

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. 81 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

Kane Co. is finalist in \$500,000 'Food to Market Challenge'

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An innovative Kane County food hub project has been selected as one of five finalists in the Food to Market Challenge, a competition that awards the winner a cool \$500,000 to create a solution to boost the local, sustainable Chicago food system.

Kane County is joined in the nomination by New Venture Advisors LLC, Kane County's consultant and partner in the food hub project. New Venture Advisors is a business consulting team that specializes in the development of sustainable food systems and food businesses. The Kane County food hub project is one of more than 50 food system projects the firm has led across the country.

Kane County and NVA submitted an ambitious feasibility study to bring a food hub to Kane County, as part of the Growing for Kane program.

If launched in Kane County, a food hub will encourage more locally grown fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat to be produced in Kane County, a goal of the Growing for Kane program approved by the Kane County Board in 2013.

Kane County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen said County Board members have shown strong support for the food-hub plan.

"The County Board is excited about a food hub in Kane County because a food hub gets fresh foods to residents faster, creates more jobs and produces more farm income in the process," he said.

Mark VanKerkhoff, director of the Development and Community Services Department, said a local food hub will provide product to underserved markets and vulnerable populations in Kane County. Staff from the county's Development Department and Health Department completed a Health

"It gets fresh foods to residents faster, creates more jobs and farm income in the process and will provide product to underserved markets and vulnerable populations," he said.

Kane County Farm Bureau Manager Steve Arnold expressed his support and enthusiasm for the food-hub

with Kane County in its Growing for Kane program and its landmark Farmland Protection program," he said. "If a food hub is constructed it will encourage local farmers and serve our residents with farm fresh food, this is a win for our residents."

The public-private partnership between Kane County and New Venture Advisors is in itself innovative in the food system planning arena. The team was selected to present their collaborative work at the American Planning Association National Conference in April 2016.

In October 2016, Kane County and New Venture Advisors will pitch their full proposal before a panel of judges in their attempt to win the \$500,000 award. This team is pursuing groundbreaking and practical ideas for bringing healthy, local food to the consumer faster, and looks forward to pitching their concept in October along with an esteemed

group of competitors.

The Food To Market Challenge is a project of Food:Land:Opportunity, a multi-year initiative to create a resilient local food economy that aims to protect and conserve land while promoting market innovation and building wealth and assets in the Chicago region.

Funded through the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, Food: Land: Opportunity is collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust.

"Bringing more local, sustainable food into the Chicago region means a more robust local food economy and a healthier environment," said Renee Michaels, vice president at Kinship Foundation. The Food to Market Challenge is staged by Common Pool, LLC, a company that creates custom competitions to solve the world's most challenging problems.



Impact Assessment in 2013 demonstrating that residents will eat locally grown fruits and vegetables if available and that this will have a positive impact on their health outcomes.

concept.

"The Kane County Farm Bureau has worked side-by-side



Opportunity for Farm Bureau travel

Tournament of Roses Parade – December 30-January 3, 2017

This FUN travel experience includes many highlights! You will have the chance to visit to the float barns and see select floats as they are being constructed. On Rose Parade day, enjoy a boxed lunch watching the parade with top category grandstand seats on West Colorado!

Other highlights include: A wonderful tour of greater Los

Angeles-Cities include: Santa Monica, Bel-Air/Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive, Sunset Strip, Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Farmers Market and much

The tour includes round trip airfare, round trip airport transfers, and four nights' accommodations at the Double Tree Hotel Torrance!

The cost is \$2299.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

Romantic Rhine and Mosel

River Cruise – departure date is September 21, 2017

There is no better way to experience the Rhine and Mosel Rivers than by cruising through the heart of central Europe aboard the exclusively chartered river ship the MV Emerald Belle.

Enjoy a complete itinerary with this 11 day trip! Destinations include: the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland, including 2 nights in Lucerne. Price varies per cabin selection.

Please contact the Kane

County Farm Bureau for more information @ 630-584-8660.

Not ready to commit? Please join us on Wednesday, September 28 at the Kane County Farm Bureau at 6:30 pm for a travel preview. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and hear more information with a tour guide! Wine, cheese and light appetizers will be provided.

Please R.S.V.P to Kane County Farm Bureau or for more information call: 630-584-8660.



DATES TO REMEMBER

September

- September 1**
Board of Directors, 7:30 pm
- September 5**
Labor Day, KCFB Office Closed
- September 13-15**
IFB Leaders to Washington
- September 14**
Women's Committee, 11:30am
- September 16-18**
Big Rock Plow Match
- September 20**
KCFB Foundation Cubs/Reds @ Wrigley Field
- September 28**
Rose Parade & Rhine River preview, 6:30pm



Bleachers, ivy and the future of farms & food

With regular season baseball about to come to an end, there is no better time take a trip to Wrigley Field. Join the Kane County Farm Bureau on Tuesday, September 20th for what is sure to be a can't miss game against the Cincinnati

Reds, all while supporting the future of farms and food.

Come socialize with other supporters on the Budweiser Bleachers with this worry-free trip. Tickets are being sold for the low price of \$50, with transportation to and from the game

included. The bus will be leaving from the Kane County Farm Bureau office at 3:30.

All funds raised will benefit the KCFB Foundation to support college scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom activities and Agricultural Literacy programs. Call 630-584-8660 to reserve your seats. Reservations are on a first come,

first served basis and advance payment is required. VISA and MasterCard accepted.



