

# 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. 83 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2018

## Illinois farm groups release first-ever livestock report

The Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Milk Producers' Association and Illinois Pork Producers Association recently announced the results of a year-long project to determine the true environmental performance of livestock farms in Illinois, as well as the effectiveness of state regulations already in place.

The project, which examined 30 years of publicly available data from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), as well as information from other state agencies and academic research, highlights the environmental sustainability and economic impact of livestock farms across the state.

"Livestock farmers like me have to comply with multiple layers of regulation here in Illinois," said Brian Duncan, vice president, Illinois Farm Bureau. "Agencies including the IDOA, IEPA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Attorney General's Office all play significant roles. And that's not all – we are also impacted by federal agencies."

Here in Illinois, the layers of regulations and rules are working and working well. Data compiled in the final report

shows that the total number of livestock related complaints in to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, including water pollution and odor complaints, have dipped drastically, down from 259 in 1996 to just 24 in 2017.

"This report not only shows Illinois' regulatory program is effective at improving environmental performance of livestock farms, but also shows livestock farms across the state help support rural communities," said

Don Mackinson, president, Illinois Milk Producers' Association, "These farms add jobs, stimulate the economy, and provide a place for young family members to stay or return to work on the farm."

At a time when farmers are battling record-low income due to dipping commodity prices, the data also shows livestock farms across the state are helping to stabilize bottom lines, both for farmers and small business owners.

"The information contained in the report is astonishing, especially when you see some of those numbers," said Mike Haag, president, Illinois Pork Producers Association. "An estimated \$68 million was invested in construction costs for new or expanding livestock farms in 2017. Plus, when you factor in that livestock farms also create demand for Illinois' top two crops – corn and soybeans – well, that's a big deal."

"We see it again and again, in

rural communities across the state," said Joni Bucher, president, Illinois Beef Association. "These farms – both large and small – provide for more than just the family who lives there. Livestock production contributes \$14.1 billion annually in economic activity in Illinois and adds more than 52,000 jobs. That's more than just a little ripple in a big pond."

The full 2018 Illinois Livestock Report can be found at [www.ilfb.org/livestocktruth](http://www.ilfb.org/livestocktruth).

## Field Day September 12 Farmers invited to learn about woodchip bioreactors

The Kane County Farm Bureau invites local farmers, farmland owners and those interested in learning how to improve water quality and reduce nutrient losses with best management practices to a September 12 Field Day. Reservations are required for the Field Day, which will take place in a farm field at the Meissner Prairie-Corron Forest Preserve on Silver Glen Road

near Elgin.

Field Day attendees will hear from experts in the fields of water quality improvements, best management practices and engineering, design and construction of practices with agronomic and water quality benefits. The 10am program will be followed by an opportunity to see a woodchip bioreactor during construction, and followed by a free lunch.

With the release of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) in 2015, Farm Bureau adopted a goal based on the idea that "something needs to happen on every acre in Illinois." The primary strategy goals of the NLRs are to reduce annual loading of nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus to the Mississippi River and address the impacts on local water quality. The ultimate goal is to achieve 45 percent loss reductions in both nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus with the interim loss reduction goals of 15 percent nitrate-nitrogen and 25 percent total phosphorus by 2025.

Not content to simply establish a goal and a slogan, the Illinois Farm Bureau has backed up its commitment to voluntary, farmer led nutrient stewardship and water quality improvement with over \$300,000 in grants in

the past few years, matched at the local level by farmers, county farm bureaus and others. This woodchip bioreactor installation and Field Day is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Farm Bureau.

The Field Day is co-sponsored by the Kane County Farm Bureau, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Kane County Water Resources Division, Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS and participating contractors; Huddleston-McBride Land Drainage Company, Countryside Professional Land Drainage Services and Campton Construction Inc.

For more information or to register to attend, call Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 or email Steve Arnold at [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com). Registration deadline is Friday, September 7.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### September

- September 3**  
Labor Day, KCFB Office Closed
- September 5-7**  
IFB Leaders to Washington
- September 12**  
NLRs Field Day, Bioreactor Installation, Meissner Prairie-Corron Preserve, 10 am
- September 13**  
Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- September 14**  
John Buck Memorial Golf Outing for KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships, Marengo, 10am
- September 14-16**  
124th Annual Big Rock Plowing Match
- September 16-22**  
National Farm Safety and Health Week
- September 18**  
Milk & Hunger Mtg, 7pm
- September 20**  
County Board Ag Committee, 10 am, County building

All meetings at KCFB unless noted otherwise.



## FB Ag Innovation Challenge offers \$145K

The American Farm Bureau Federation has opened online applications for its 2019 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. Entrepreneurs will compete for \$145,000 in startup funds.

The competition provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase ideas and business innovations in agriculture. This is the fifth year of the Challenge, which is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs launching food and agriculture businesses.

Competitors are invited to submit for-profit business ideas related to food and agriculture online at <http://fb.org/aginnovationchallenge> by September 24.

Ten semifinalist teams will be announced on Nov. 9 and awarded \$10,000. The final four teams, selected from the 10 semifinalists will be announced on Dec. 5 and will receive an additional

**\$145,000 in startup funds for entrepreneurs**

\$5,000 and have all expenses paid to compete in a live pitch competition at AFBF's 100th Annual Convention in New Orleans on Jan. 13. The final four teams will compete to win:

- Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year award and \$15,000 (chosen by judges), for a total of \$30,000
- People's Choice award and \$10,000 (chosen by public vote), for a total of \$25,000

Rural entrepreneurs with businesses in the following cat-

*(continued on page 8)*

### September Featured Product

#### Lemon Rosemary Pork Roast

The special this month is 3 individually wrapped 24 ounce boneless pork roasts cut from the most tender part of the pork loin. It is designed to be cooked just like beef to an internal temperature of 145°F, sliced thin and used as an entrée. The roast is netted together and vacuum sealed to preserve the lemon-rosemary marinade. The special is offered for \$20 to Farm Bureau Members, \$18 to Plus Members, and \$23 to non-members.



## join us for a **Woodchip** **FREE** **BIOREACTOR FIELD DAY**

Learn how a woodchip bioreactor can benefit your local neighborhoods.

**FREE LUNCH SERVED AT NOON.**

Please RSVP to to Kane County Farm Bureau by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Call: 630-584-8660  
Email: [member@kanecfb.com](mailto:member@kanecfb.com)

**Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> / 10am**  
Enjoy a free lunch!

**Meissner Prairie-Corron Preserve**  
40W692 Silver Glen Road, St. Charles IL



Brought to you by these community partners to improve water quality in your neighborhoods:



# Board Meeting review – August 9

The August meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 9, 2018 by Vice President Wayne Schneider. After moving for the amendment of last month's minutes, directors gave monthly reports of concerns and issues. Topics ranged from an upcoming September meeting of the Marketing & PR committee for a milk themed promotion and hunger relief program, to the \$12 billion in government tariffs/trade aid to an ACTIVATOR Trustee report from the 42nd District, given by Bill Keck.

