



# Co-Operator

official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau®



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A "staple" in the Farm Bureau member's home since 1938

**Mission:** To serve all members of the Cook County Farm Bureau® with meaningful and beneficial programs that reflect our Agricultural Heritage.

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Countryside, IL 60525

[www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

April 2017

## Workshop on Preparing Wills and Trusts & Transferring Non-Titled Property

*Sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau*

**When:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 6:30-9 p.m.

**Where:** Country Financial Building  
25 NW Point, Suite 850  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

**Cost:** No charge for Cook County Farm Bureau Members, \$10 per person for non-members

**To Pre-register:** Call the Cook County Farm Bureau at 708-354-3276.

**Register by:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017— Limited seating!

### Speakers and Program Descriptions:

#### Estate Planning and Trust Administration

*Presented by Linda S. Fine, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC*

Ms. Fine concentrates her practice in estate planning for high net worth clients, estate and trust administration, estate and gift taxation, guardianships, contested estates, and complex probate matters. Ms. Fine also represents business owners with respect to the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies.

*Presented by Robert A. Holland, Kelleher & Buckley, LLC*

Mr. Holland concentrates his practice in estate planning, estate and trust administration, taxation, corporate transactional work, business planning, asset protection, residential and commercial real estate transactions, and antenuptial agreements. Mr. Holland's business planning practice includes representation regarding the formation and operation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, including ownership agreements, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and not-for-profit planning.

#### Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate and Grandpa's Pocket Watch? Transferring Non-Titled Property!

*Presented by Katherine Reuter, Consumer and Financial Education Consultant*

Distributing personal items such as wedding pictures, a vase, furniture, jewelry, Grandpa's pocket watch, or even Grandma's pie plate is an issue that impacts almost all families. Attorneys say that personal property, not the more valuable titled property, causes the most problems when settling an estate. This program will provide tips to help you distribute your own or others, non-titled property such as understanding the sensitivity of the issue, deciding what you want to accomplish, deciding what the word "fair" means in your family, identifying the meaning of precious possessions; recognizing distribution options and consequences, and learning how to manage conflicts, if they arise.

## Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Farming for our Future Gala...Proves an Overwhelming Success!



The Heads and Tails game provided great fun for participants.



Thank you to everyone who bid at the auction.

### Goals & Objectives Achieved:

- 245 people attended!
- Our fundraising goal of \$25,000 was exceeded!
- We expanded our message of the importance of knowledge about food and farming in our urban area!
- We showcased the programming efforts of the Cook County Farm Bureau Agriculture Literacy Program and the Foundation!
- We expanded our broad-based support of our efforts with increased involvement

from members, farm and food entities, influential people in the community, and affiliated leaders!  
• The event created a "buzz" in anticipation of next year!

### A sincere thank you to the Gala Planning Committee:

- Jim Gutzmer, chairman
- Gerry Kopping
- Heidi Yunker
- Julie Michaels
- Kathy Reuter
- Joe Youngman
- Cary Tate
- Nora Beverly

- Josh Van Namen

### Other key players:

Colleen Callahan, Master of Ceremonies  
Cody Kuiper, Auctioneer  
The Belvederes Band  
Members who purchased tickets, tables and brought guests to enjoy the evening  
Board of Directors  
Country Financial  
Ruffled Feathers Country Club for delivering throughout the evening

*Continued on page 8.*



## Exclusive Member Savings to travel locally or see the world!

Travel is fun and members can enjoy the benefits of travelling with Mayflower Tours, and enjoy life enriching experiences while creating lasting memories!

CCFB members and their guests will enjoy exclusive savings on top of any and all discounts, promotions, and travel deals offered by Mayflower Tours.

Members simply provide our exclusive member discount code: **ccfb16** to receive the direct savings! To begin your Life Enriching Experience and learn more about Mayflower Tours call Imelda at 630-435-8264 and state that you're a Cook County Farm Bureau member to receive the added savings.

## Question of the Month

Of all of Earth's land animals, which one has the biggest eyes?

Call the Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276, fax your answer to (708)579-6056, or email your answer to: [membershiplinda@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershiplinda@cookcfb.org) (Please include Name, FB#, and phone number) for your chance to enter a drawing for a \$25.00 gas card.

March's winner: **Norman Martello**

**Last Month's Question:** In Illinois, each farmer produces enough food, crops, and livestock to feed how many people?

Answer: 156



## Upcoming Events

- Babysitting Class for Pre-Teen/Teens.....Page 10
- Cubs vs. Sox Crosstown Game..... Page 10
- Planter Workshop Series.....Page 12

# Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

## Are organic food and ingredients better for my family?

The simplest answer is that both organic and GMO foods are safe. Thousands of studies have concluded that GMOs are safe, including a recent analysis for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The U.S. Drug and Food Administration, American Medical Association, World Health Organization, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics have also concluded that GMOs are safe.

