

# 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. 85 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Pollinator/Rain Garden recognized by TCF

Kane County Farm Bureau's Pollinator/Rain Garden was recognized recently by The Conservation Foundation (TCF) with Conservation@Work signage. TCF's Conservation@Home is a homeowner education and watershed protection program that encourages and recognizes property owners that protect and/or create yards that are environmentally friendly and conserve water. The companion program recognizes workplaces. This includes planting native vegetation, such as prairie and woodland wildflowers, trees and shrubs, creating butterfly and rain gardens, and removing exotic species of plants.

TCF's Dan Lobbes, Director of Land Preservation & Kane County TCF Director, erected the sign prior to the August meeting of the Board of

Directors on August 13. Lobbes was one of over two dozen volunteers who turned out on July 19 to plant the garden, a joint project of the Farm Bureau and the Kane County Environmental and Water Resources Division. In addition to its aesthetic and environmental benefits, the dual purpose (rain/pollinator) garden was constructed to remind farmers of their opportunity to install water quality benefits, in lieu of detention, to meet stormwater management requirements for many on-farm development projects.

The Conservation Foundation is one of the region's largest and oldest private conservation organizations, working in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties to preserve and restore nature. For more information, visit the [conservationfoundation.org](http://conservationfoundation.org).



KCFB Directors gathered with Dan Lobbes from The Conservation Foundation before their August 13 meeting for presentation of a "Conservation@Work" sign for the pollinator rain garden. Gathered are (L-R) Bill Collins, Karl Kettelkamp, Joe White, Wayne Gehrke, Lobbes, Joe Engel, Chris Collins, Dale Pitstick, Mike Kenyon, Craig Bradley, Bill Keck, Wayne Schneider and Beth Engel. The sign reads, "CONSERVATION@WORK - this property is recognized for its environmentally friendly and sustainable landscape. Native plants, combined with other water conservation practices, reduce stormwater runoff and lower maintenance costs, as well as improve habitat for wildlife."

## Will 2021 be a two-fer?

The grand prize winner in the 2020 Vintage Truck Raffle has chosen the cash alternative, which begs the question - what will become of the KCFB Foundation's 1969 C-10 Chevy pick-up?



That is a question that can only be answered by the Foundation's Board of Directors, who will meet to take up that and other business later in September. Three options come immediately to mind. The first is an outright sale of the classic Chevy. If that option is chosen, the prescribed method would be a "Dutch Auction," where a starting price would be advertised and published, then dropped by, say \$100 each week, until a buyer comes forward with the cash. As opposed to a negotiated sale, it gives all

interested parties an opportunity to buy - and eliminates the chance of favoritism.

A second option to be considered is to simply keep the C-10 as the Grand Prize for 2021. Easy, peazy, lemon-squeezy, as some would say.

And a third, purchase a second vintage truck, and make the 2021 Vintage Truck Raffle a "winner's choice" between the two potential Grand Prizes. Chevy vs Ford?

Chevy vs Dodge? Chevy vs ??? So will 2021 be a two-fer? Watch you October *Kane County Farmer* to find out!

Regardless of the direction the KCFB Foundation chooses for the 2021 fundraiser, it extends its thanks to all who purchased 2020 raffle tickets. The raffle supports KCFB Foundation college scholarships and KCFB Ag-in-the-Classroom programs.

## Leading small business organizations urge NO vote on Illinois Progressive Tax Amendment

Recently, in an unprecedented coalition effort, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Farm Bureau, National Federation of Independent Business - Illinois, and Technology and Manufacturing Association joined together to urge Illinois voters to vote no on the Progressive Tax Constitutional Amendment.

Leaders of the coalition held simultaneous press conferences at four locations throughout Illinois among the very people this tax would hurt most: small businesses, farmers, manufacturers, and workers.

Their message was heard loud and clear: Illinoisans are already overtaxed. Families, workers, seniors, and small business owners struggle under the weight of the highest overall tax burden in the entire country, yet politicians in Springfield are

trying to hike taxes again. The progressive tax will do nothing to address our sky high property

**Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Farm Bureau, National Federation of Independent Business-Illinois, and Technology and Manufacturing Association unite to urge voters to vote NO on Illinois' latest attempted tax hike**

taxes; will cost jobs, slow wage growth, and hurt Illinois workers; and will end up raising taxes on the middle class and the working poor. Illinoisans can't afford another tax hike, especially as working families and small businesses struggle to recover from COVID-19.

Illinois Chamber of Commerce President Todd Maisch said, "The progressive tax increase is the same thing as

leaving a huge bag of taxpayers' cash at the back door of the statehouse and city hall. None of the money is dedicated to property tax relief, increased funding of education, public safety or pension debt relief. Politicians arrogantly demand that hard-working taxpayers trust them to spend the money wisely. We don't."

Illinois Farm Bureau president, Richard Guebert, Jr. remarked, "What this new progressive tax will actually do is take us down the same route that these proposals have gone in other states. To cover all of Springfield's spending and debt, the tax brackets and rates will have to be changed to raise taxes on the middle class and even the working poor, with higher rates starting at incomes as low as \$25,000 per year. So

(continued on page 8)



## Fall harvest decor arrives in October

Back by popular demand - beautiful fall colors of mums and other décor! With fall right around the corner, it's time to think about decorating your home or business with fall harvest décor from the Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION.

This yearly fundraiser, with all proceeds benefitting Ag Literacy and scholarship programs, is sure to be your one-stop-shop for fall décor. Choose from straw bales, corn shocks, garden mums, Indian corn,

small gourds, and all sizes of pumpkins! We have it all and expect décor to arrive the first weekend in October. It will be displayed on our lawn and on the parking lot area directly in front of Costco.

For details, see page 8.

Follow us on Facebook for updates or call (630) 584-8660 with any questions.



**KCFB CALENDAR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020**

7 Labor Day, KCFB office closed

10 Board of Directors, 7:00pm

17 Kane County Ag Cmte., 10 am, County Bldg.

(All meetings/events are at KCFB unless otherwise indicated)

# iPhone app, IFB membership benefit platform alert members to benefits

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. 045-999999).
- 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.