Recent KCFB programs were reviewed briefly, including the Kane County Fair, a July 24 farm tour for Representative Allen Skillicorn, the IFB Farm

Income and Innovation Conference and an August 8 "on the Road" seminar for farmers and truckers.

Upcoming KCFB programs were next on the agenda and included an August "Farm Shop" meeting with Representative Peter Roskam at the Kenyon Bros. Farm in South Elgin, a meeting with Congressman Hultgren at Midwest Groundcovers in August, NLRs Bioreactor Installation and Field Day on September 12, and the John Buck Memorial Golf outing (benefitting the KCFB Foundation) at Blackstone Golf Course in Marengo September 14. The Board approved lunch sponsorship for the golf outing.

In unfinished business, the Board approved the award of a contract for sidewalk replace-

ment and parking lot reconstruction to Geneva Construction and for audit and tax service through 2020 to CliftonLarsonAllen. Directors also reviewed comments submitted to the Illinois Farm Bureau on its mission statement.

In new business, the Board received and reviewed a "County Farm Bureau of the Future" working group report, discussed area solar farm proposals, and approved emergency repairs for "blowouts" in the clay tile that carried water from the roof of the Farm Bureau building.

In the PR & Membership Report, Bill Collins thanked FOUNDATION scholarship donors Thomas Richter of Wayne and Jim and Deloris O'Connell of Kaneville, along

with Beulah Swanson of Roscoe for a Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship contribution.

In Government Affairs, Wayne Schneider reported on the upcoming "Farm Shop" meeting at Kenyon Bros Farm for Representative Peter Roskam. A "Victory Mixer" will be held for area local, state and national candidates that prevail in the November elections.

A written AITC report from Suzi Myers was presented, recapping the Summer Ag Institute II and other July events.

The Young Farmers will participate in St. Charles' "National Night Out" by bringing the grain bin safety display. Committee members will also be present to answer questions about farming, give stickers to kids, and talk to anyone interested in joining the Farm Bureau.

Wayne Schneider gave the President's Report and advised that "Friend of Agriculture" announcements/awards will be available soon.

Arnold gave a brief Manager's Report on the County Fair and new "invitations to join the Farm Bureau" which are being mailed to all non-members

who call or visit the office seeking advice on farm, agriculture and food related topics. He also reported KCFB Foundation "Winner's Choice" raffle results, and that the Foundation had purchased a 1966 Ford 100 pick-up as a potential prize for the 2019 Raffle. A final raffle choice decision will be made by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Correspondence was circulated from: Alyce Konen Family – thanks for KCFB donation to the KC 4-H Foundation in her honor; Brett Barton, Kane County 4-Her – thanks for 4-H Fair trophy sponsorship; Brooke Sunderlage, Kane County 4-Her – thanks for picture plaque sponsorship of the Grand Champion Fat Heifer; Aiden Best, Kane County 4-Her – thanks for purchasing his lamb at the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale; Kane County 4-H Foundation & Blue Ribbon Sale Committee – thanks for purchase of livestock at BR sale; IAA Foundation – request for items for Silent & Live Auctions at IAA Annual Meeting..

The next scheduled Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 7:00pm.

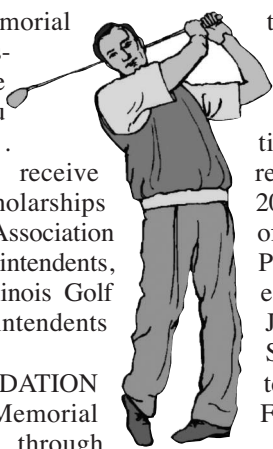
## Raise scholarship funds at the John Buck Memorial Golf Outing

The 18th Annual John Buck Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Friday, September 14, 2018, at Blackstone Golf Club in Marengo, located at 9700 Saint Andrews Drive. Cost to register will be \$110/golfer, with a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start/scramble format. For details and to register, contact Sandy at info@buckbrosinc.com or 847-683-4440. Space is limited, so call early to make reservations.

All proceeds go to benefit Scholarship funds, including the

John Buck Memorial Scholarships administered by the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION. Other entities that receive funding for scholarships include the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and Northwestern Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The KCFB FOUNDATION John Buck Memorial Scholarship, funded through



the golf outing, is awarded annually to student(s) seeking higher education in agriculture related fields. For 2018, Jessica Yaeger of DeKalb and Claire Plapp of Malta were each awarded \$1,500 John Buck Memorial Scholarships administered by the KCFB FOUNDATION.

## Commodity election results

The Illinois Department of Agriculture recently announced winners of the 2018 state agricultural commodity board elections. The elections filled positions on three agricultural boards: the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board and the Sheep and Wool Marketing Board.

Steve Pitstick of Maple Park was elected to represent District 2 on the Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board. He will represent the interests of farmers in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. There was no local election for the Illinois Corn Marketing Board or the Sheep and Wool Marketing Board.

These boards oversee the check-off dollars that come from assessments levied at the first point of sale. State law sets assessment for corn at 5/8 of 1 cent per bushel, soybeans at 1/2 of 1 percent of the market value, and wool at 3 1/2 cents per pound.

Pitstick, like all commodity board members, will serve a three-year term.

## Say cheese! KCFB offers FREE portrait to members

Kane County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer members a memory-making opportunity to gather your 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 portrait of your family. 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 5 from 2 to 8 pm, and Saturday, October 6 from 10 am to 4 pm. Family photos make a wonderful gift or keepsake. Appointments fill quickly, so call the office today at 630-584-8660 and ask for Liz or Marty.



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Welcome new members

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

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

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

### KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2018 THRU DECEMBER 2018

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

\*Elected to the board in April 2018

### Kane County Farmer

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# 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, along with local classrooms and teachers, leadership training, and community youth education through grants to local FFA Chapters and 4-H.



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

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions

Names shown are pledges received from July 18 through August 16.

**Donor**  
Thomas Richter, Wayne O'Connell Farm, Elburn  
Beulah Swanson, Roscoe

**Beneficiary**  
KCFB FOUNDATION  
KCFB FOUNDATION  
Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, KCFB FOUNDATION



**Donor**  
Mike & Carol Kenyon, South Elgin

**Beneficiary**  
South Elgin Food Pantry  
Northern Illinois Food Bank  
Food for Greater Elgin



**Arbor Joe**  
**Summer Tree Pruning**  
www.ArborJoe.com  
ISA Certified Arborist  
(224) 789-8773

Over the course of two weekends, volunteers from Food for Greater Elgin visited Kenyon Bros. Farms and picked sweet corn for their hungry patrons. Food for Greater Elgin serves approximately 1,200 households in Elgin, South Elgin, East and West Dundee, totaling over 6,000 individuals. Total ears of corn picked filled four, 3' x 3' x 3' totes.