The label "organic" is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



"Arctic apples," U.S.' first genetically engineered apple has recently been approved for growth and sale in the U.S.

It doesn't mean that the food is safer or healthier, just that it was grown in a particular manner. GMO seeds cannot be labeled as "organic."

When consumers visit the

grocery store or their local farmers' market they have the choice, based on their preferences and budget, of what foods and food ingredients they want to purchase for their families. Farmers are committed to growing and raising safe food for their families and consumers.

*Have a question? Submit it to [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org). We'll share questions with our farmers and publish their answers as space allows in upcoming issues of The Co-Operator.*

## Farm Bureau Action Team Reaching Out To Consumers Statewide

By Mike Orso

Two years ago, IFB's Consumer Outreach Action Team placed food and farming messages in Chicagoland supermarket carts. Its most recent project attempts to use paid social media messages to drive Illinois consumers to fast-paced online videos.

"It's a long process," said James Bloomstrand, a member of the IFB's Action Team from Cook County Farm Bureau. "Sometimes it's a one-on-one (discussion) that you have to conquer."

The team's most recent project used Facebook advertising to provide links to videos developed as part of the Illinois Farm Families



IFB's Action Teams met recently in Bloomington. Dozens of members from across the state participate. (Photo by Cyndi Wiggs)

program. Results thus far include approximately:  
 - 65,000 people reached  
 - 5,000 people viewed 75% of the videos  
 - 4,300 people viewed 100% of the videos

The group's goal is to create awareness and educate

consumers about Illinois agriculture. The team plans more paid advertising on Facebook in March and hopes for additional, positive results. It also brainstormed new project ideas to help reach Illinois consumers about food and farming.

**Gracias** THANK YOU **Gratified**

# The Gratitude Box

*Each month we would like to give thanks to those who have helped us in some way.*

*No matter how big or small...We appreciate you!*

This month, we would like to thank:

- Gerry Kopping for picking up an antique plow to use for display at the Farm Bureau office.
- Ted's Greenhouse, Tinley Park, for designing and building a great garden with Country Financial and the Farm Bureau at the Flower and Garden Show.
- The members that came out to Homewood Library and Poplar Creek Library recently to discuss GMO crops, organics, and a host of other food topics (and our speakers Tim, Kim, and Jeff).
- All who supported the Foundation's Farming for our Future Gala.
- Our voting members that completed our Viewpoint survey on various local issues...we had a record response rate of 35%!
- A great group of beginning beekeepers that attended the seminar at the Farm Bureau, taught by Pete Soltesz and friends of the Cook -DuPage Beekeepers Association.
- Voting members who joined us for our first Telli-town meeting held via phone conference to address local and state issues.
- The great groups of CCFB leaders who went to Springfield and Washington, D.C. to talk with elected leaders about various topics important to local agriculture.

**Gracias** THANK YOU **Gratified**

## Trivia

- Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up, and only sleep 2.5 to 3 hours per day.
- The four natural gaits of a horse are walk, trot, canter, and gallop.
- Of all of Earth's land animals, the horse has the biggest eyes.
- A hand, a unit used to measure the height of a horse, is equal to 4 inches. The height of the horse is measured from the ground to their withers, which is the high point between the horse's shoulder blades.
- Horses only breathe through their noses and not through their mouth like humans.

## Dear Reader,

You receive the "Co-Operator" because you or a family member is a Farm Bureau member. Our farm owners and operators, as members, benefit from a local, state, and national organization committed to a strong and productive agricultural way of life.

Members without direct ties to farming, help to promote a strong local and regional farming lifestyle, encourage wise use of our limited natural resources, and help preserve our farming heritage. In addition, members are provided the opportunity to enjoy our affiliated company, Country Financial and have access to the many other benefits provided by Cook County Farm Bureau.

Thank you for your membership and continued support. We welcome member input on content, including suggestions of farm, home, food, natural resource, renewable energy, agricultural heritage, and farm history for future issues.

### Bob Rohrer, CAE, FBCM, Editor

P.S. For more information, please access [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) and checkout the "Who We Are" video and the Country Financial Connection history.