## Download, Sign up, and SAVE!



Scan this Code  
On your Apple Device

OR  
head over to  
<https://ilfb.abenity.com>



- Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your Kane County Farm Bureau membership number, WITH NO LETTER(S) at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>
- Search offers using business names, locations, categories, and more
- Change your location to see deals near you
- Use our app to show and save mobile coupons
- Provides instant, in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers



# Save time and 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](http://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.



Illinois Farm Bureau management trainee and recent Illinois State University graduate Blake Hartman of Ottawa spent two weeks in Kane County recently shadowing KCFB Manager Steve Arnold. Following 7-8 days of video-conferencing, meeting preparation, report reviews and other associated office responsibilities, Hartman got a chance to explore the "other duties as assigned" portion of just about everyone's job description by helping to clean and prep the 13' corn carving on the Farm Bureau front lawn for a new coat of sealant. Arnold reported that it was a pleasure having Hartman in the office and that the IFB's pipeline for recruitment and training remains strong through the recent pandemic.

# GET OUT THE VOTE

## FARM VOTE 2020

VOTE EARLY STARTING SEPTEMBER 24  
ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3



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.

# Farm toy of the month

If your little ones are gearing up for harvest time, they'll need a good combine to get the job done. The John Deere 7720 Titan II is a work horse. This pint-sized, 1/64th scale Ertl version faithfully replicates the 26 foot long, 20,000 pound

machine and comes with three grain headers.

Regular price is \$20.99, but Farm Bureau members get a 10% discount in September. Stop by to pick up your kid-sized combine and tell us your favorite harvest story.



Welcome fall with color and fun!

See page 8 to order mums, pumpkins and more

## KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2020 THRU DECEMBER 2020

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

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

## Kane County Farmer KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday

(USPS No. 289700)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kane County Farmer  
2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174

Periodical Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174  
Year Subscription: \$2.00

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# IFB Resolutions Committee meets

Since the pandemic hit, agriculture has been turned upside down, in-person meetings have been limited and public policy issues continue to evolve. With that in mind, the Illinois Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee (RC) met in person at the IFB office in Bloomington on August 12. They did not break into three subcommittees as is typical, but met as a committee of the whole.

Proposals approved by the Committee for consideration by the full body of farmer-delegates in December included:

- A Cook County Farm Bureau proposal to prohibit state legislators from concur-

rently serving as an elected official and a paid lobbyist.

- A LaSalle County Farm Bureau proposal to support a crop insurance program that more closely matches the Risk Management Agency (RMA) moisture shrink, test weight, and kernel damage discount schedules to actual grain industry discount schedules.

- Similar proposals from Adams and Sangamon counties supporting the Environmental Protection Agency's policy that allows the expeditious use of existing stocks of pesticide products whose registrations have been amended, canceled, or suspended.

The Resolutions Committee will return November 4 to consider additional proposals from County Farm Bureaus and those held for additional discussion from the August meeting. The full body of farmer-delegates will consider policy resolutions in December in a yet to be determined format, possibly from more than a dozen remote locations across the state due to COVID related restrictions.

(L-R) IFB President Richard Guebert, Kankakee County Farm Bureau President Keith Mussman and Kane County Farm Bureau President Joe White were among the members of the IFB Resolutions Committee who met in Bloomington on August 12 to discuss proposed resolutions on public policy issues. It was one of the first in-person meetings of the organization in many months.



# KCFB recognized for hunger relief efforts in Circle of Hope Society

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) thanked Kane County Farm Bureau (KCFB) in a recent letter for its continued charitable giving in Fiscal Year 2020. That recognition, in turn, belongs to the scores of loyal members who support hunger relief efforts by the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, established in 1989 to advance research and education and support the local community.



KCFB will be recognized as a member of the Circle of Hope Society at the Planter level in the Northern Illinois Food Bank 2020 Annual Report. NIFB will also include Kane County Farm Bureau in a list of 2020 contributors on its Donor Wall display at the West Suburban Center in Geneva. In the past year, NIFB provided over 75 million meals to hungry neighbors through its network, surpassing records set in each of its previous years of operation.

Kane County Farm Bureau has a strong history of raising funds for hunger relief initiatives, both its own and those of NIFB and its partners. In 2009, they launched the local Harvest for ALL initiative as part of a

larger effort of County Farm Bureaus across the nation. In 2011, the American Society of Association Executives recognized KCFB with a Summit Award from for its impact on community and its contributions to society. Awards followed from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the West Suburban Philanthropy Network in 2013 for its Million Meal Challenge. In addition, KCFB's Young Farmers group led the state of Illinois for 15 consecutive years in fundraising dollars for local hunger relief.

In 2013 the KCFB Foundation also initiated Food>FORWARD to address hunger on a larger scale – feeding a growing world population expected to top 9 billion. As part of Food>FORWARD, KCFB Foundation raises funds for college scholarships and agricultural education in classrooms in order to attract and retain the brightest minds in agriculture-related programs of study and careers. Harvest for ALL continues as a legacy campaign and frames KCFB's ongoing efforts at local hunger relief.

In 2018, KCFB Foundation took aim at the nexus of hunger and a struggling dairy economy. Following on the heels of previous success, the Foundation launched a 10,000 Gallon Milk CHALLENGE and by the following June 2019 announced it had surpassed its goal of providing 10,000 gallons of milk to local food pantries in less than a year! And in 2020, the Foundation was one of only four entities in North America to receive a grant from the AGCO Agriculture Foundation for COVID related community hunger relief.

KCFB thanks all its donors who, over many years, have generously contributed their time and resources to Kane County Farm Bureau and its Foundation for the sake of producing food and feeding neighbors. This year as always, the KCFB Foundation channeled 100% of contributions made for the sake of hunger relief directly to local food pantries with no administrative cost.

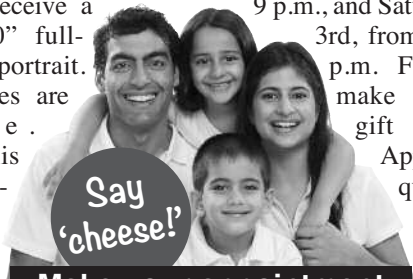
If you are interested in the inseparable relationship between farming and food, and in joining the efforts of Kane County Farm Bureau to address local hunger, please contact us at (630) 584-8660.