September Featured Product **Steakhouse Boneless Pork Chops**

This month we're offering special steakhouse boneless marinated pork chops! Each box comes with ten sealed 8 oz. chops. These special Smokehouse Pork Chops are marinated in a balsamic reduction with mustard seed and just a hint of onion and are a very popular, high quality meat ready for your grill. The price for the Smokehouse Boneless Marinated Pork Chops for members is \$23.50 for PLUS members, \$25.00 for members, and \$28.00 for non-members. These special pork chops are available while supply lasts for the month of September at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd and Oak Street in St. Charles.

*Fun and fascinating trips,
Fall decorations
and FREE family portraits ...
all within these pages.*

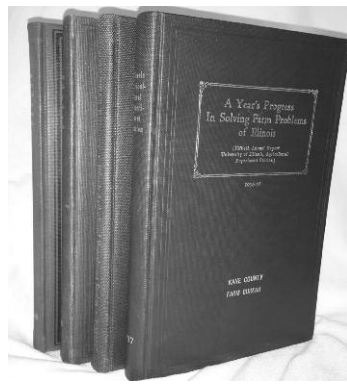
Your Farm Bureau membership means Value

KCFB Board Review

The August meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:34pm on August 4. Heather Pierson of Mazon, currently serving as the chair of the KCFB Young Farmers Committee, spoke to the board about the Young Farmers most recent events and activities. Her presentation included a recap of the June YF picnic held at the home of John and Lauren Biddle, the group's participation in the Kane County Fair, the results of the district discussion meet, participation in the National Night Out Against Crime, the upcoming Young Farmers Exchange with Champaign County and the Quiz Bowl at the Illinois State Fair.

Directors delivered their monthly reports and discussed past activities including a farm visit in Boone County by Governor Rauner on July 26th, the IFB Centennial Time

Capsule Event & Farm Income & Innovations Conference, Congressman Peter Roskam's farm shop meeting on August 1st, an upcoming Board



or about the trajectory of agronomic practices and production methods that made U.S. agriculture the envy of the world. Stop by our office if you would like to check a couple out of our Ag Literacy Library.

Development Program on August 23rd, and the Kane County Fair.

In local issues, directors heard reports from the Kane

County Board and Forest Preserve District by County Board member and Forest Preserve District Chairman Mike Kenyon. Manager Steve

University of Illinois Extension Specialist Richard Hentschel recently presented KCFB with a gift of 16 books from the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. Titled "Recent Progress in Solving Some Farm Problems of Illinois." These hard bound reports are dated 1924-1939 and embossed with Kane County Farm Bureau on the front covers. The reports (with photos) are interesting reading for those who want to know more about changes in farm production methods and crops

Arnold reported on the most recent meeting of the Kane County Ag Committee. President Joe White reported on Farmland Protection

Commission activities and the latest from the Kane County Zoning Board of Appeals, which he also chairs.

Mike Kenyon gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee, which included a report of their July 13th meeting. The Board approved minor revisions to the organizations investment policy. The committee will meet again on August 15th with an investment advisor present.

PR/Membership Committee chair Bill Collins reported on the Harvest for ALL 2016 solicitation on behalf of local food pantries and reminded Directors of their commitment to the Brookfield Zoo's Summer Nights program on Saturday, August 6.

Government Affairs Chair Wayne Schneider gave his report which consisted of a recap of the FB ACT promotion at the Kane County Fair, reports from farmer-trustees to the ACTIVATOR Political Involvement Fun and an "Effort & Accessibility" ratings exercise for local congressional representatives.

Joe White gave the report from the KCFB Foundation. He

reminded Directors that the Foundation is interested in and in search of a 50's-70's vintage pick-up truck for the 2017 raffle.

A written report for June AITC activities was put together by Suzi Myers. Arnold reminded the board about two baseball fundraisers for the KCFB Foundation, the KC Cougars on August 17th and the Cubs on September 20th.

Treasurer Mike Kenyon gave his report, which included information on taxes for the KCFB for the year ended 12/31/15. Joe White gave the Presidents report on the County Farm Bureau President's Conference. A total of 81 CFB Presidents were in attendance at the conference. Topics discussed included the Independent Map Amendment, SWCD's, Legislative issues, Administrative issues, affiliated company relations, Board Governance and conflicts of intent.

The meeting concluded with the Manager's Report, including distribution of updates to Country Financial representatives, a Calendar of Events, and an IFB District 1 Director's report.

Lenkaitis to represent District 1 at State Discussion Meet

District 1 & 2 Discussion Meets took place on July 28 at the Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureau. The Young Leader Discussion Meet contest is an exchange of ideas and information, about a particular topic, in which contestants must analyze problems and determine logical solutions.

The 3 participants from District 1, Carolyn Gehrke, Sarah Lenkaitis, and Wayne Gehrke, are all from Kane County. Sarah Lenkaitis was selected to represent District 1

at the state discussion meet during the IFB Annual Meeting in December.

The topics for the evening were "How can we ensure that farmers and ranchers, not government agencies, are driving the management of natural resources?" and "The nation's tax policy has become increasingly complicated and cumbersome. What should a balanced and beneficial tax policy look like for agriculture?"

The purpose of the discussion meet is to provide young

Farm Bureau members involved with production agriculture the opportunity to develop their skills in basic discussion techniques. Other objectives are:

- To improve the ability of the contestants to analyze problems and determine logical solutions.
- To allow contestants to gain an appreciation of the value of groups.
- To provide a current topic which stimulates motivation for continued involvement in Farm Bureau.
- To stimulate logical thinking and a desire to seek accurate information.
- To help in learning to criticize constructively and accept the same in the right spirit.