**Beef store is now open!**  
By appointment only  
farmdirectBLACKANGUS.com  
100% hormone free beef.  
Selling individual cuts. Buy as little or as much as you want.  
815.895.4691  
Mark & Linda Schramer, Owners  
8N840 Lakin Road, Maple Park  
Sample Packs make great gifts!

**MyIFB**  
**Improved member experience.**  
Visit: myifb.org!  
The new MyIFB website will make joining & managing your membership easier!

- Join Illinois Farm Bureau
- Renew or Reinstate your membership
- Access member benefits
- Manage your membership & information
- And much more!

For more information contact  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
XXX-XXX-XXXX  
fbmanager@ifb.org

#MyIFB

# We have 31 Days of Christmas in December, do YOU?

Do you struggle with finding gifts that your friends and family actually want for the holidays? No one really wants a tie, socks, or Grandma's fruit cake, do they? Give them something now, to look forward to, for the whole month of December! A ticket for the Kane County Farm Bureau's "31 Days of Christmas" raffle could be the answer to your gift-giving woes and put you at the top of everyone's list of "best gifts ever."

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION will be selling tickets for their "31 days of Christmas" raffle starting mid-September. This unique raffle allows ticket holders the chance to win a prize every day for the whole month of December, with the opportunity to win more than one prize. All prizes are valued between \$150 and \$500. Winning numbers will be deter-



mine by the winning evening "Pick 3 Illinois Lottery" number for that day. Prizes will include a wide variety of outdoor favorites including grills, coolers, hunting and camping gear, and much more! Winners will receive a

Reserve your lucky numbers now in the KCFB FOUNDATION'S "31 Days of Christmas" Raffle. It offers thousands of dollars in prizes and you can choose your prize with a Cabela's gift card good for the value of the prize!

Cabela's gift card in the exact value of the prize. So if that prize you win isn't just right for you, choose something you desire (up to the value of your prize) from Cabela's wide selection of sporting goods.

All proceeds benefit KCFB FOUNDATION scholarship pro-

grams. Tickets will be on sale until November 30th for \$20 each. Purchase tickets with your lucky number(s) now by calling the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660. Ticket numbers are first come, first served. If we cannot meet your request, ticket number(s) will be assigned at random.

Don't forget, by upgrading your current Kane County Farm Bureau membership to PLUS status for only \$25, you will receive a FREE "31 Days of Christmas" raffle ticket mailed directly to you, PLUS other benefits (including a FREE Pillow Pet® that you can pick-up at our office, a FREE entry in our annual "Winner's Choice" Raffle and 10% off all your purchases at our Country Store inside the Farm Bureau office). The PLUS status package is a minimum \$60 value for only \$25! See page 6 for details.

# Farm Bureau supports local 4-Hers

Sunday at the Kane County Fair is Blue Ribbon Sale day. Each year the 4-H Foundation Blue Ribbon Sale Committee hosts an auction of grand champions, reserve champions and other livestock from 4-H exhibitors at the fair. This year, approximately 21 cattle, 32 hogs and 26 sheep, along with numerous chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and rabbits generated \$115,000 in income for local 4-Hers.

The Blue Ribbon Sale provides an additional opportunity for 4-Hers to get in the show ring, exhibit their livestock and "learn by doing". It also allows businesses, families, politicians and organizations to purchase quality animals which were raised and cared for by Kane County 4-Hers. It supports the entire 4-H program, with a por-

tion of the sale proceeds going to the 4-H Foundation. Perhaps best of all for successful bidder, buyers of "Blue Ribbon" livestock are invited to an annual "Buyer's Picnic" at the Lion's Park in Elburn - an end of the "show season" celebration



-Giving to Help Youth Grow- where they receive a delicious meal and a buyer's plaque with a photo of the exhibitor and his/her animal.

The Kane County Farm Bureau has always been a proud supporter of the Blue Ribbon Sale. This year the Farm Bureau placed the winning bid on four different animals (and helped drive the price, and therefore the

income of 4-Hers, on numerous others).

Besides supporting the 4-Hers and the 4-H Foundation, and a delicious free meal at Lion's Park, there are other benefits to participating in the sale as a buyer. All buyers are publically recognized through news releases and radio programs. A buyer recognition sign is prominently displayed on the fairgrounds for next year's fair, you get the satisfaction of supporting youth in experiential learning, and the thank you cards received from 4-Hers can be, well, priceless.

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Sale or to learn more ways to support 4-H or the 4-H Foundation, contact the 4-H Extension office at 630-584-6166.

# Visit MyIFB to manage membership

As part of an effort to enhance the membership experience, Illinois Farm Bureau has launched MyIFB, www.myifb.org

The MyIFB website makes it easier to join the Farm Bureau or manage your Kane County Farm Bureau membership. You can:

- Access member benefits
- Print your membership card

- Join, Renew or Reinstate your membership
- Manage your membership information
- And Much More!

The refresh to MyIFB replaces the former "Illinois Farm Bureau Member Center." If members created an account at the old site, their credentials will transfer so there is no need

to register again.

If you are new to the site, you will need your membership number to create an account. That information can be found on existing membership cards, dues renewal statements, or from Kane County Farm Bureau at member@kanecfb.com or 630-584-8660.

# Let's talk about milk, and hunger

We may not all know this, but hunger is the world's #1 health risk. Hunger is not just a "world" issue, it happens right here in America. 1 in 6 adults faces hunger and in children, the number is even higher, 1 in 5. These statistics are relevant in Illinois and even in Kane County. Our neighbors are hungry. Meanwhile, farm commodity prices, especially milk prices, have fallen dramatically.

While items donated to food banks, food pantries, and other organizations existing to help feed communities vary throughout the year, one of most infre-

quently donated - but highly available commodities, is milk. It is often overlooked as a dona-



tion, but is desperately needed.

Through Farm Bureau's "Harvest for ALL" program, the Northern Illinois Food Bank earmarks all cash donations from our members to their award winning "Milk2MyPlate" program.

The Food Bank program surpassed 5 million servings of milk in 2015, but in this time of historically low dairy prices, we'd like to do more; more to support local dairy farms, and more to provide hunger relief.

On Tuesday, September 18 the Kane County Farm Bureau will host a 7 pm meeting for interested parties, members, the local community, food bank and pantry representatives and others to discuss a programs or strategies to spur milk consumption and milk donations to local agencies. All those interested in reducing hunger and increasing

(continued on page 8)

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



The autumnal equinox falls on Saturday, September 22, 2018. That's the official beginning of fall in our area of the world. (It's the beginning of spring in Australia and other parts "down under".) At this time of year, the days and nights are pretty close in length, but as each day passes, the nights become longer.

Fall is full of fun festivals and times to be outside. Every weekend is full to the brim with outdoor activities sponsored by many local groups. Football and soccer games keep both players and spectators busy every weekend. Both these sports begin with the heat of summer and end in the crisp cool fall weather, bordering on winter cold.