## Time to update your family portrait? KCFB offers FREE portrait to members

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 2nd, from 2 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, October 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Family photos make a wonderful gift or keepsake. Appointments fill quickly.



Say 'cheese!'  
Make your appointment and get a FREE 8x10.

Call KCFB at (630) 584-8660 to schedule.

## Defensive driving classes

The Kane County Farm Bureau typically schedules a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for October. The 8-hour course covers driving in various road and weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defensive driving methods. Many insurance companies

offer a discount on auto insurance to those ages 55 and older that qualify and attend all eight hours of the course.

Due to COVID the AARP has announced that it is suspending classes and will re-evaluate after January 1 2021. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Water testing in Oct.?

It is KCFB's hope to bring back the well water testing program this fall, tentatively in October. Unfortunately, the third party lab used this past spring has suffered setbacks due to equipment failure. Resources during the pandemic for repair were a major challenge for the lab. We are aware that some members' spring water test

requests were not fulfilled, however, the spring samples are stabilized and the lab intends to process the remaining water samples as soon as their equipment is up and running. Please contact our office with any questions you have in the meantime. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

## Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the FOUNDATION. These contributions help in the areas of to community service, education, scholarship and hunger relief programs. Names shown are contributions received from July 17-August 16, 2020.



Beulah Swanson Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship – KCFB Foundation

Donor	Beneficiary
*Vicki Sue Kloehn	Northern Illinois Food Bank – Milk2MyPlate
*Scott A. Curts	Northern Illinois Food Bank – Milk2MyPlate
*G. Peter Stare	Northern Illinois Food Bank – Milk2MyPlate



\*Eligible Harvest for ALL "match" contributions for hunger relief

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Make checks payable to KCFB Foundation OR please charge my donation to my:

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Milk2MyPlate "match"

Foundation Scholarships

Other (indicate below) \_\_\_\_\_

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St. Charles, IL 60174  
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## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator



### Virtual Field Trips: Tour a farm, learn about Ag – from the comfort of home

When 12-year-old Natalie Pratt of Grand Prairie Farms in Dixon came to her parents with an idea to start a lemonade stand with her brother, her parents pointed out a potential problem: they live on a rural road. “Think of something else,” they said. And thus, the kids’ popcorn business was born. Starting around age five, Natalie began growing popcorn. Their patch grows white hull-less, rainbow, and strawberry popcorn, which has a dark red color and is shaped somewhat like a strawberry.

“Meeting” Natalie and touring her farm is one of nine virtual field trips you can take across the state to learn about beef, dairy, corn, the Staley Museum and more without leaving the warm glow of your computer. All of these field trips are archived at [agintheclassroom.com](http://agintheclassroom.com); click on the yellow banner at the top for “Beyond the Barn Door” blog.

Natalie also has three cows that she shows for 4-H. She explains that “showing a cow” is like a dog show. The judges looking for overall health, good muscle tone, and cleanliness. On the rest of the farm, mom and dad grow seed corn, corn and soybeans. Corn produces corn syrup, oil, and starch that is used in over 4,000 products including shampoo, diapers,

toothpaste and even tires.

Fascinating fact: Their tractor has more lines of code to operate it than the space station.

**Dairy Farm.** Hayley Jackson, Iowa State University student and Midwest Dairy Association intern, led a dairy farm tour. Heifers graze all day; in winter they stay inside with a barrel of hay. Their feed consists of various grains and pellets high in protein and pasture part of the time. “You can tell a cow is happy and healthy when they are chewing their cud,” she says. They keep their cows until they’re about two years old, then they are moved to another farm for milking.

Her favorite thing? She likes having a hand in raising an animal, watching it grow from a small creature to a large one, and ensuring it has a healthy life. She makes sure they’re in a cool, clean environment with plenty of hay. Cows need a lot of water, especially when hot. Haley notes that it is hard to get them healthy again if they become dehydrated.

She knows consumers are concerned about antibiotics. She says if the cows are given an antibiotic, that milk is dumped and not used for human consumption.

There are many career opportunities related to dairy farming besides the obvious, such as veterinarian, seed salesperson, nutrient management, processing, equipment development, sales and repair, and tech-

nology. See [Midwestdairy.com](http://Midwestdairy.com) for more information.

**Beef.** Job number one on a beef cattle operation is to make sure cows are comfortable and not stressed, McKenzie Davison, Illinois Beef Association summer intern, says. Raising cattle is best on land where you can’t get a tractor, like wooded or hilly areas. Black Angus is the number one breed of cattle; it has good marbling and is easy to raise. Grass fed versus grain fed? McKenzie says it’s a matter of personal preference. Grass fed tends to be more expensive and some people like the taste better. Grain fed tends to have more fat and thus more flavor. Do you know which Illinois County has the most beef cows? It’s Jo Daviess County, in the northwest portion of the state. Find local beef directly from the producer at [IllinoisBeef.com](http://IllinoisBeef.com).

**Staley Museum.** When I heard the Staley Museum in Decatur was one of our field trips, I thought, the what museum? Who was Staley and what did he have to do with agriculture? For the uninitiated, the answer is: a lot. A.E. Staley was “a big guy with big dreams.” Born in 1867, he grew up on a farm in North Carolina but went into sales and manufacturing.

After missionaries who had been in Asia gave him some soybeans to grow, he joined forces with the University of Illinois School of Ag to introduce farmers to soybeans. To mitigate the risk, Staley offered to buy the beans from the farmers. He made them into animal feed (people didn’t tend to eat soybeans until WWII when there were shortages of other food and people were willing to try new things). They created a “soybean special” train that traveled around in the 1920s to educate farmers about soybeans.

A Gold Star to those of you who know that the Chicago Bears started their existence as the Decatur Staleys. Sports in that era grew out of “fellowship clubs,” a sort of intermural industry league, which were good ways to promote company names.

**Corn.** Alexa Vincent and Katie Smith are this summer’s Illinois Corn Growers Association interns and walked us through all things corn. Illinois is the top corn export state, in part due to the Illinois and Mississippi river systems, which provide more efficient and lower-cost transportation than trucks and railways.