Successful participants are productive thinkers rather than emotional persuaders and assist the group in creating ways to implement the solutions discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.



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 other 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 resource, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the Farmer.



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Sample Packs make great gifts!

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
OCTOBER 2015 THRU SEPTEMBER 2016												
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG.	SEP.
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
F. CARLSON	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C. COLLINS		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
B. GEHRKE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. KECK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K. KETTLEKAMP	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. LEHRER	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. LONG	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. PITSTICK	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Kane County Farmer

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IL Farm Bureau opens time capsule from 1961

The Illinois Farm Bureau continued its 100th anniversary celebration in July by opening a time capsule buried in 1961. The time capsule was sealed in granite after the IFB moved headquarters from Chicago to Bloomington.

The time capsule included items such as a list of the board of directors, a list of county presidents, IFB's weekly newspaper, a past IFB president's fence sign, minutes from the 1920 annual meeting, an IFB

policy resolutions book from 1961, and a proclamation declaring and dedicating the new building after moving from the Chicago area.

Illinois Farm Bureau is now creating a new time capsule which will be opened in 2066. A letter from each county farm bureau, written comments from board members and past state presidents, and the IFB weekly newspaper will be among items included in the time capsule.



Here is a fun picture from Dedication Day at the Illinois Farm Bureau in Bloomington in 1961 when a time capsule was first buried. Everyone in this picture is from Kane County! Do you recognize anyone? Call the KCFB at 630 584-8660 if you can identify any of these FB leaders from more than a half century ago.

Thanks to our donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our community service, education and scholarship programs. Names shown are contributions received July 15-August 20, 2016.

Direct Mail Scholarship Fundraising Appeal

Donors

Micheal E. Wurtz • Jim & Delores O'Connell



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Northern Illinois Food Bank-Milk 2 My Plate
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Holy Angels Food Pantry
Burlington Hampshire Food Pantry
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry
Northern Illinois Food Bank

The Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship was established by the family and friends of the former Farm Bureau Director and long-time volunteer to provide awards for students residing in Kane County pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related career field.

Donor

Robert C. Swanson

Beneficiary

Chuck Swanson Memorial Scholarship, KCFB Foundation

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.

Harvest decorations

Fall is right around the corner, and you know what that means; bonfires, apple cider, Halloween, and harvest time! This year, the KCFB Foundation wants to help make Kane County the most festive county in Illinois by providing Farm Bureau members with decorations to complement your home. Choose from half or full sized straw bales, corn shocks, garden mums, indian corn, gourds, and

of course, pumpkins! You can purchase one of three pre-made packages, or buy items individually and make your own.

Orders are due by September 19. Proceeds from all sales benefit the Ag-in-the-Classroom and Scholarship programs of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation.



Join the KCFB Foundation on a trip to one of the Midwest's premier "agri-tainment" destinations as we travel to

FAIR OAKS FARMS

Saturday, October 29, 2016

- We'll depart Kane County Farm Bureau parking lot at 7:00 am on a charter bus to the fascinating Fair Oaks Farms (www.fofarms.com) in western Indiana. Granola bars, fruit, juice, and water will be provided on the bus. A fast-food rest stop on the way will be at your own expense.
- We'll arrive at FOF's Visitors Center around 9:30 am for our tour of the Dairy Adventure, a state-of-the-art dairy farm and learning center where you'll experience the dairy industry from calving to milking to the processing of cheese and ice cream. The Birthing Center allows visitors in auditorium seating to view the delivery of some of the 80+ calves born daily at FOF. The air-conditioned bus tour of one of FOF's 3000-cow production facilities will give you an inside look at the many facets of modern dairy production including animal husbandry, environmental stewardship and food safety issues. The 72-cow milking carousel is a sight to behold.
- We'll enjoy a lunch of a ham and Swiss or turkey & Swiss deli sandwich, chips, fruit cup and beverage and we'll allow time to visit FOF's gift shop and restaurant where you can pick up some award-winning cheese and enjoy a delicious ice cream treat, at your own expense. There are also many fun activities inside and out for kids of all ages to enjoy.
- The new Crop Adventure opened this spring and will be included in our day as well. Here you will learn about soybeans, corn and wheat, farming machinery, soil, careers in agriculture and more.
- We'll depart FOF for KCFB at 2 p.m. and arrive back by 4:30.
- Cost \$60.00 per person for FB members, \$70.00 per person for non-members and \$50.00 for children under 12. Includes transportation, tour admissions, lunch, and refreshments on the bus.
- Mail in the registration form with your check or call the office to register and pay with credit card, 630-584-8660. Tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis ... don't miss out on this fantastic adventure.

FAIR OAKS FARM TOUR

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____


Email: _____

Please include payment with registration
Deadline is Monday, October 17, 2016

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	_____					
	corn shocks (6-9 corn stalks, no ears)	each \$ 5.00	_____					
	carving pumpkins (17-24#, approx. 12" dia.)	each \$ 5.00	_____					
	pie pumpkins (soft ball sized)	each \$ 2.25	_____					
	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	_____					
		TOTAL \$	_____					
or by the package								
	corn shocks	straw bales	carving pumpkins	gourds/mini's	pie pumpkins	indian corn	mums 5-6"	
\$30, the townhouse	1	0	2	4	1	1	1	_____
\$60, the cottage	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	_____
\$90, the homestead	3	2	4	8	4	3	4	_____
							TOTAL \$	_____
							GRAND TOTAL \$	_____

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 Monday, September 19.