Fall is a time of transition. The leaves on deciduous trees change colors and eventually fall off the branches, making raking a necessity for most yards. The weather also changes from hot to cool or even cold. The days get shorter and we once again find

pleasure in seeing a harvest moon in all its glory.

The harvest moon shines upon the farmers as they gather the soybean and field corn crops. The golden soybean fields are a stunning sight as I drive down the roads. The brownish corn also lines the country roads, announcing the time to run the combines through the fields.

Not only the farmers work hard in the fall, the average home owner also prepares for the winter. Gardens are harvested, crops canned or frozen, yards cleaned up and any doors or windows sealed for the winter. The last thing to be done is removal of deck or yard furniture, embracing those special last days of warmth.

Putting food away for the long winter is a fall project for many. Those tomato plants that I planted in the spring bear way too many tomatoes to eat, so I can salsa and stewed tomatoes. My kitchen is full of heat and steam,

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

but the "ping" of the sealed jars makes it all worth it, as well as the ready stock in my basement to use throughout the year.

Fall also means the beginning of the school year. The emotions the students have about the new year range from fear to excitement, usually depending upon if they are beginning a new school experience or one of joining their friends in a familiar setting. As a teacher for many years, I would always have a sleepless night prior to the first day of school. Why? Every year brought new students, a new

classroom dynamic, and curricular changes. After 20 years of teaching, I never conquered this night before trauma.

Fall means scarecrows here in St. Charles. The influx of anything to do with scarecrows happens prior to the popular Scarecrow Festival. It is a very festive time of the year. Such fun to visit Lincoln Park to see the creative ideas of various groups, especially the children. Usually I see children pointing out their creation to parents or grandparents with such joy on their faces. These children also seem drawn to the mechanical

area, where movement and sound bring the scarecrows to life. Yes, the crowds are awful at times, but a visit is well worth the effort.

Color: fall is full of color. The oranges of pumpkins, leaves, flowers. The yellows, reds, browns and dark greens displayed in everything from Indian corn to leaves. A drive through the country, walk in the park or kayaking down the Fox is a marvel of colors during fall.

So, goodbye summer, hello fall. May it be a season filled with beauty and enjoyment for you all.

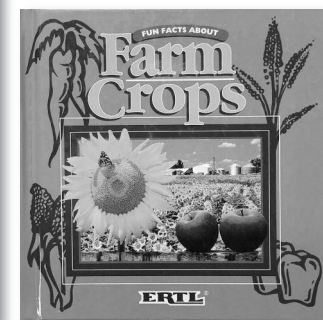
## Book of the month

Both of these books look at various plants that we eat. The question of "Where does my food come from?" is answered in a simple, yet informative manner.

*Fun Facts about Farm Crops* tells some interesting facts about a crop, as well as what part of the plant is used for food.

*How We Use Plants for Food* Describes the ways in which

human beings use plants as food, discussing cereals, vegetables, fruits, seeds, plant oils, herbs and spices, and sugar. It is more of a text book format, including a table of contents, glossary and index. It also includes



*How We Use Plants for Food* by Sally Morgan and *Fun Facts about Farm Crops* by Carol Benanti and Ray H. Miller

## Young Farmers tour Washington state farms

### FarmWeek & Staff reports

Young Farmers and Leaders from across Illinois, who recently toured the Ag industry in Washington state, say they're impressed by the crop diversity out west and have a new appreciation for water availability back home. Michael Long of Big Rock and David Marshall of Sugar Grove were among the group of 30 Farm Bureau members who participated.

Those on the trip toured Gebbers Farms (one of the top apple growers and cherry producers); Avila Dairy and its large rotary parlor; Wild Horse Wind and Solar, which features 149 turbines; Dry Fly Distillery where local grain creates vodka, gin and whiskey; the Grand Coulee Dam, which provides much of the water for irrigation; and local farms across Washington, among other stops.

Michael Long found one of the farms to be especially interesting, "At Gebbers Farm, we learned about how this family owned farm is fully integrated from start to finish. They grow the crops, clean, sort, package, and ship the apples and cherries all over the world on a very large scale."

They also met with

Washington state Farm Bureau members and staff, including President Mike LaPlant.

"I was blown away by this tour," said Krista Lottinville, who represents District 6 on the IFB State Young Leader Committee from Sheldon (Ford-Iroquois Farm Bureau). "It seemed almost every farmer we met out there raises five, six or seven crops and has livestock," she noted. "And there's a lot of vertical integration. They package and ship a lot of their own products overseas."

Matt Belusko, a Young Leader from Litchfield (Montgomery County) who serves as an Ag teacher at Ramsey High School in nearby Fayette County, was impressed by Washington farmers loading shipping containers on their farms with everything from produce to hay.

"It was definitely an eye-opener," he said. "When you get out there, the first thing that catches your eye is the scope of everything. Their operations seemed a lot larger and dependent on irrigation (compared to Illinois). "They also have a tremendous amount of crop diversity," he noted. "One coun-

(continued on page 6)



Michael Long and David Marshall, Kane County Young Farmers, pose on a farm in Washington State where they witnessed hill-side combines in action. They travelled to Washington state in July for the Young Farmers' Ag Industry Tour where they visited Gebber Farms, one of the top apple and cherry growers, Avila Dairy with a rotary parlor, Wild Horse Wind and Solar, Dry Fly Distillery, and Grand Coulee Dam.

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



- |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | <b>Bob Effner</b> , CLF®, LUTCF<br>St. Charles – Elgin<br>Agency Manager<br>St. Charles<br>630-584-0001 |  | <b>Bob Kearns</b><br>S. Elgin<br>847-888-3200     |  | <b>Sherri Schramer</b><br>Elburn<br>630-365-9500   |
|  | <b>Todd Wilcox</b><br>St. Charles<br>630-762-1326   |  | <b>Edward Stuehm</b><br>Geneva<br>630-845-8245    |  | <b>Dominick Davero</b><br>Elburn<br>630-365-3737   |
|  | <b>Bobbi Boston</b><br>St. Charles<br>630-485-5155  |  | <b>Michael O'Brien</b><br>Geneva<br>630-762-0852  |  | <b>Chuck Quick</b><br>Hampshire<br>847-683-2100    |
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|  | <b>Ashraf Geroges</b><br>Aurora<br>630-898-3750   |  | <b>Gary Bolger</b><br>West Dundee<br>847-531-6110 |   |  |



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that

"a diet of whole milk and potatoes would supply almost all of the food elements necessary for the maintenance of the human body."

## POTATOES

The potato itself is 99% fat free and yet is a nutrient dense food.

It is an important dietary staple in over 130 countries.