There is a surplus of corn every year so producing ethanol

helps opens a new market for corn. When ethanol is added to gas, it reduces emissions such as carbon dioxide by up to 40%. A co-product from ethanol production is dry distillers grain, which can be added to livestock feed. Ethanol only uses the starch portion, leaving the protein and oil portions of the grain for food production.

Corn plastic can make all sorts of things that are made with petroleum-based plastics. Bioplastics are renewable and biodegradable. They are not yet as readily available as petroleum-based plastic, but research scientists say they soon will be.

After corn has been harvested, some farmers will opt to put in cover crops. Cover crops reduce wind and water erosion, improve water filtration, absorb excess moisture, control weeds, and can provide food for livestock and nutrients for pollinators. See [ILCorn.org](http://ILCorn.org) for more information.

A virtual field trip saves time and ensures physical distancing. But there are drawbacks. You can’t sample Natalie’s strawberry popcorn, Haley’s milk, cheese or ice cream, or take home a dozen sweet, crisp ears of corn. You’ll have to stick to your local farmers market for those things.

## Book of the month

Perfect to cuddle up with the little ones on a fall evening, *Hello, Harvest Moon* begins with, “The crops have been gathered. The pumpkins have been picked. The silos are filled to bursting with a million ears of corn. Tired farmers are fast asleep.”



The harvest moon rises over the autumn fields of corn and wheat, “staining earth and sky with a ghostly glow.” Sometimes the moon is so bright “you can read your favorite book without even turning on the lamp.” Birch trees shine as if they’ve been

dipped in moonlight, Luna moths perform their ballet, a spider builds her web, and milkweed pods crack open. The harvest moon paints the wings of owls and night hawks, speaks to the moonflower, urging the sweet white blossoms to unfold, although only the night creatures will see them. Geese

become restless for their flight south.

After its journey across the night sky, you might catch a glimpse of the moonset on the western horizon as you awake. Good night, Harvest Moon.

## Ask a Farmer

What do farmers do in January? Can they ever take a vacation? Do they grow all the food their families eat? What do those giant machines do? If you’ve ever had a question about farmers and farming, please submit your questions to [aic@kanecfb.com](mailto:aic@kanecfb.com) with the subject line “Farmer Questions” for our new “Ask a Farmer” feature! We will solicit and accept question from members and find local farmers to address them in upcoming issues of the *Kane County Farmer* and on social media. Don’t have a question? Get your kids involved!

Likewise, if you are a farmer who’d love to share your knowledge, please get in touch. What do you wish consumers knew about farming? We will be happy to share your stories, visit the farm to shoot some video, or use other print and electronic media to help make Kane County consumers and KCFB members informed about their food – who grows it and how it’s grown.



## Helping you protect what matters most



**Bob Effner** CLP®, LUTCF  
St. Charles/Elgin  
Agency Manager  
630-584-0001



**Edward Stuehm**  
Geneva  
630-845-8245



**Bob Riedel**  
West Dundee  
847-428-5434



**Todd Wilcox**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1326



**Deb Stob**  
Geneva  
630-208-0890



**Gary Bolger**  
West Dundee  
847-531-6110



**Bobbi Boston**  
St. Charles  
630-485-5155



**Michael O'Brien**  
Geneva  
630-762-0852



**Sherri Schramer**  
Elburn  
630-365-9500



**Keith Eakins**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1324



**Jeff Jones**  
Geneva  
847-989-9989



**Dominick Davero**  
Elburn  
630-365-3737



**Kelly Landorf**  
St. Charles  
630-762-1328



**Victor Alvarado**  
Elgin  
847-742-0003



**Chuck Quick**  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



**Donna Tonovitz**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7694



**Luke Fawkes**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**David Berreles**  
Hampshire  
847-683-2100



**Orazio Difruscolo**  
St. Charles  
630-549-7696



**Sherry Lochen**  
Elgin  
847-742-0001



**Dan Cooper**  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



**Ashraf Gerdes**  
Aurora  
630-898-3750



**Bob Kearns**  
S. Elgin  
847-888-3200



**Ted Schuster**  
Sugar Grove  
630-466-9600



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Amy Cook, Ag Literacy Coordinator

## Harvest



### Fun Facts about tractors

(From John Deere Big Book of Tractors, available at KCFB library)

Some of the jobs tractors do: Planting, baling hay, harvesting, clearing snow, moving firewood, crawling.

A tractor is made up of more than 17,000 different parts.

The biggest tractor fuel tanks can hold up to 300 gallons of fuel.

The first tractors had only a steering wheel on their dashboard. There was no ignition key to start the tractor – the farmer had to turn a crank on the front of the tractor or spin a wheel on the side to get the engine going.

Before there were tractors, horses pulled plows on farms. Sometimes many horses were hitched together to give a farmer more “horsepower” for big jobs. Today, engine power is still called horsepower, which means, for instance, that a 250 horsepower vehicle can pull as much as 250 horses.

Farmers use different kinds of tractors for different crops. Think about lettuce and apples. The same kind of tractor can't take care of these different kinds of crops. Some crops, such as lettuce, soybeans, peanuts and watermelons grow in rows called beds that are low to the ground. They can grow up to two feet tall. A Hi-Crop tractor's wheels fit in between the rows and its underside is higher so it doesn't crush the plants. There is a special tractor for orchards called a Narrow Crop Tractor or Orchard Tractor. It is much narrower than other farm tractors, but it still has the same amount of power.

**Tractor Trivia:** Do you know what a Johnny Popper is? It is the name that people called the first John Deere tractors because when they drove they made a pop-pop sound.

### Did you know?

The state fruit is the GoldRush Apple. The GoldRush Apple is a sweet-tart yellow apple that is a hybrid of Golden Delicious and a lab variety of apple. Scientists named it based on its golden bronze color and the “rush” of flavor you get from the first bite.

## Harvest Flavor and Fun with recipe and craft

### Peach Relish

This is delicious spooned over grilled chicken or pork – it's a summertime family fav.

4-6 Servings

2 pounds ripe peaches (about 6 medium) peeled, pitted, cut into thin wedges

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1 medium red bell pepper, diced

1/2 white or yellow onion, diced

2 teaspoons cumin

1/4 teaspoon cayenne

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup cider vinegar

2 tablespoons chopped cilantro (optional – people love it or hate it!)