Pick-up at the Kane County Farm Bureau anytime after September 28. M-F, 8:30 -5:00.

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 _____

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



“Enjoy the little things in life...for one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things.”

—Kurt Vonnegut

Today was the 3 month anniversary of my shoulder reconstruction surgery. A visit to the doctor made me realize how much better I was than only six weeks ago. When I first went into his office, after my fall, I was not able to even move my right arm. Next time, after my surgery, I was in a huge black pillowed sling and not able to move my arm, but I could my wrist and hand. Then came the day that I visited and was told I could be free of the black beast that had confined my arm for the past 6 weeks. Hurrah! What freedom ... it was like getting a new lease on life. Today, I totally impressed him with my range of motion ... so exciting to have him tell me I'm making great progress. There will still be no kayaking, but I can now try a bit of swimming ... the new kayak still awaits my healthy, strong arm.

He asked me to tell him of the differences I saw in the past six weeks, this made me realize that many small things have added up to a great change. I can sleep in my own bed, not on the side of my surgery yet, but soon. I can drive ... no longer needing to

depend on others to take me places too far for me to walk. Doing dishes is easy. I can carry up to five pounds. I can wash my hair, take a shower, and so on. I can deal and hold cards in my hand. Life is good and getting better every day.

Our family outing to Washington Island was another wonderful week, which I wasn't too sure would happen with my limitations. I am a swimmer and kayaker, hiker and nature nerd ... things were going to be very different. It wasn't easy, but I did learn that there were things I could do to make the time special. I had all the kids help me pick thimbleberries that grow wild along the roads, eat some baby food so I could use the jars (no one enjoyed this part of the process) and then I made up some thimbleberry jam that was yummy. The kids took part in a "nature to table" activity ... where does your food come from? I found more time to spend watching kids on the rocks and in the waves ... always fun to see them play around on the rocks. They skipped them, tried to build walls to block it, and watched thrown sticks come back to them with the waves.

The kids also helped me with the bread experiment found for

KANE COUNTY FARMER

Farm Fun Facts this month. I wasn't sure how well it would work, so they did the experiment. Only thing they didn't like was washing their hands.

Each year, I collect monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars so the kids can see how they emerge into a beautiful butterfly. We didn't see as many as usual, but they are all getting pretty good at finding them on the milkweed plants. Something is going on up there, as the first one I found tried to make its chrysalis and died. I had never seen this happen ... another collector said he had one that did the same. Good news is, the others I collected have made their beautiful chrysalises and should emerge within the week.

The night sky never ceased to amaze us. From the campfire, you could see the Milky Way, constellations, and planets. Bright and beautiful.

We went to the Nature Center to make a stepping stones to remember our island days. So much fun to watch each child figure out what materials they were going to use and what they wanted to create with these materials. Each of them will have special memories of their family time.

So, it is the little things in life that count. They make you smile, stop and register their

beauty, realize how lucky we are to be able to be a part of what we're doing, and that they add up to a big part of our lives. Enjoy the little things in your life ... happy back to school days ... full of many small wonders.

.....

On another note, I have decided to host a free Get-a-Grant Workshop for teachers on

Book of the month

Many Indian tribes had stories about how animals came to be. This one is a simple story of how the chipmunk was named and got his stripes. However, as with most legends, there is a moral to the story for the children to think about.

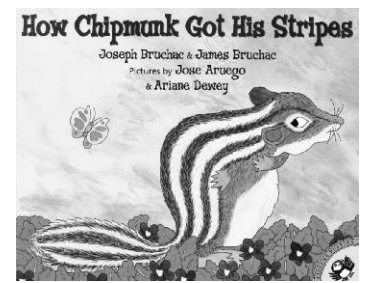
Bear knew everything and could control the world, or so he thought. Little squirrel got in an argument with Bear about the sun and Bear said he told the sun to go away and never come back. Just at that time, the sun disappeared in the west.

All the animals gathered throughout the night to watch and see if the sun would rise in the east as it always had. When the sun did rise, the little squirrel started teasing Bear, so much that Bear plunked his paw on him and said he was going to eat him. Through quick thinking,

September 12 from 4-6pm. This class will allow teachers to learn common core and NGSS activities to go with each book offered or for your own class project. I will have project and book grants available for your classroom at this time as well. To register, give me a call at the (630) 334-6358, although I ask that you do so by September 8th.

little squirrel got away, but Bear had scratched him all the way down his back. After winter, little squirrel came out of his hole and saw the stripes, his name was changed to chipmunk.

We have many books concerning Indian legends. Feel free to come into our library, which was the concept of Bob Konen and Dean Dunn, both of who felt books were important to us. You may check out any of our books.



How Chipmunk Got His Stripes by Joseph and James Bruchac

Defensive Driving Class

The Kane County Farm Bureau Women's Committee has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for Wednesday and Thursday, October 19 and 20. The class runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

The eight hour course covers driving in various road and weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defen-

sive driving methods. Many insurance companies may offer a discount on auto insurance to those ages 55 and older that qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

Attendees must be licensed drivers. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15 per person for AARP members and \$20 for non-members (payable the first day) to cover the cost of materials. For more information or to register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Free family portraits for KCFB members

Kane County Farm Bureau is offering members an outstanding 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 Oct. 7 from 2 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, October 8 from 10 am to 5pm. Family photos make a wonderful gift. Appointments fill quickly! Click on "schedule portrait" at www.kanecfb.com or call the Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

Time to update your family portrait? Make your appointment and get a FREE 8x10.