- Potatoes are the world's fourth-largest food crop,
- There are about 5,000 potato varieties worldwide.
- Raw potato is 79% water, 17% carbohydrates (88% of which is starch), 2% protein, contains negligible fat
- An 8 ounce baked or boiled potato has only about 100 calories.
- In 1974, an Englishman named Eric Jenkins grew 370 pounds of potatoes from one plant.
- Thomas Jefferson gets the credit for introducing "french fries" to America when he served them at a White House dinner.
- In October 1995, the potato became the first vegetable to be grown in space. NASA and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, created the technology with the goal of feeding astronauts on long space voyages, and eventually, feeding future space colonies.
- One of the main causes of the Great Famine in Ireland between 1845 and 1852 was a potato disease known as potato blight. The shortage of potatoes led to the death of around 1 million people who were dependent on them as a food source.
- The sweet potato is a root vegetable and only loosely related to the potato.
- After dairy products, potatoes are the second most consumed food in all of the United States.
- The average American eats just under 140 pounds of potatoes every year
- The world's largest potato weighed in at 18 pounds, 4 ounces, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. That's enough for 73 portions of medium fries at McDonald's.
- 1952: Mr. Potato Head was born and was the first toy to be advertised on TV
- Instant mashed potatoes were introduced commercially in 1955. Just add milk.

## How to select and store your potatoes

Select loose potatoes that are well formed, smooth, firm, with eyes, and no discoloration, cracks, bruises or soft spots. Red potatoes and some whites are sometimes treated with colored or clear wax to make them appear fresher than they are. Also avoid "green" potatoes. They have been exposed to light and have a bitter taste.

Potatoes are classified by

shape, skin color and use. The long brownish ones are good for a variety of uses but are best for baking. Rounded or long whites are preferred for boiling and baking, and the small red ones are ideal for boiling. "New" potatoes, the small ones that are dug early before the skins have set, are best boiled or steamed.

**Storing:** Do not wash your potato before storing. Washing

speeds decay. Potatoes can be safely stored in a dry, dark place for three months at 45 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Buy only a week's supply if you must store them at higher temperatures, which cause sprouting and shriveling. Do not store potatoes in the refrigerator. Below 40 degrees, potato starch turns to sugar, making the potato too sweet and also darkens potatoes during cooking.

## Potato experiment and craft

Sprout a potato in your own kitchen. Let your kids monitor the progress and learn more about how food grows. Try an organic and traditional potato simultaneously to see if there are any differences.

1. Stick 3-4 toothpicks into a sweet potato (they make for prettier plants).
2. Put the sweet potato into a glass jar. The toothpicks should hold the potato a few inches away from the bottom of the jar.
3. Add enough water to the



Sprouted potato (L) & potato stamp



jar so that the bottom of the potato sits fully in the water.

4. Place the jar on a sunny windowsill.

5. Check the jar every day, adding water to keep the bottom of the potato wet.

6. You will start to see sprouts forming on the bottom of the potato (roots beginning to emerge). In about a week, you will see small leaves growing from the top. Keep the water level the same in the jar, so the sweet potato bottom stays wet.

After 2-3 weeks, you will see several long vines with green leaves. You can continue watering your potato as usual in the jar or transplant

it into a pot with soil. Your sweet potato will continue growing into a green, leafy houseplant.

### Potato Stamps

Create a stamp cut from a potato. Experiment with different combinations of shapes and colors to make personalized wrapping paper (brown craft paper works well for this project).

1. Cut a potato in half lengthwise
2. Press a metal cookie cutter into the flesh of one half.
3. Remove a thick slice of potato from around the cutter and remove the cutter, leaving the shape behind.
4. Blot the potato shape surface with paper towel.
5. Press the shape into craft paint and stamp onto paper.

## Crockpot 'baked' potatoes

### Ingredients

- 4 medium russet potatoes
- aluminum foil
- Toppings (extra pts): light sour cream, fresh chives, bacon

bits, broccoli, cheese

### Directions

1. Wash and scrub potatoes until clean.
2. Dry thoroughly.
3. When dry, prick potatoes with a fork and wrap in aluminum

4. Cook on low for 8 hours or on high for 4.



## Potatoes

D C R M E X S Y J C G M M S S T D P J D BAKED  
 E A C Y T C H E E S Y E O C W E I A V R BOILED  
 M R J E F F E R S O N P A O L J N N P W CARBOHYDRATES  
 U B O W N E C A P S W L O I G U I C A H CHEESY  
 S O S A X I X G N M L F O T T M R A T M CONSUMED  
 N H O V F N E S B O H B O R A Q L K F V FAMINE  
 O Y E W X N P T P A A E I M Q S R E R E FAT  
 C D N J B U X E O O K E H J Z R S G V Q FRENCH  
 N R I F D K D I U R N E U K H F O I L F INSTANT  
 I A M P F N R T R T P M D T J E T Z U J IRELAND  
 J T A C X E V W S S K I N D F U N L B M JEFFERSON  
 S E F T L H J H C O K Z B T R Y A E O F MASHED  
 Y S F A C N P V E G E T A B L E T B A N NUTRIENTS  
 U M N N M A S H E D P R I R X C S T Y L PANCAKE  
 B D E P V S V W I N W O R M S L N T H N POLLINATED  
 R R D X J F P N W X F A T I S N I I E D POTASSIUM  
 F M Q V T F D V U K V B I A N V L K V N POTATO  
 R S X L L E M Z N E B P N P T N H T N G PROTEIN  
 S T A R C H A E W Z V S K V W O A G I W SCALLOPED  
 P O L L I N A T E D D A X P P W U Y W K SKIN  
 SPACE  
 SPUD  
 STARCH  
 VEGETABLE

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by September 15, 2018 to be entered in our drawing for a potato themed prize.

## A little potato humor for your eyes

- Q: Why was the potato such a bully?  
 A: Because it wasn't a sweet potato.  
 Q: What do you get when it rains potatoes?  
 A: Spuddles.  
 Q: Why are potatoes so popular?  
 A: They are a-peeling.  
 Q: What do you name a potato that's been thinly sliced?  
 A: Chip.  
 Q: Why do potatoes make such good detectives?  
 A: Because they keep their eyes peeled.  
 Q: Why shouldn't you ever tell a secret on a farm?

- A: Because the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, and the beans stalk.  
 Q: Where were the first French Fries made?  
 A: In Greece.

## September is...

- National:**  
 Mushroom Month  
 Papaya Month  
 Potato Month  
 Rice Month  
 Italian Cheese Month  
 Blueberry Popsicle Month  
 Chicken Month  
 Courtesy Month  
 Honey Month  
 Self Improvement Month  
 Whole Grains Month  
 Better Breakfast Month

### Special Days:

- 9/2 National VJ Day  
 9/3 Labor Day  
 9/5 National Cheese Pizza Day  
 9/7 National Food Bank Day  
 9/9 National Grandparent's Day  
 9/18 Air Force Birthday  
 9/22 Autumnal Equinox  
 9/27 National Chocolate Milk Day  
 9/29 National Public Lands Day

## Congratulations

Vi Wahl, whose name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a Chocolate Chip Cookie themed-gift! Thank you, Vi, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

# 'PLUS' status – like a booster club for KCFB – with perks

As a Kane County Farm Bureau member, you are an integral part of our "farm bureau family." Your annual support, through your Farm Bureau dues, is important to the future of farms and food. On behalf of all those involved in the agricultural industry – from farm gate to dinner plate – we thank you for your membership.