Combine peaches and lemon juice in bowl. Sauté bell pepper and onion in medium saucepan until vegetables are tender crisp, about 6 minutes. Add cumin and cayenne pepper and stir for 1

minute. Add brown sugar and stir until dissolved. Add cider vinegar. Add peach mixture and accumulated juices to saucepan and cook until heated through. Transfer to bowl and cool completely. Mix in chopped cilantro if using.

### Apple Chain

Materials:

Two red paper plates

Colored construction paper

Tape

Yarn

Stapler

Hole punch

1. Cut one of each shape out of construction paper: seed, tree, blossom, bee, and little green apple. Punch a hole on each side of the items. The brown seed gets only one hole punch. (Patterns can be found at [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) under

“Teacher Resources” section called “Interest Approaches.”)

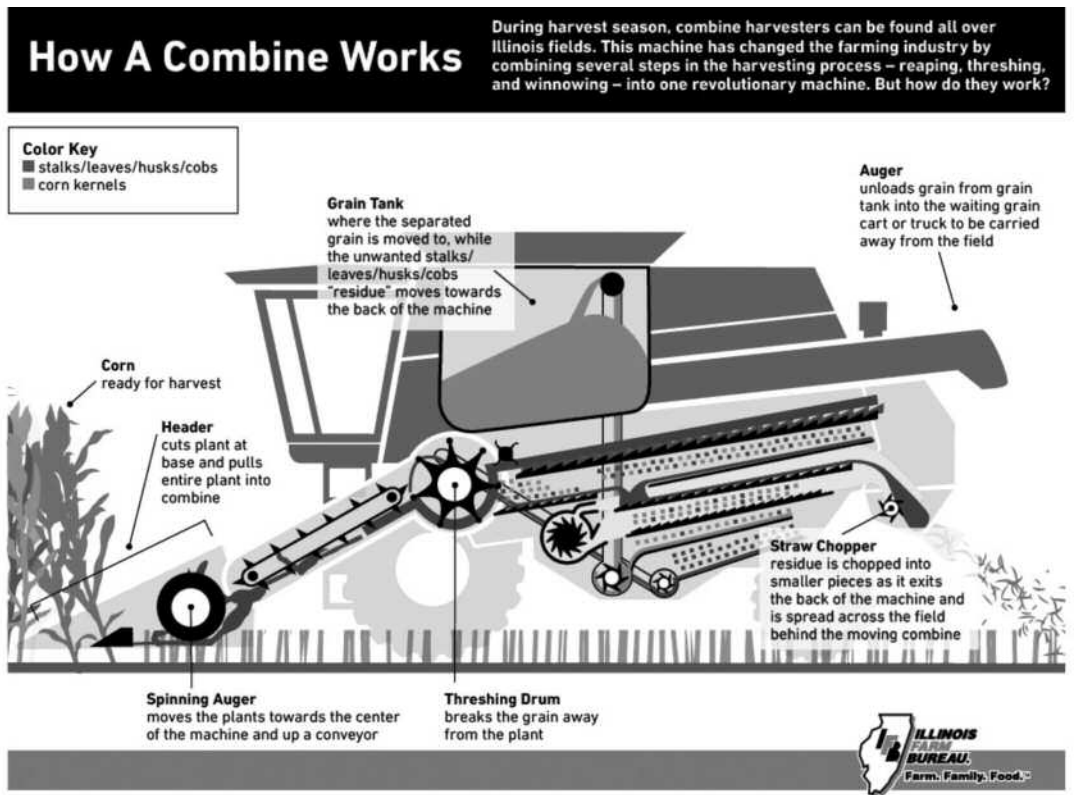
2. Flatten the two red plates and staple the edges together 2/3 of the way, leaving the other 1/3 open.

3. Tape one end of a piece of yarn to the inside of the stapled paper plates and extend the yarn out of the opening.

4. Add a stem and leaf to the red paper plates so they look like an apple.

5. Tie the little apple to the yarn coming out of the big apple. Tie the bee just below the little apple, the blossom below the bee, followed by the tree and the seed so that they form a chain.

6. Tuck the chain and shapes into the apple. Starting with the seed, pull shapes out of the apple and tell the story of how apples grow.



## Harvest time

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

- APPLE
- AUTUMN
- CONSERVATION
- CORN
- DRONE
- ENGINE
- FALL
- GOLDRUSH
- GRAIN
- HARVEST
- HORSEPOWER
- HUSK
- MECHANIC
- MOON
- ORCHARD
- PLOW
- PROCESS
- RESOURCE
- SAFETY
- SEPTEMBER
- SILAGE
- STRAW
- TRACTOR
- UPICK

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

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by September 15, 2020 to be entered in our drawing for a harvest themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office within 30 days.

As harvest kicks off in Kane County, we thought this would be the perfect time to see exactly how a key piece of harvesting equipment, the combine, works! Check out the graphic above or watch the video: <https://youtu.be/F93u851FdYk>.

### Jokes

What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?  
 Finding half a worm.

What's the first animal in space?  
 The cow that jumped over the moon.

What did you think about that new diner on the moon?  
 Food was good, but there wasn't much atmosphere!



### September ...

#### Month & Day holidays

- Chicken Month
- Better Breakfast Month
- Classical Music Month
- Honey Month
- Blueberry Popsicle Month
- 1 National Cherry Popover Day
- 2 International Bacon Day
- 5 Cheese Pizza Day
- 7 National Salami Day
- 12 Chocolate Milk Shake Day
- 13 National Peanut Day
- 14 National Cream-Filled Donut Day
- 17 National Apple Dumpling Day
- 18 National Cheeseburger Day
- 19 National Butterscotch Pudding Day
- 20 National Punch Day
- 24 National Cherries Jubilee Day

Very a-peeling jokes!

### Congratulations

**Cheryl Leutger** of Elburn is this month's word search winner. Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a corn themed prize bag to be picked up at the Farm Bureau with the next 30 days. (Prizes will not be mailed). Thank you, Cheryl, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.



**Harvest routine brings normalcy during pandemic**

I hold out hope that the upcoming harvest season delivers a 60-day dose of normalcy, seldom felt since COVID-19 changed our lives. The pandemic-friendly activity naturally isolates us to the cabs of trucks, tractors and combines. We drive all day yet stay within a 15-mile radius of home. And as usual, our social schedule works around the priority task of har-

vest, an easier feat this year now that COVID-19 has cleared the calendar.