Helping you protect what matters most



- | | | |
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CONNECT WITH US





Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers



Expiration dates: should you pay attention?

The dates on food labels can be confusing. The truth is, they often have nothing to do with food safety. Here's what you really need to know.

Use-By, Best if Used By, Best By, Best Before: These "use by" and "best" dates are generally found on shelf-stable products such as mustard, mayonnaise, and peanut butter. The date, which is provided voluntarily by the manufacturer, tells you how long the product is likely to remain at its absolute best quality when unopened.

After the "use by" or "best" date has passed, you may start to notice gradual changes in the unopened product's texture, color, or flavor. But as long as you've been storing the unopened item properly, you can generally consume it beyond this date.

Always discard foods that have developed an off odor, flavor or appearance.

Sell-By: Most sell-by dates are found on perishables like

meat, seafood, poultry and milk. The date is a guide for stores to know how long they can display a particular product.

You should buy the product before the sell-by date expires. But you can still store it at home for some time beyond that date, as long as you follow safe storage procedures.

The FoodKeeper helps you understand food and beverages storage. It will help you maximize the freshness and quality of items. By doing so you will be able to keep items fresh longer than if they were not stored properly. It was developed by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, with Cornell University and the Food Marketing Institute. It is also available as a mobile application for Android and Apple devices.

Milk that has been continuously refrigerated will usually remain drinkable for about one week after the "sell by" date on the package. You can store ground beef in your refrigerator for 1 to 2 days after purchasing it, even if the sell-by date expires

during that time.

Expires On: The only place you're likely to encounter this type of date is on infant formula and some baby foods, which are the only food products the federal government regulates with regard to dating. You should always use the product before this expiration date has passed.

Packing codes: These codes, which appear as a series of letters and/or numbers on the package, sometimes indicate the date or time of manufacture. Packing codes help manufacturers and grocers rotate their stock and quickly locate products in the event of a recall. But they are not meant to be interpreted as an indicator of either food safety or quality.

For more information on product dating, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service Web site. For shelf life information for specific foods, check the Keep It or Toss It database.

Food Safety.gov has set the following 4 steps for food safety in the home:



CLEAN: Wash hands and surfaces often.

Why it matters: Illness-causing bacteria can survive in many places around your kitchen, including your hands, utensils, and cutting boards.

Unless you wash your hands, utensils, and surfaces the right way, you could spread bacteria to your food, and your family.

SEPARATE: Don't cross-contaminate

Why it matters: Even after you've cleaned your hands and surfaces thoroughly, raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs can still spread illness – causing bacteria to ready-to-eat foods – unless you keep them separate.

COOK: Cook foods to the right temperature

Why it matters: Did you know that the bacteria that cause food poisoning multiply quickest in the "Danger Zone" between 40° and 140° F?

And while many people think they can tell when food is "done" simply by checking its color and texture, there's no way to be sure it's safe without following a few important but simple steps. Always use a thermometer to check temperature of foods; keep foods hot by using a chafing dish or crock pot; heat foods to 165 degrees. More information is found at FoodSafety.gov.

CHILL: Refrigerate promptly.

Why it matters: Did you know that illness-causing bacteria can grow in perishable foods within two hours unless you refrigerate them? (And if the temperature is 90°F or higher during the summer, cut that time down to one hour. By refrigerating foods promptly and properly, you can help keep your family safe from food poisoning at home.

September is:

National

- Food Safety Education Month
- Rice Month
- Honey Month
- Chicken Month
- Better Breakfast Month

And every food has its day

- National Date-Nut Bread 9/8
- National TV Dinner Day..... 9/10
- National Guacamole Day.... 9/16
- National Cheeseburger Day 9/18
- Family Day – eat dinner with your family 9/25
- National Corned Beef Hash Day 9/27
- National Coffee Day 9/29

The Handwashing Song (To the tune of Frere Jacques)

over, under
 over, under
 Scrub between
 Scrub between
 Rinse the tops and bottoms
 Rinse the tops and bottoms
 Hands are Clean!
 Hands are Clean!

Activity and song by Sandy Middendorf, KDG teacher

Congratulations

Carol Kujak of Elgin! Carol's name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's "Sandwich" word search. For her participation, she received a hot sandwich maker compliments of Kane County Farm Bureau. Thank you, Carol, for reading the Kane County Farmer and continue to watch each month for a chance to win a prize!

Better safe than silly

- Why do people keep bandages in the refrigerator? (For cold cuts)
- What do you get if you cross a comedian with germs? (Sick jokes)
- Did you hear the story about the germ? (Never mind. I don't want to spread it all over)

Tired of begging your children to wash their hands before handling food? Kindergarten kids need to build this healthy habit, but we all know that it can be a big power struggle. Children believe that if their hands look

clean, they are clean. Use this activity to help children understand the power of germs and the importance of hand washing.

What You Need:

Two or more slices of preservative free bread...like French bread or any bakery bread, zippered sandwich bag for each slice of bread, tongs, permanent marker, plant mister.

What You do:

- Set it up. This works best if



you and your child set up the experiment after a trip to the playground or other similarly dirt-laden fun and before he or she washes hands.

- Ask your child to "wipe" off his or her hands to get rid of visible dirt.

3. Help your child use the permanent marker to label two sandwich bags: "Touched" and "Not Touched."

- Let your child use the tongs to remove a slice of bread from the wrapped loaf and place in the sandwich bag marked "Not touched."