But what if there was a way for you to SAVE more money, add more CONVENIENCE, and show greater SUPPORT for farms, food and agriculture? Now there is. We call it PLUS status, a membership upgrade. It's like joining the "Booster Club" of the KCFB (without having to work a shift in the concession stand)! This membership add-on is for those members who want to do more.

As a PLUS member, you will receive rewards or "Perks" including: 1 FREE tractor-shaped Pillow Pet® (retail value \$22-26); 1 FREE "31 Days of Christmas Raffle" ticket (retail value \$20); 1 FREE "2019 Winner's Choice Raffle" ticket (retail value \$15); and, a 10% discount on KCFB Country Store merchandise like farm

toys, apparel, accessories, books, etc. (excludes perishable foods, monthly specials) Both the "Winner's Choice" and the "31 Days" raffle tickets will be mailed to you automatically in advance of the respective raffles. And remember, Winner's Choice Raffle Tickets also double as FREE admission to Touch-a-Tractor! Pillow Pets, unfortunately, must be picked up in our office.

Whether you elevate to PLUS status or not, your membership is important to the Farm Bureau and what it can help us achieve – more profitable farms, more literate citizens, stronger communities and healthy food for all. You are a part of this and can support us even further by a PLUS upgrade.

To upgrade to PLUS status, please fill out and return the form below. A current KCFB membership and a \$25 payment is required. Checks can be made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau. For more information, or to pay with a credit card, call 630-584-8660 or visit us in person. Our office is located at Randall Rd. and Oak St., 2N710 Randall Rd, St. Charles.

## Kane County Farm Bureau PLUS Status Agreement

PLUS members will receive \*1 FREE Pillow Pet, 1 FREE ticket for the "31 Days of Christmas" Raffle, 1 FREE ticket for the 2019 Winner's Choice Raffle & a 10% discount on FB Country Store merchandise (excluding frozen & perishable foods).

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply for PLUS status in Kane County Farm Bureau.

This application is for the PLUS membership date beginning at my next Farm Bureau dues renewal period, beginning \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

CVC \_\_\_\_\_ KCFB Membership No.: 045- \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pillow Pet Size Preference:  Large  Small

Model (circle one):

Challenger Yellow Challenger Pink Oliver

Massey Ferguson Red Massey Ferguson Pink



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Growing To Serve You Better

# KCFB's presence at National Night Out

Photos, top to bottom:

KCFB staff & Young Farmers committee members helped kids learn about farm safety at the "National Night Out" at the Kane County Sheriff's office. Hundreds of families attended the event which featured armored vehicles, an antique firetruck, an ambulance, and a helicopter fly-in. Kids enjoyed collecting stickers from various vendors, free cotton candy, and other activities like a bouncy-house. Similar events were held in communities across the country to build relationships between community groups and the public and strengthen bonds with local law enforcement.

Michael Bohlin, Young Farmer member from Elburn, talks to a visitor on the display about proper safety when entering a grain bin. The Young Farmers built this portable safety display with assistance from AGCO Parts, Batavia, to be used for educating both farmers and the public on the potential dangers of grain bins and how to rescue someone caught inside.



Marisa Parse of St. Charles is shown here enjoying the view from a 1956 Massey-Harris 333

tractor (possibly one of the Grand Prize choices in our 2019 "Winner's Choice" Scholarship Raffle). Excited to be at the "National Night Out" with her father, Ross Parse, she couldn't resist an imaginary tractor drive.



Avid farm toy collector, Rodney Oxe of Batavia, stopped by the Kane County Farm Bureau with a donation of 8 highly collectible tractors of all sizes. Rodney has never owned a farm, but when he was little his great

grandfather farmed on what is now Fermilab. As a kid, he went out to the farm every chance he could and loved his time spent there and remembers it fondly. Thank you Rodney for your kindness and generosity! The collection has been added to the toys available in the Farm Bureau's Country Store. Sale of these and all Country Store items benefits the Scholarship and Agricultural Literacy programs of the not-for-profit KCFB FOUNDATION.



## YF WA tour

(continued from page 4)

ty we visited grows more than 150 different crops."

Washington, the Evergreen State, has nearly 36,000 farms and 14.7 million acres of farmland, about half of which is cropland (51 percent), with the other large portions in pasture (31 percent) and timber ground (14 percent).

Some portions of the state receive adequate precipitation, while areas on the eastern side of the state receive less than 10 inches of annual precipitation, Belusko noted. "If it wasn't for irrigation, a lot of places would be covered by sagebrush," he said.

But, with water a scarce resource in some areas of the Pacific Northwest, it's also quite valuable. Lottinville was surprised at the added production cost of irrigation. "I work for FBFM (Illinois Farm Business Farm Management) in Watseka, so I'm always thinking about costs and profit," she said. "Because water is such a scarce resource (in Washington), they have to pay water districts to get irrigation. Sometimes it's an extra \$100 an acre."

Washington state farmers are also nearly as dependent on trade as they are irrigation due to their location. "They have extreme concerns (about ongoing trade wars) and hope things get straightened out soon," Lottinville said.

Belusko and Lottinville both previously participated in the Young Leader Ag Industry Tour to Canada and highly recommend the annual tours. "I've

had wonderful opportunities through Young Leaders to see how others in agriculture are doing," Belusko said. "Young Leaders also provides great opportunities to meet new people around the state."

Both Long and David Marshall, who represented Kane

County Young Farmers on the tour, enjoyed each destination, learning about the climate and geographical differences that farmers in both states encounter, but use to their advantage to contribute to the vast number of food options available to domestic and global markets.



**FREE "Perks" for Members**  
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PILLOW PET**

**\$20 Value**

•••

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RAFFLE TICKET 2019**

**\$15 Value**

1956 Massey-Harris 333 Tractor  
4-cylinder, gasoline engine

•••

**31 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS  
RAFFLE TICKET 2018**

**\$20 Value**

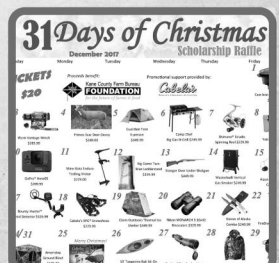
31 Days of Prizes from Cabela's,  
from \$150-\$500 per day.