The local agriculture festival is canceled. The kids' fall sports seasons are postponed. And the 7th grader and freshman in our household will start the school year 100% remotely, making high-speed internet and mobile hotspots a necessity. Remote will reach another level if the kids take their studies along during harvest with me on Snakeden Road, a middle-of-nowhere gravel road as winding as its name implies.

Similarly, harvest provides a time for schooling on the farm. In fact, this season may teach us more about the production impacts of planting decisions than the last several have. The crop struggled at its start in undesirably cool soil tempera-

tures, fitting of the mood of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time. The economic shutdowns combined with decisions about when to plant made this spring as stressful as the unprecedented planting season last year.

We need a mental reprieve, a feeling of normalcy, and objectives that we can see and achieve. Harvest season brings attainable goals we can check off field by field.

Farm families everywhere can relate to the long hours and natural isolation to gather the harvest. Together, we share satisfaction in productive harvest days and empathize with mechanical breakdowns that derail the task. We relish October sunsets and realize that a hot meal delivered to the field satisfies more than hunger. When it rains, the day fills with

maintenance jobs, bookwork, and overdue haircuts, assuming no further barber shop shutdowns.

Consistent with the encouraging messages of the pandemic, "We're in this harvest together." We felt that bond with fellow farm families far

before COVID made the phrase popular. Harvest makes it natural to do our part to help ensure normal returns.

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

**Harvest Terminology:**

**Harvest** – The season when ripened crops are gathered, a crop or yield of one growing season.

**Combine** – A machine designed to efficiently harvest a variety of grain crops, the name derives from its combining three separate harvesting operations – reaping, threshing, and winnowing – into a single process.

**Bushel** – A measurement of capacity or size pertaining to agriculture crops. One bushel of wheat is equal to 60 lbs., one bushel of soybeans is equal to 60 lbs., and one bushel of corn is equal to 56 lbs.

**Acre** – A unit of land area measuring 43,560 square feet. This unit of measurement is believed to originate from the amount of land one person could work in a single day with a yoke of oxen and a wooden plow.

**Yield** – The amount of a crop produced in each time or from a given place.

**Drying** – The phase of the post-harvest system where the harvested grain is rapidly dried until it reaches the optimal moisture level for storage.

**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**

**Brandon Ballard, Hampshire; Cynthia Scarpitti, Maple Park; Stephanie Shaffer, Montgomery; Jason West, South Barrington**

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

- Professional networking

opportunities & engagement with farmers

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

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

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

**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 annual membership dues.

All members may choose to upgrade their KCFB member-

ship 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.



**JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB**

**Kane County Farm Bureau PLUS Status Agreement**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Collected: \$25 cash check credit

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

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ KCFB Membership No: 045- \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Pillow Pet Selected: Large Small**  
 Challenger Yellow Challenger Pink Oliver  
 Massey Ferguson Red Massey Ferguson Pink

**Farmer's Markets**

**Aurora Farmer's Markets**

630 264-INFO(4636) • [www.aurorasfarmersmarket.com](http://www.aurorasfarmersmarket.com)  
 Water Street Square (65 Water Street, Aurora, 60505 – directly across from City Hall and the Water Street Mall)

**Batavia Farmer's Market**

North River Street (between Wilson & State)  
 Saturdays, June 2-Oct 27, 8am-Noon • 630-761-3528  
[www.downtownbatavia.com](http://www.downtownbatavia.com)

**Geneva French Market**

Metra Parking Lot NW corner of South St. & 4th St.  
 Sundays, April 27 - November 16, 9am-2pm  
[www.bensidoun-usa.com](http://www.bensidoun-usa.com) • 724-800-0102

**Elgin Farmer's Market**

Grove Ave, Between DuPage Crt & Fulton St  
 Fridays, June 1 - Oct. 5, 3pm-7pm  
[www.downtownelgin.com](http://www.downtownelgin.com)

**Old Dundee Farmers' Market**

East Dundee, Illinois • (847) 742-3432  
 319 N River St., East Dundee, Illinois 60118  
 May-October – Saturday, 7a.m. - 2p.m.)

**Dundee Depot & Farmers Market**

319 N. River St., East Dundee  
 Saturdays/Sundays, May 12 - October 27, 8am-2pm  
 847-426-4307 – [www.dundeedepot.com](http://www.dundeedepot.com)

**Huntley Farmers Market**

11704 Coral Street, Huntley  
<http://www.huntley.il.us> • (847) 515-5262  
 June, July, August, October – Saturday 8am - 1pm)

**St. Charles Farmer's Market**

630-584-6680 • [www.bakermemorialchurch.org](http://www.bakermemorialchurch.org)

**Outdoor Market**

Baker Memorial UMC, 4th Avenue & Route 64  
 Fridays, June 1 - October 26, 8am-1pm

**Sugar Grove Farmers Market**

Sugar Grove Village Hall, Rt. 30 & Municipal Drive  
 Saturdays, June 2 - September 29, 8am-12pm • 630-466-1014



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# 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.

## WANTED

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

As a Farm Bureau member family, you can receive a FREE 8"x 10" full-color family portrait. See page 3 for details

## FOR SALE

Vintage 1938 Allis Chalmers WC tractor – crank start, N.F., spoke rims on rubber, clean running condition. Great for collector. Can text or email pictures, for additional info or viewing: call. 708-821-7311

Guardian industrial drill press, BDM-58-5S – \$60, Plus heavy duty steel stand with switch and outlet sold separately – \$25. Craftsman vintage cast iron jointer planer 36 inch, includes motor and stand – \$120. (2) Bench top router tables, \$15 each. Makita drywall screw gun, corded, \$35. (2) under cabinet 24 inch fluorescent lights, each includes brand new spare bulb – \$20 each. Rooftop cargo bag, waterproof 15 cubic feet, 8 cinch straps with buckles – \$30. St. Charles. Call Kim (Cell): 630-945-4140.



Make your appointment and get a FREE 8x10.