**The "Co-Operator", the monthly publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, is available to members through mail delivery, e-mail, or by viewing at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org). Members that wish to receive the publication solely by email can let us know by sending an email to [membershplinda@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershplinda@cookcfb.org) with the subject: E-Co-Operator.**

### Co-Operator

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# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

## March Madness

In the farm circles, the preparation for the planting season can be described as “March Madness”. Think of it as a giant collaborative project with many moving parts... making sure farm equipment is repaired, greased, and ready to roll, suppliers in tune with the supply orders, seed in stock, deliveries of products received, advisory services in place, hired help on the payroll, weather cooperating, time available, and so much more.

When I was growing up, I did not fully comprehend that these many moving parts were being managed by my father as he prepared to move into planting season. I was in the mindset of “Just tell me where and when to drive the tractor, Dad”. I guess I thought planting season just happened magically, with the turn of the calendar. Admittedly, I was more concerned about that other March Madness: high school and college basketball.

While I enjoy the spring planting season, basketball’s March Madness has always been a magical time of the year for me. I love basketball... playing it, watching it, and projecting winners in my bracket. During the winter, the snow, cold, chores, and drudgery of the season on the farm is suddenly replaced by this freshness of basketball tournament time.

My enthusiasm for March Madness started in 1976 when I was in junior high. My high school, in downstate Illinois (ROVA), was progressing victoriously through the State tournament, winning the Regional, Sectional, and Super-sectional. I listened to each game on an old transistor radio.

On to Champaign, Assembly Hall, ROVA had a chance to

compete for a State title. I had the wonderful opportunity to watch my team from our little community on an old black and white TV, holding my breath as the picture rolled and fuzzed in and out. I had never known anyone that was on TV before!

ROVA ended up playing Mt. Pulaski, losing the Class A Championship game 59 – 58 in a heartbreaker. I still hold a grudge against Mt. Pulaski and grimace every time I pass the Mt Pulaski sign on I-55 near Springfield. That was also the year that Jay Shidler of Lawrenceville (who went on to play for Joe B. Hall at Kentucky) averaged over 39 points a game in the tournament, shooting from everywhere on the court... imagine the points he would’ve had if there’d been a three-point line in those days!

That experience affected me from that point forward and throughout my life. I was so hooked on basketball. After watching the high school or college tournament games, I would get so juiced up that I would go out to the barn at 11pm at night to shoot baskets to burn off the energy. Still today, I get this feeling in my chest of excitement and nervous energy as tournament games are shown for both high school and college basketball. I religiously fill out my bracket for the NCAA and then track the results each game, and each day, throughout the event.

And, I love the stories, small school versus large school. Rural school versus urban school. Hoosiers remains one of my favorite movies. The Illinois version of Hoosiers... the tiny school of Hebron in 1952 beating the powerhouse Quincy, is the stuff of folklore. One of these days, in the NCAA tournament, a 1 seed will lose to a 16 seed and a legend will be borne.

The excitement of the game

has grown with the dunk and the three-point shot. I want to offer a shout out to Mr. Arthur Ehrat of Virdin, Illinois. In 1982, he patented the breakaway basketball rim (using a farm field cultivator spring) that has become so important in the slam dunk era. I could have used that invention growing up...my brothers and I bent and broke a lot of rims and backboards

(we called it doing a Darryl Dawkins) as we perfected our dunking abilities on eight-foot baskets growing up.

And I can’t proceed without a tribute to the farm products used to make the three pointer possible: leather basketballs and the paint made from soybean oil to create a three point line about 20 feet from the basket in the high school and college game. In my

youth, the barn’s low rafters made my 3 point shot quite flat with little arch and our 3 point line was hand-drawn from sidewalk chalk - very exact.

So, as we move into April, hopefully your version of March Madness went well... whether it be farming preparation or basketball brackets. Planting season has now arrived...or is it baseball season?



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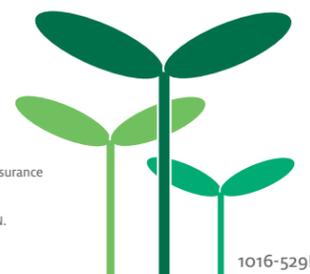


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Farm Bureau Speakers Bureau members, Jeff Heinsohn, Kim Morton, and Tim Stuenkel discussed GMO safety, modern food production practices, and organic food production. Speakers Bureau members present on a variety of topics and are available at no cost to speak at libraries and group meetings. Contact the Farm Bureau at (708) 354-3276 to schedule a speaker.

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## Meet a "Face" of the Cook County Farm Bureau

Each month we highlight a volunteer, staff member, or ag partner of the Cook County Farm Bureau. This month's "Face of CCFB" is:

### Jessica Biernacki



#### WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?

Dragging giant zucchinis in from our backyard garden as a toddler.