•••

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COUNTRY STORE ITEMS**

Farm Toys, Apparel,  
Accessories & Much More

## "The Perks"



# State Rep. Skillicorn tours local farms

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 Kane County and McHenry County Farm Bureaus converged to give 66th District State Representative Allen Skillicorn and district director, Julie Schmidt, farm tours in both counties as well as a visit to Conserv FS's Marengo farm supply and service location. The tour came about because Skillicorn expressed an interest in visiting local farms during KCFB's March "Lunches to Legislators" program.

The goal of the tour was to familiarize Representative Skillicorn with local farmers and provide a better understanding of legislative issues that affect them. The first stop of the tour was Luck-E Holsteins in Hampshire, a family owned dairy.

Upon arrival, Skillicorn and Schmidt were given a brief history of the Engel Dairy Farm, dating back to 1968 when Dennis and Beth Engel began their dairy business. Now run by their sons Joe and Matt, Luck-E Holsteins is not just a dairy farm providing milk. The brothers also focus on genetics and breeding. Diversification is the key to their success and longevity in the industry.

After "suiting up" with plastic booties to prevent any foreign matter from being transferred from the bottoms of shoes to the dairy barns, the group was ready to explore the milking barn. Joe and Matt introduced the group to

Luck-E McGucci Afro, one their top red Holstein cows.

While Joe talked about their operation, Matt demonstrated how each cow is milked, which starts and ends with the udders being disinfected, the milking machine is then attached, and the group watched as the large milk bucket began to fill, all while the cow stood comfortably in place. Not having grown up on a farm, Skillicorn was very interested in the entire process. Schmidt, originally from a small town south of Green Bay, WI, loved growing up near farms where she could visit and help out, admitting though that she hasn't milked a cow in ages!

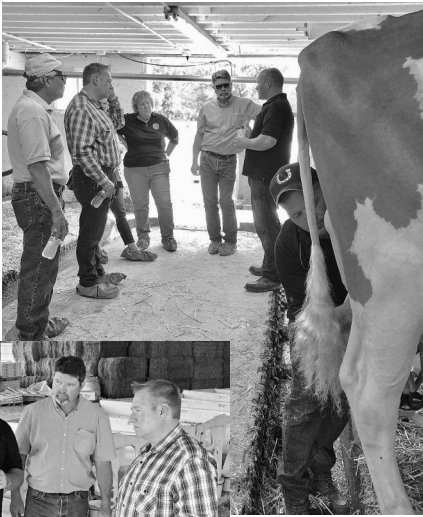
Exiting the dairy barn, the group headed towards the calf barn where discussions deepened into the current state of the dairy industry in the U.S. and specifically in Kane County, Illinois. Currently there are 680 licensed dairy herds in Illinois, 3 of them being in Kane County. This number has been drastically reduced since the 1950's, when there were nearly 925,000 milk cows across the state. Now each dairy averages 187 cows with Engel's operation totaling 160 cows.

Because milk is highly perishable and the transit time from farm to the dairy case in your local grocery store is only 48 hours, Skillicorn and Schmidt asked what more could be done locally

to ensure the dairies remaining in Kane County stay in business, amidst these tough economic times. Joe's suggestion, in order to prevent a domino effect of dairies going out of business, which affects the suppliers and vendors dependent upon their business, is to set-up micro-processing and pasteurization plants near the dairies. Consumers want to buy local, give them local.

Lunch was next on the agenda and then the group was off to Cody's Farm and Orchard in Marengo. A family farm that provides fruit and vegetables on-site as well as through roadside stand and farmers markets, Cody's is expanding its apple orchard and constantly adding new options for family outings, like u-pick strawberries, apples and pumpkins, a corn maze and a live nativity at Christmas time.

The last stop of the tour was the Marengo location of Conserv FS. Conserv FS was incorporated in 1928 as an agricultural cooperative and is owned by its customers. This stop allow Representative Skillicorn to see an innovative, diversified agricultural cooperative and better understand the needs and the importance of those local businesses serving farmers.



Photos, top to bottom:

Inside the milking barn, the group listens to Joe Engel, upper right, speak about the farm, while Matt Engel, pictured at lower right, attaches a milking machine. From L to R: Joe White, KCFB President; State Representative Allen Skillicorn; Julie Schmidt; Steve Arnold, KCFB Manager; Joe Engel; and Matt Engel, Co-operators of Luck-E Holsteins.

Dennis Engel, pictured at left and founder of Luck-E Holsteins, Hampshire, back in the late 60's, compares the current dairy industry to the past, speaking from experience to Joe Engel, his son, Steve Arnold and Representative Skillicorn.

*N. Illinois Farm Bureaus Group Travel destinations:*

**Chicago Cubs Spring Training, Mesa AZ**  
(March 6-10, 2019) • DEADLINE December 1, 2018

**Tournament of Roses** (Dec. 30, 2018-Jan 4, 2019)

**Hawaiian Islands & cruise to Vancouver**  
(April 17-29, 2019)

**For costs and a detailed itinerary, contact Liz at the KCFB, 630-584-8660**

**Also in the works for 2019:**  
California Wine Country & Lake Tahoe, (September, 2019)  
Pacific Coast Journey, (June 22-30, 2019)

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

### Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Andy Johnson, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for July 2018. Andy began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2012 and services clients out of his office located at: 1921 Wilson Street, 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!

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

DONNA TONOVITZ has

been named the Financial Representative of the Month for July 2018 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Donna has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of her clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Donna's expertise help you! You may reach Donna at 630-549-7694, donna.tonovitz@countryfinancial.com, or https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/donna.tonovitz/. Congratulations, Donna!

## 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



Felipe Rocha

August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### SERVICES

Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. - Tree removal, tree trimming, &

stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured - Free Estimates - Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730

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Help wanted - Heavy equipment and truck mechanic. Elburn area. Call: 630-232-6223

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### FOR SALE

McCormick Farmall H Tractor. 1940's with hay mower included. Barn stored but needs restoration. \$850 or best offer - Plato Township. Call: 847-464-5783

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# Robotic milking system 'spotted' during Summer Ag Institute II

By Jessica Bowgren & Marty Keltner

As a summer intern at the Kane County Farm Bureau, one of my responsibilities included helping our AITC (Ag-in-the-Classroom) coordinator, Suzi Myers, prepare for Summer Ag Institute I and II. A lot of planning and coordinating went into each institute and specifically, each farm visit. During Summer Ag Institute II, I was fortunate enough to attend one of these such visits, a local dairy farm in St. Charles. Not far from the Kane County Farm Bureau office, the Lenkaitis Holstein

Farm is located and has been operating since 1983, enjoyed by three generations. Currently managed by Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis, the farm has 130 Registered Holstein cows.

In April of 2017, the Lenkaitis' broke ground on a new facility to incorporate robotic milking machines into their dairy farm. The barn has a varying number of cows in it (currently around 65 with growth potential to 110) and all cows are milked by just two robotic milking machines. Each robot self-cleans twice a day; at 3am and 3pm. The robot also connects with an app on the Lenkaitis' phones. This allows Andy or Sarah to track the cows as well as receive alerts regarding any maintenance the machines might need.