5. Let your child take another slice of bread and rub his or her hands thoroughly on both sides of the bread. He or she should put this slice into the bag labeled

"Touched." Before zipping the bag, allow your child to give one to two gentle mists of water into each bag. Zip the bags and tape or place on a shelf, in a closet, or inside a cupboard. Check the bags every few days. Which one grows the most mold first?

What's Going On? Mold will grow on both slices, but much sooner and more abundantly on the "Touched" slice. Help your child understand that the germs that he or she did not see on the "wiped-off" hands became food for the mold. We certainly wouldn't want to eat those germs, would we? Best to wash them off before we handle food.

Teach your child to sing the song at bottom of page while washing hands. It will keep them scrubbing long enough to get the germs off.

Food Safety

O B S X E G A N F I G L K S Y H L E P L
 N Z E N T A I S F C F N A I U R T L L H
 V U R H A A R V M O I F I F T A X E Q D
 T C I D N O E P O R E E E N R C S F Q A
 S E P J I W T D M T E R T A O F H V F T
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 S J R O X V N Q K P Q B X X N I R G P Y
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BACTERIA
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 GERMS
 HOME
 KITCHEN
 MEAT
 MICROORGANISMS
 MOLD
 POISONING
 REFRIGERATION
 SAFETY
 SALMONELLA
 SELL
 SEPARATE
 TEMPERATURE
 VEGETABLES
 WASH

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by September 15, 2016 to be entered in our drawing for a prize of assorted wheat products.

Fun at the Kane County Fair

Right: Kids enjoyed seeing (and sitting on) "MOO-A-LISA" at the Kane County Fair this year. "MOO-A-LISA" is a fiberglass cow from Chicago's groundbreaking 1999 public art exhibit, "Cows on Parade". The cow, designed by students at Robert Morris College and located on south State Street, was purchased by KCFB in 2004 from Heifer International.

Below, left: These young Kane County Fair-goers enjoyed pondering questions about farm animals as they tried their hands at KCFB's annual scavenger hunt at the fair. The Scavenger Hunt leads fairgoers through all of the livestock barns at the Fair to learn more about their food and fiber and farm animals – a "low-tech" Pokemon Go! (Nintendo, where's our royalty?)

Right: Chuck Pollock was the top bidder on 7 different items in the KCFB Foundation Silent Auction fundraiser, including this custom made tractor planter. Thanks to donors and supporters like Mr. Pollock, the Foundation raised over \$2,000 for scholarships and ag-in-the classroom efforts at this year's Kane County Fair.



See more Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction winners on page 8

Women's Corner

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



Welcome to a new school year! Best wishes to all students and teachers.

Delicious produce is available now. I hope you are enjoying the local bounty, whether from your home garden or bought at farmers' markets.

Have you ever had cereal spill out of the bag and into the box, and then onto the floor? An easy way to prevent this, and to keep the bag folded to keep the cereal fresh, is to use old-fashioned, wooden, clip-type clothespins. They do not tear the bag and they take little room in the box. No more spills; no more mess!

Apples should be ready for picking soon. Kane County has several pick-your-own orchards, which are great places to visit on lovely fall days. You may purchase already-picked apples, if you don't want to go into the orchard. They also carry many

other foodstuffs and Fall decorations.

Here's a favorite recipe from my friend Marilyn S. The recipe was from her mother.

Apple Peanut Crumble (for the Slow-Cooker)
4-5 cooking apples, peeled & sliced
2/3 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. flour
1/2 c. quick-cooking oatmeal
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/3 c. butter, softened
2 Tbsp. peanut-butter
Mix sugar, flour, oatmeal, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Cut butter and peanut-butter into the dry mixture. Put the apples in the slow-cooker; then sprinkle the dry ingredients over the apples. Cover and cook on low for 5-6 hours. Serve warm, plain or with ice cream or with whipped cream. Makes 4-5 servings.

122nd Big Rock Plowing Match

September 16-18, Big Rock, Illinois will play host to the 122nd annual Plowing Match. A traditional competition based on Welsh heritage, this event began in 1894 under the direction of Big Rock farmers S.A. Chapman, W.D. Powell, and Walter Scott. Located just west of Aurora on Route 30, this farm show is one of the longest running events of its kind.

Activities get under way on Friday, September 16th with the carnival wristband night from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. The concession stand will be open selling hot dogs, chips, and pop.

Antique Steel and Rubber category plowing begins on Saturday, September 17th at 9:30am. A Western & English Horse Show will begin on Saturday at 8:30am until 5:00pm. 5 B's Catering of Waterman will prepare pork chop & chicken dinners starting at 11:30am. The Ladies Fair auction will be held on Saturday at 1:30pm and Jr. Fair auction at 1:00pm. The round bale roll-off will be at 4pm.

Following a community church service on Sunday, September 18th, 5 B's Catering will provide a Roast Beef

Dinner starting at 11:00am. Watermelon eating contest will be at 11am. Plowing will resume on Sunday at noon and the 4-H Beef Show will begin at 1:00pm. The Prince and Princess Contest will be at 1:30pm followed by



the Big Rock Park District bingo at 2:30pm.

A truly must see is our craft and art show – it is included in one of the last Plowing Match Festivals held in Illinois. We have all types of hand crafted items and over 50 vendors. The crafts & vendors show is held in

the park, amongst the festival activities. If you enjoy a home town festival, you must visit The Big Rock Plowing Match - Saturday, Sept. 17th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 20th, 11 am to 4 pm. For more information contact Dawn Stegall at 630-556-4949 or email dcrsas6057@sbcglobal.net.

