climate and soil type.

In fact, more than 90 percent of the nation's canned pumpkin grows in Illinois, a university expert tells me. Odds are, an Illinois farm grew the primary ingredient in that centerpiece pie at Thanksgiving. The same goes for the pumpkin coffee cake and pumpkin bars that our daughter and resident baker mixes up every fall.

Twice now a farmer has planted processing pumpkins across the road from our house, growing the meatier type of pumpkin selected for cooking and canning. With one of the state's two pumpkin processing plants 13 miles away, our kids annually witness acres of pumpkins from seed to sprawling vine to harvest. Around the time our family harvests corn and soybeans, the pumpkin harvest begins with tractors rowing and

then mechanically elevating the gourds into trucks.

This experience allows our kids to see another type of large-scale harvest. It also helps them learn the differences between processing and ornamental pumpkins, something like the purpose for beef cattle and dairy cattle. Processing pumpkins eat better than they carve, possess a thick interior, and their pale-orange flesh makes them less showy on the front porch. Ornamental pumpkins traditionally symbolize fall, the ideal carvers and front porch décor with a bright-orange flesh and heavy handles.

We plant the latter, love baking with the former and enjoy most things recognized as artificial pumpkin, too. I stock enough pumpkin-scented hand soaps every fall that they sometimes make a summer debut in our bathrooms. Summer on the farm seemed chaotic and short, but I welcome the comfort that pumpkins bring to our porch, baked goods and frame of mind.

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

Explore autumn & enjoy the Bounty of Kane.

Get out and enjoy these golden autumn days! Spend a day at your local apple orchard or pumpkin farm! Pick apples, go for a hay ride or choose the perfect pumpkin for your Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Here are some great and local farms, perfect for a fall family outing! Visit www.bountyofkane.org for a complete list of direct farm markets and farmer's markets in Kane County.

- Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch**
Rt. 47 & Reinking Road
Hampshire, IL • 847-464-5952
- Klein's Farm & Garden Markets**
Rt. 20, Udina & 1175 Lilian St.,
Elgin • 847-683-9647
- Kuiper's Family Farm**
01N145 Watson Road
Maple Park • 815-827-5200
- The Pumpkin Wagon**
12N860 Rt. 20, Elgin
847-697-2538
- Spring Bluff Nursery**
41W130 Norris Rd.
Sugar Grove • 630-466-4278
- Theis Farm Market**
6N953 County Line Rd
Maple Park • 815-757-1090

- Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse**
10214 Algonquin Rd.
Huntley • 847-669-3421
- Wiltse Farm Produce & Greenhouse**
50W379 Rt 38.
Maple Park • 815-739-2573
- Windy Acres Farm**
37W446 Fabyan Parkway
Geneva • 630-232-6429



An Aztec tomato in Italy

By Erin Real

Fall is here. We are settling in but not into wool sweaters yet. Maybe crisp air is responsible for daring October adventures like Halloween costumes and your neighbors' newest chili recipe. Autumn is audacious, now and in the past. Famous explorers – picture Christopher Columbus or Lewis and Clark – kept diaries as they traveled. Their journals read like science fiction. I cannot imagine what Sacagawea would have scrawled after she saw the ocean for the first time.

Imagine you went to Jupiter and wrote home to tell your friends about it. Now pretend your friends don't speak your language. Double whammy. Experts say Christopher Columbus suffered a crisis of representation when he wrote of his voyage. That's a fancy way of saying he couldn't describe what he saw. Columbus spoke Italian, but his boss was King of Spain. And so Italian Chris wrote his ship's log in Spanish,

about America, to Ferdinand and Isabella. He didn't have a camera. Words did all the work. To help the Catholic Kings picture an American paradise – they were heavily invested after all – full of Cuban parrots, prickly pears, giant iguanas and Taíno culture, Columbus compared plants, animals and people to familiar stuff in southern Spain. He said the Caribbean islands were as pretty as Granada in springtime. About 100 times. Maybe Columbus was fresh out of vocabulary after that mutinous first boat ride from Europe. He definitely couldn't put America into words.

Today we refer to the period of first encounters between America and Europe as the Columbian Exchange, a two-way transfer of ideas and organisms. Everything from horses to chick-enpox arrived in the Americas. And tomatoes, chocolate and potatoes found their way to Italy, Switzerland and Ireland.

Not long after Columbus' landing that fateful October,

European soldiers blazed across the Americas with flags in hand searching for gold, dominion and El Dorado, or for the sheer sake of an adrenaline rush. A brazen endeavor indeed, and not generally nice.

In fall, I get an adrenaline rush every time I breathe deep or look up at migrating birds, especially if I have to avoid a sudden collection of them in front of my windshield on Bunker Road. When hummingbirds cease their sparring and monarch butterflies continue to cluster, I wonder where, exactly, they are going and how.

The monarchs' migration to Mexico is almost unfathomable. They stampede their way on fragile butterfly wings when I can barely get there on an airplane. The Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés made it to Mexico by land. With an army, horses and firepower. I once read the young Cortés missed his first boat to America. He broke his leg, as the tale goes, scrambling

(continued on page 8)

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.

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

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1 FREE 9" Fall Mum**,
FREE Touch-A-Tractor Admission
& a 10% discount on
FB Country Store merchandise.



_____ hereby apply for PLUS status in Kane County Farm Bureau.

This application is for the PLUS membership date beginning at my next renewal period.

Amount due: \$25 Payment method: cash check credit

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ KCFB Membership Number: 045- _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # (_____) _____ EMAIL: _____

Signature _____

**While supplies last. **Mums available October 1-31, 2019.*

Please pick up all items at KCFB. All offers subject to change without notice.