## Autumn abounds at these farms and markets

### --- Farm Stands ---

#### Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch

42W813 Reinking Rd., Hampshire; Lloyd; 847-464-5952; emilyz@pumpkinfarms.com

#### Heritage Prairie Mkt & Edu. Ctr.,

2N308 Brundidge Rd., Elburn; Nate; 630-443-5989; hpmfarm.com

#### Klein's Farm & Garden Mkt.

Rt 20, Udina/1175 Lillian St., Elgin; Matt Klein; 847-683-9647; kleinsqualityproduce.com

#### Kuipers Family Farm

1N318 Watson Rd., Maple Park; Wade & Kim Kuipers; 815-827-5200; kuipersfamilyfarm.com

#### Prairie View Farm Market

48W130 Rt 72, Hampshire; 847-683-4970; Cheryl; prairieviewfarmmarket.com

#### Randy's Vegetables

I-90 at Randall Rd., Elgin/Sleepy Hollow; 847-428-5244; randysvegetables@aol.com

#### Stojan Vegetables

2N874 Howard Rd., Maple Park; Phil Stojan; 815-827-3265; stojans.vegetables@gmail.com

#### Theis Farm Market

6N953 County Line Rd., Maple Park; 815-757-1090; theisfarmmarket.com

#### Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse

10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley; 847-669-3421; tomsfarmmarket.com

#### Wiltse Farm Produce

50W379 Rt. 38, Maple Park; Joe Wiltse; 815-739-2573; wiltsefarm.com

#### Windy Acres Farm

37W446 Fabyan Parkway, Geneva; Amanda Srail; 630-232-6429; windyacresfarmstand.com



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# Raging Waves

## 45% savings at Illinois' largest outdoor water park!

Head on out for some fun in the sun (and water) this summer! Grab your family and friends and check out Aussie-themed Raging Waves, located just south of Kane County in Yorkville, it's also Illinois' largest outdoor water park! Enjoy summer with a visit to this family-friendly water park featuring 32 water slides, 3 separate kiddie pool area, wave pool, lazy river, 26 private cabanas and more.

New for 2020! Raging Waves welcomes the Aussie Mat Dash 6 lane racer, it is just 1 of 3 in the world!

Other attractions include: Quokka-Nut Island, a new interactive play area for the Lil mates (ages 2-5) including slides and zero-depth pool. Also home to



Wonambi – The only of its kind in the Midwest, a four person tube and a slide.

Tickets purchased this year

from KCFB will be available to be used for Raging Waves 2020 & 2021 season, advance reservation will be required for ALL guests prior to each visit! Stop by Kane County Farm Bureau to purchase individual discounted tickets for only \$19.00! Regularly priced tickets are \$34.99 (for over 42" tall) but with your Farm Bureau membership discount, you will save 45% off of the original price!

Learn more about the park updates for the 2020 season at <https://www.ragingwaves.com/2020updates>.

## Recruiter of the Month

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

2018. His office is located at 822 Centennial Dr., Hampshire and may be reached at: 847-683-2100. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



David Berreles

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

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

Jeff Jones has been named the Agent of the Month for July 2020 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Jeff 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 Jeff's expertise help you! You may reach Jeff at 847-989-9989, jeff.jones@countryfinancial.com or <https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/jeff.jones/>. Congratulations, Jeff!

### Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Andy Johnson, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial

Representative of the Month for July, 2020. 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!

## Entrepreneurs needed to rise to challenge \$145K in startup funds on the table

The Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition that showcases U.S. startups developing innovative solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Launched in 2015, The Challenge was the first national business competition of its kind focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs.

Now in their seventh year, the American Farm Bureau Federation in partnership with Farm Credit, are looking to identify the top entrepreneurs who are addressing both traditional challenges farmers face on their operation, such as access to labor, optimizing yield and reducing operating costs, to entrepreneurs who are addressing new challenges facing farmers and rural communities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Farm Bureau will award \$145,000 in startup funds to ten businesses, culminating at a live pitch competition and networking event at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2021 in San Diego, CA. The Farm Bureau Entrepreneurs of the Year will be awarded \$50,000 in startup funds provided by sponsors Bayer Crop Science, COUNTRY Financial, Farm Bureau Bank, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Farm Credit and John Deere.

### Prizes

Farm Bureau will award \$145,000 to ten businesses: • \$50,000 will be awarded to

the 2021 Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year

- \$20,000 will be awarded to the People's Choice Award winner (chosen by public vote)
- \$15,000 will be awarded to two finalist teams
- \$7,500 will be awarded to six semi-finalist teams

### Program

Farm Bureau and the Farm Credit Rural Investment and Innovation Workgroup will select ten startup businesses to compete at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2021 as Semi-Finalists. These ten busi-

nesses will be announced on October 5th and awarded \$7,500 each.

minutes to pitch their business to a panel of industry judges in front of an audience of Farm Bureau and industry leaders, and venture capital representatives from USDA Rural Business Investment Companies. In this round, teams can use a presentation to support their pitch and will receive feedback from the judges.

Four finalist teams will advance to compete on stage in the final, live-streamed competitive event in front of industry representatives, investors and Farm Bureau members. Each team will have three minutes to pitch their business to a panel of industry judges. The four finalist teams will compete to be the People's Choice Award winner (by public vote) for a total of \$20,000 and to be the 2021 Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year to win a total of \$50,000. The Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year and the People's Choice Award winner will be announced at AFBF Annual Convention Closing General Session on January 11th, 2021.

While attending the AFBF Annual Convention, the ten teams will have the opportunity to promote their businesses and network with industry leaders, venture capitalists, Rural Business Investment Companies, ag incubator program leaders, entrepreneurs and university researchers.



## FARM BUREAU INNOVATION CHALLENGE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FARM CREDIT



A new 6 foot banner along Randall Road notifies motorists of the change in the landscape with the planting of the pollinator/rain garden on the front lawn of the Farm Bureau. See story on page 1.

## FB supports local 4-Hers

The third Sunday in July is typically the Kane County Fair 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. Unfortunately with the cancellation of this year's fair, the scores of cattle, hogs and sheep, along with chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and rabbits will not generate income for local 4-Hers.