Once again this year, the prize winning entries of the Vegetable & Grain Show will be sold by silent auction. Stop by the tent frequently to place your bids. Winning bids will be determined at 1:00 pm Sunday and must be paid and picked up by 2:00 pm. All proceeds go to the Big Rock Plowing Match Association.

Other attractions include train rides, and a horseshoe tournament.

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

Orazio Difruscolo has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for July 2016 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Orazio has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance and financial security needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life/Disability/Health/Annuities/Long Term Care, Retirement Planning, Business and Investments.

His contact information is: 1118 E. Main St., Ste. 1A, St. Charles, 60174; 630-

549-7696; orazio.difruscolo@countryfinancial.com; https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/orazio.difruscolo. Congratulations, Orazio!

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Brian Guenther, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for July 2016. Brian began his career with COUNTRY Financial in January of 2002 and services clients out of his office located at 1920 Wilson Street, Batavia, 60510, (630) 406-6017.

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

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Donna Tonovitz! Donna has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since July of 2004. Her office is located at 1118 E. Main St Ste. 1A, St. Charles. As a token of our appreciation, Donna receives two tickets to Charlestowne Movie Theater. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success!



Donna Tonovitz

Kane County Farm Bureau purchased one these pigs from Rebecca Dunteman at the 4-H Blue Ribbon Sale at the Kane County. Kane County Farm Bureau has been participating in the sale for years, and encourages other individuals and business owners to do the same.

See story on page 8



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

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

FOR SALE

Alfalfa grass hay – large 3x3x8 and 3x4x8 bales – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cuttings. Nutrient content available upon request. Call: 847-436-2538

2010 JD 625F HydraFlex head, CM, fore/aft, dial-a-speed reel, full composite finger auger, stubble lights, low stone dam, single point hook-up, low acres, no rock damage. \$18,500 OBO. Call: 630 878 1726

Unverferth HT-30 head mover, low profile tires, lights, good condition, \$2,500 OBO. Call: 630 878 1726

12x4 foot "race track" conference table with 12 tilt/swivel chairs. 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

Farm site demolition & clean up. New horse barns with underground utilities and earthwork. Drainage tiles, pasture mowing, spraying, new seeding, inter seeding & fence installation. We follow SIU Plant & Soil Science Practices. 10% discount for Farm Bureau members, 5% if you mention this ad! Berning Earthwork Inc., Tom Berning 630-330-9970, BerningEarthWorks@comcast.net; Galusha Farms, Steve Berning, 630-878-6350, steve@GalushaFarm.com. Call: 630-330-9970

Tree Pruning & Removal in North/Central Kane & Dupage Counties – www.ArborJoe.com – ISA Certified Arborist Joe. Call: 224 789 8773

WANTED

Will pick up for free unwanted or old snowmobiles. – Weed mowing bobcat work deliveries of black dirt/topsoil, sand, lime stone, gravel, or anything else you need hauled in or out sod and seeding call Jon @ J.P. Rippinger. Call: 630-254-9446

Want to buy vintage & used tools Call Chris, Call: 630 550 7182

The Kane County Farm Bureau is seeking proposals for snow removal for winter. Send to KCFB, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174 or call Steve at 630-584-8660 for more information.



Recycle

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Smartphone app helps farmers launch crop claim process

Farmers have a new way to experience COUNTRY Financial® and crop insurance thanks to our partnership with American Farm Bureau Insurance Services (AFBIS) Inc. It's called Unity Mobile.

Unity Mobile is a smartphone app and it is fairly easy to download and have on the ready if an unforeseen event should occur. Through it, farmers can

initiate the claims process with the COUNTRY Crop Claims Department with a simple touch of their smart phone screen. It is a faster, more convenient way they initiate a claim, so more time can be spent on other tasks.

"Whether they're in the cab of their combine, or anywhere else, and identify a crop production issue, farmers can get their claim reported immediately,"

said Andrew Mizell, crop intelligence analyst for COUNTRY. "The app offers a convenient connection to our home office by directly notifying the COUNTRY Crop Claims Department about their damaged crops."

Beyond submitting and tracking an existing claim through the application, crop customers can also review previous claims and policy information. In future versions, they could also have the ability to pay their crop insurance premiums as well.

How farmers/landowners can

get the Unity Mobile app

1. Visit countrycrop.com to create an account and gain access to app credentials
2. Head to their smartphone and open App Store® or Google Play™
3. Search for the free Unity Mobile by AFBIS Inc. app
4. Download the app and login

What if they don't have a smartphone?

Farmers who don't have smartphones can head to countrycrop.com to create an account and access the same functions on the mobile app.

"Having the ability to access their policy from their phone is a strong feature to help our farmers better manage their operations," Mizell said.

"COUNTRY is leading the crop industry in the mobile technology arena in Illinois," Mizell said. "Having the ability to access their policy from their phone is a strong too to help our farmers better manage their operation."

Want to follow other topics COUNTRY Financial® is covering? Follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY.

Plan a day in the country



It's the perfect time of year to take the entire family outdoors! This fall, spend a day at your local apple orchard or pumpkin farm! Pick apples, go for a hay ride or choose the perfect pumpkin for your Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Here are some great and local farms, perfect for a fall family outing! Visit www.bountyofkane.org for a complete list of direct farm markets and farmer's markets in Kane County.