Each robotic milking machine not only tracks itself, but it also tracks each cow using technology attached to a collar she wears, in the form of an RFID sensor. Each cow must be "detected" to determine if she is eligible to be milked. "Think of the collar like you'd think of a Fitbit on a human, it tracks each cow's activities similarly to how our activities are tracked," said Sarah. The collar tracks the cow's resting and motion activity, how much and when she has

been milked, and how much feed she consumes. It then compiles all of the data into a program that can be easily viewed on a computer.



Jessica Bowgren

The process begins with the cow entering the robotic milking area. Next, the collar's technology decides, based on how many days she has been milking, the amount of milk she gives and the time she milked last, whether she needs to be milked or not. After she is or isn't milked, she enters a sort gate where the sensor's technology then decides where she exits. The gate can swing three ways once she is out of the milking area - to a resting area by herself if she needs any special attention from the Lenkaitis', back to the general population area, or back to the milk holding area.

The robotic milking machines are not the only device in the barn that is technologically advanced. A "feed pushing" machine, best compared to a Roomba, moves multiple times a day to push the cows' feed into the bunk by following RFID markers that have been placed in the floor. With the exception of occasionally moving away from the markers, the machine works on its own to push the feed towards the cows so they can

continue to eat.

Since constructing the barn, Andy and Sarah have added on a viewing room to watch the cows get milked. In the future,

they hope to provide tours for private groups, and eventually, the public so the community can experience life on a modern dairy farm.



Shown here is the screen attached to each robotic milking machine showing the various data being collected about the cow currently in the machine, including the amount of milk being collected. The machine is fully automated, but can also be manually operated.

## Big Rock Plowing Match September 14-16

The 124th Big Rock Plowing Match will feature all the traditional events you look forward to as well as several new events. Plowman's Park is the place to be on Friday, September 14 through Sunday, September 16. Visit [www.bigrockplowing-match.com](http://www.bigrockplowing-match.com) for a full schedule of all the events; premium lists for the Junior Fair, Ladies Fair and Vegetable & Grain show; peruse previous issues of The Plowing Match Times; and countdown to our unique historical tribute to our agricultural heritage.

Experience the farming scene on Saturday and Sunday. Drawing for lands will be at 9 am with plowing to begin at 9:30 am and trophy presentation at 4 pm on both days.

New events this year include a bags tournament from 1-4 pm on Sunday, Wooden Rockers on Friday from 6-9:30 pm and the Big Rock Fire Department and Plowing

Match Association are co-sponsoring a beer tent on Friday from 5-10 pm as well as, Saturday and Sunday from noon-close. Returning event, "olde" time baseball will be held Friday night at 7 pm, see website for further details.

Other not-to-miss events during the weekend include the community petting zoo with farm animals, provided by local farmers; FFA & 4-H member education exhibit, horse shoe pit, and baked goods auction, featuring prize-winning cookies, candy, cakes, pies, and special mini-quilts depicting the event. The auction is a win/win, buyers go home with awesome goodies and a tax deduction and the Association receives funds to support their work.



## Milk & hunger

(continued from page 3)

awareness of milk consumption and healthy eating are invited to attend.

Attendees will be asked to work together to address local hunger awareness and relief and recommend to the Farm Bureau how milk can be donated, and

the manner in which to approach its acquisition and channels of distribution.

Please RSVP by calling 630-584-8660 or emailing [steve@kanecfb.com](mailto:steve@kanecfb.com). The meeting will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau, located at 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174. (Randall @ Oak) Light refreshments will be served.

## Innovation

(continued from page 1)

egories are encouraged to apply:

- Ag technologies, Agritourism, CSAs, farmers' markets, food stands and food hubs;
- Farms, ranches, greenhouses, managed forests, aquaponics, cut flowers, herbs, honey and landscape plants;
- Farm-to-table businesses;
- Support services including scouting, equipment repair and fertilizer sales;
- Value-added processing including yogurts, cheese and processed meats; and

- Wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries.

Entrepreneurs must be Farm Bureau members to compete. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members have until Nov. 5 to join. Visit [fb.org/join](http://fb.org/join) to learn about becoming a member. Detailed eligibility guidelines, the competition timeline and profiles of past Challenge winners are available at <http://fb.org/aginovationchallenge>.

Startup funds for the 2019 Ag Innovation Challenge are provided by sponsors Farm Credit, John Deere and Farm Bureau Bank.

## The MUMS are back! Fall harvest decor arrives in Oct.

Back by popular demand - beautiful fall colors of mums and other harvest season decor! With fall right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about decorating your home or business. Our Fall Harvest and Decoration Sale fundraiser with, all proceeds to benefit Ag Literacy and Scholarship programs of the KCFB FOUNDATION, starts NOW, with "pre-sale" orders.

Choose from straw bales, corn shocks, garden mums, indian corn, small gourds, and all sizes of pumpkins! For your convenience, you can pre-order items a la carte, or choose a townhouse, cottage or homestead package. Décor will start to arrive October 5 and will be displayed on our parkway

near the entrance to Kane County Farm Bureau and Costco. Stop by Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00, or use the convenient drop-box after hours and on weekends.

To place your order, return the pre-order form at left. For more info, call 630-584-8660. Visa/MC or Discover accepted.



Pre-sale orders being taken NOW!

## Fall Harvest & Halloween Decorations

Sales benefit the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION



### Pre-order, by the piece

	Number	Total \$
Straw bales (full bale)	each \$7.00	_____
carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.)	each \$ 5.00	_____
pie pumpkins (soft ball sized)	each \$ 2.	_____
assorted small gourds/mini pumpkins (3-6 in.)	ea.\$ 1.25	_____
indian corn (tied in 3's)	each \$ 4.00	_____
mums (assorted colors) 9" pot	each \$ 7.00	_____
	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	_____

### or by the package

	corn shocks	straw bales	carving pumpkins	gourds/mini's	pie pumpkins	indian corn	mums 5-6"	
<b>\$30, the townhouse</b>	1	0	2	4	1	1	1	_____
<b>\$60, the cottage</b>	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	_____
<b>\$90, the homestead</b>	3	2	4	8	4	3	4	_____
								<b>TOTAL \$</b> _____
								<b>GRAND TOTAL \$</b> _____

Return with payment to KCFB Foundation, 2N710 Randall Rd., St Charles, IL 60174.

Cash, check, VISA/MC accepted. Non-members add 10% to total.

Pre-order deadline is Friday, September 22.

Pick-up at the Kane County Farm Bureau any time after October 5th. M-F, 9:00 -4:00.

A la carte sales will also be available without pre-order-only while supplies last.

All proceeds benefit Ag Literacy and Scholarship programs of the KCFB FOUNDATION.

Don't forget to order straw for fall garden mulching - for more info, call 630 584-8660.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_