In addition to the opportunity for local 4-Hers to get in the show ring, exhibit their livestock and "learn by doing," the sale also allowed businesses, families, politicians and organizations to purchase quality animals which were raised and cared for by Kane County

4-Hers. With that opportunity foregone in 2020, the Board of Directors of the Kane County Farm Bureau decided to turn its entire Blue Ribbon Sale budget, \$2,500, into a contribution to benefit 4-H, to use to purchase trophies and plaques for 4-Hers, and to use the remainder as it sees fit.

"The Kane County Farm Bureau has always been a proud supporter of the Blue Ribbon Sale," said KCFB President Joe White of Elburn. "We are pleased to be able to continue to support 4-H programs in this manner in 2020."

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.

## Every Farmer Counts: National Farm Safety & Health Week

The 2018 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 574 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.4 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry.

For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

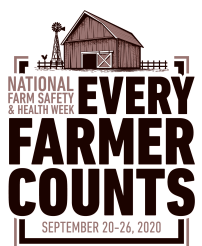
The theme for National Farm Safety and Health Week 2020 is "Every Farmer Counts". This theme is one that reminds us that it is in everyone's best interest to prioritize the health and safety of those who work so hard to provide our abundant supply of food, fiber and fuel.

Along with the theme for the week, the daily topics of focus are:

- Monday – Tractor Safety & Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday – Overall Farmer Health
- Wednesday – Safety & Health for Youth in Agriculture
- Thursday – Emergency Preparedness in Agriculture
- Friday – Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture

As we recognize National Farm Safety and Health Week this September, please join us in spreading awareness of the risks associated with working in agriculture and promoting safe and healthy practices through the harvest season and beyond. We welcome your collaboration and participation.

**ABOUT NECAS:** The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) is dedicated to preventing illnesses, injuries, and deaths among farmers and ranchers, agricultural and horticultural workers, their families and their employees. NECAS offers safety and rescue training programs for a variety of topics and provides webinars to increase awareness for agricultural safety. Information about NECAS is available at [www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org).



## NO vote

(continued from page 1)

while proponents claim the progressive tax would only tax 'the rich,' many of whom are local leaders like family farmers who are investing in their communities and creating jobs, the truth is that this amendment will open up every Illinoisan to tax increases."

National Federation of Independent Business Illinois Leadership Council Chair Cindy Neal commented, "Let us not forget that Illinoisans already pay the second highest property taxes in the nation, and these local taxes increase every single year. We pay three to four times the property taxes of our neighbors in Indiana and Wisconsin, and our taxes go up every year even though proper-

ty values are stagnant. This progressive taxes will do nothing to address our biggest problem in Illinois: our sky-high property tax burden. It simply piles additional taxes onto already overburdened Illinois taxpayers. All of these taxes have serious and real-life consequences for our families and small businesses, especially as we struggle to recover from COVID-19."

Technology and Manufacturing Association President Steve Rauschenberger noted, "The progressive tax will cost jobs, slow wage growth, and hurt Illinois workers when we're already facing the highest unemployment since the Great Depression due to the coronavirus. Our Illinois economy continues to lag our neighbors and the rest of the country because of high taxes. The progressive tax will further

hurt our economy, costing Illinois up to 286,000 jobs and \$43 billion in economic activity. This means fewer jobs for Illinois workers, slower wage growth and higher costs for families, and less opportunity for our children at a time when we can least afford it."

*About the vote no on the progressive tax coalition: Leading small business and pro-taxpayer organizations from throughout Illinois have formed a grassroots coalition to defeat the Progressive Tax Amendment because Illinoisans are overtaxed. Families, workers, seniors, and small businesses struggle under the weight of the highest overall tax burden in the entire country. Illinois' Progressive Tax Amendment proposal does nothing to address our sky-high property taxes, will cost jobs, slow wage growth, and hurt Illinois workers, with the result being a tax increase on the middle class and the working poor.*

### Progressive Income Tax fact sheet

- If approved, the individual progressive income tax rate on the highest earners could be increased to 7.99%, an increase in taxes of 60% from the current level.
- Illinois already has second highest property tax in the nation, highest sales tax rate in the Midwest, and highest wireless tax in the nation.
- Tax rates can easily be changed each legislative session on innumerable number of arbitrary set tax brackets.

#### The Constitutional Amendment question on the ballot will simply read:

**YES/NO** For the proposed amendment of Section 3 of Article IX of the Illinois Constitution.

A "yes" vote supports repealing the state's constitutional requirement that the state personal income tax be a flat rate and instead allow the state to enact legislation for a graduated income tax.

A "no" vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus continuing to require that the state personal income tax be a flat rate and prohibit a graduated income tax.

## Fall Harvest & Halloween Decorations

Bring bright fall color and fun to your yard with this assortment of live mums, pumpkins and more. All proceeds benefit Ag Literacy and Scholarship programs of the KCFB FOUNDATION.

### Pre-order, by the piece

	Number	Total \$
Straw bales (full bale), each \$8.00	_____	_____
Carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.), each \$6.00	_____	_____
Pie pumpkins (softball sized), each \$3.00	_____	_____
Ornamental/heirloom pumpkins, \$6.00 & up	_____	_____
Assorted small gourds/mini pumpkins (3-6 in.), 50¢ ea./2/\$1.00	_____	_____
Indian corn (tied in 3's), each \$5.00	_____	_____
Mums (assorted colors, 9" pot), each \$9.00	_____	_____
Corn Shocks, each \$8.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL \$</b>		_____

### or by the package

	corn shocks	straw bales	carving pumpkins	gourds/mini's	pie pumpkins	indian corn	mums 5-6"	
<b>\$35, the Townhouse</b>	1	0	2	4	1	1	1	_____
<b>\$71, the Cottage</b>	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	_____
<b>\$118, 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 25.

Pick-up at the Kane County Farm Bureau any time after October 2nd. 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SEPTEMBER FEATURED FOOD PRODUCT

## Bourbon Sirloin Steaks

This month KCFB is offering Bourbon Sirloin Steaks available in 4 pound boxes. These steaks are individually wrapped a quantity of 8, 8-ounce boneless, hand-trimmed, marinated bottom sirloin steaks, cut from top choice beef. They are great grilled and are also delicious served on a steak salad, warm or cold. Member price is \$37.00. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Offered while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd and Oak Street in St. Charles.