Norton Farm
39W389 Route 64, St. Charles
630-377-8118
Pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and corn bundles

Kuiper's Family Farm
01N145 Watson Road, Maple Park
815-827-5200
Family u-pick apples, pumpkins, kids' activities, corn maze & more

Enjoy Pioneer Farm
17N400 Big Timber Road
Hampshire • 847-683-2863
Pumpkins, broom corn, corn stalks, Indian corn, straw, gourds, squash & petting zoo

Gould Cider Mill
2S230 Green Road, Elburn
630-365-2233
Fresh cider, apples, pumpkins, squash gourds, honey, (u-pick apples).

Windy Acres Farm
37W446 Fabyan Pkwy., Geneva
630-232-6429
Pumpkins, fall decor & family activities

Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch
Rt. 47 & Reinking Road
Hampshire, IL • 847-464-5952
Pick your own pumpkin, petting zoo, pony rides, corn maze, & more

The Pumpkin Wagon
12N860 Rt. 20, Elgin
847-697-2538
Pumpkins, squash, straw.

Pine Apple Acres
41W651 Powers Rd, Huntley
847-669-3251
Apples, orchard, and u pick.

Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse
10214 Algonquin Rd., Huntley,
847-669-3421
Pumpkins and fall ornamentals

Ben's Giant Pumpkins & Farm Market
43W200 Jericho Rd., Sugar Grove
630-466-1331
Pumpkins and fall ornamentals



Fun farm adventures in Champaign Co.

by Kristi Van Oost

Recently I got the opportunity to travel down to Champaign, Illinois for a fun exchange with the Champaign County Young Leaders Group. On Friday, August 5th a group of Kane County Farm Bureau Young Leaders made the long drive down Route 47 to meet up with our Champaign County counterparts for a weekend full of tours and socializing. The first stop on our tour-packed weekend was Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery. This was by far one

of the most unusual farms I have ever seen. From their goat dairy to their organic fruit orchard, it was a very interesting experience, and like nothing I would have expected to see in the state of Illinois. Our tour guide, Lynn Doran, is one of two people who make cheese at Prairie Fruits Farm, so it was very interesting to see the farm from the perspective of one of the workers. After the tour, we had a cheese tasting, including five different types of goat cheese. I had only tried the most basic type of goat cheese called chevre, so it was really

interesting to get the opportunity to try other variations.

Day two brought on more interesting agricultural places in



The group of young farmers consisted of (left to right) of Lynn Doran, Carolyn Gehrke, Kristi Van Oost, Luke Zwilling, Wayne Gehrke, Nick Conro, Heather Pierson, Amanda Zwilling and daughter Lydia, Reed Thompson, and Heather Thompson. Here they can be seen standing by a creative sculpture of an ethanol atom on the farm of Eric and Maria Rund.

Champaign. The first tour of our packed Saturday was to KD Ranch and Sugar Shack Antiques. This place was incredible! The ranch and antique shop is one business owned by a married couple. At their ranch they specialize in exotic grazing animals and raise longhorn cattle, bison, elk and deer! They sell their exotic meats at the antique shop and people from all over the state flock to try the unique types of meat, especially the elk and the bison. I purchased the elk summer sausage that they had for sale, and it was excellent! It is rather similar to deer sausage; however it does have its own unique flavor.

From there, we went to Sleepy Creek Vineyard for a sampling. Sleepy Creek is well known for their cat-themed wine, courtesy of their two cats that live in the tasting room. While we were unable to have a formal tour of the vineyard, it was open for self-guided tours. Being an animal lover; I personally enjoyed the friendly companionship of their large maine coon cat while I sipped a glass of their "Calavera con Gato" wine.

Our next stop was by far one of the most interesting and informative stops. We went to the farm of Eric and Maria Rund, a farm couple that travels extensively and commonly serves as interpreters for numerous groups of farmers and agribusiness visitors from other countries. They have a 775 acre farm where they grow corn, soybeans, miscanthus, and switchgrass. I have never seen or met anyone who grows miscanthus, so I was very interested to learn about it! The specific type of miscanthus the

Rund family grows is called miscanthus giganteus, and it can grow up to 12 feet tall each year. It, along with the switchgrass they grow, is used as a biomass energy crop and most commonly used to make biofuels such as bioethanol.

What is a trip to Champaign without a visit to University of Illinois? Well, the final two trips of our long weekend were to the Edward Madigan Laboratory in the Department of Crop Sciences and to the Student Sustainable Farm. We

met up with graduate research assistants Brian Rhodes and Jessica Bubert at the laboratory, who gave us a very interesting presentation on GM crops and how GMO's are created. Specifically, the pair was working with various types of corn, and using a machine called a gene gun to change the genetic make-up of the seed. Rounding off our trip was a tour of the Student Sustainable Farm given to us by farmer Stefan Johnsrud. The small scale, not for profit farming operation markets exclusively to the dining halls on campus. While the farm has three employees, the majority of the labor is from student-volunteers. While the small operation cannot supply one-fourth the amount of produce needed to feed the vast student body, it is a great start toward a more sustainable campus. The farm is also a great opportunity to involve students in the actual art of farming and encourage them to learn more about the practices.

Cramming so many fun and informative tours into just two days made for an exhausted drive home, but I was more than happy to do it. I never would have thought that we had so many unique and interesting variations of agriculture in my home state of Illinois. It is a well-known fact that Illinois has lots of corn and soybean crops, and we are ranked in the top 5 for pork production, however it was very refreshing to see more than just the normal. It was also very nice to meet the Young Leaders from Champaign County, and it makes me incredibly grateful that I get to be a part of the Illinois Farm Bureau Community.

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