- Serves as Chair of the Cook County Farm Bureau Young Leaders Group
- Currently a graduate student working on her masters in Ag Education at the University of Illinois
- Works part-time with the Cook County Extension office in Matteson and assists the 4-H educators.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?

Going to the Hinsdale farmers' markets with my dad and grandma on Mondays and then eating at our favorite restaurant Egg Harbor Café after a long day.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT?

Discount movie tickets, because I love watching movies at the theatre.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?

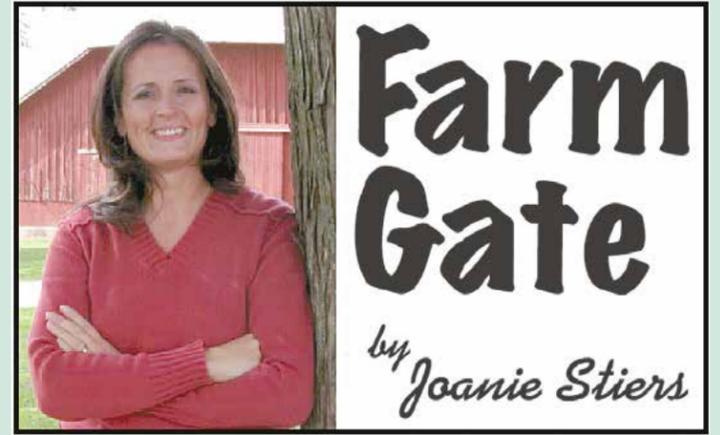
Dairy calves, because who doesn't love bottle feeding those cuties?

#### IF YOU COULD BE ANY TYPE OF FARMER, WHAT TYPE WOULD YOU BE?

I would choose to stay in the family business (Ted's Greenhouse in Tinley Park) and continue production growing for our greenhouse.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR?

I enjoy Fall because of the weather and the trees changing color.



## Hoping go-time lacks down-time

Our son irritably pressed the controller's "A" button, yet his video game console failed to launch. He vented frustration about his inability to use the game and that he wasted the screen time earned for completing chores. The incident seemed an emotional refresher for the upcoming planting season, when farm equipment sometimes goes awry and we just need it to work.

On the farm, we stand ready and set for when planting's "go-time" arrives. In the last few weeks, we serviced the planters and tractors, stocked seed, prepared the planter maps and loaded prescriptions in the monitors. We hope our preparation eludes the down-time that hinders a timely planting process, one of the most critical and often controllable factors in the success of a corn and soybean crop.

The modern day planting process resembles a glorious work of technological art that showcases capabilities unseen in Grandpa's or even Dad's planters. The tractor drives itself straight and hands-free. The planter plants seeds at precise spacing. Automatic sensors adjust ground pressure per planter row to sow seed at appropriate and consistent depths. Software prescriptions vary the seeding rate with the guidance of global-positioning systems. Meanwhile, that same guidance signal pairs with automatic row shut-offs to prevent overlapped planting of seed, otherwise a waste of money in more ways than one. Success delivers picket-

fence-like rows of plants. Ideally every seed starts with the paralleled potential to produce a bumper crop. But when going for that goal gets tough, my husband fields the phone calls. In his daytime precision farming management role (and often weekends troubleshooting from our farm's tractor cab), he diagnoses problems and offers solutions to keep those planters running and guidance connections working. Lost signals and small details like bad wiring pins or blown fuses can put a quarter-million-dollar planter at a standstill in the midst of a timely planting window. If nothing else, desperate farmers may opt to drop the planter markers and go the old-fashioned way – if they can. With satellites guiding the way, more farms opt-out of planter markers to save thousands on the planter price tag.

The gap between today's planters and those of the previous generation continues to widen, and high-speed planting ranks among the next big things. A speed of 10 mph proves slow even for a school zone. Yet, planting accurately at this speed would double the current average planting pace of near 5 mph and literally put today's average planters in the dust.

Thankfully, our son found that a couple reboots put him back in the game. This planting season, we hope for similar quick fixes, if necessary at all.

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

# Family Food Bytes

## GROCERY INDUSTRY INITIATIVE TO CLARIFY PRODUCT DATE LABELS

*(FarmWeek)* - The Food Marketing Institute and the Grocery Manufacturers Association recently launched an industrywide effort to reduce consumer confusion about label expiration dates and to reduce waste. The voluntary initiative streamlines date labels on packages to two phrases: - "BEST IF USED by" to describe product quality - "USE by" to indicate a food-safety concern. Retailers and manufacturers are encouraged to immediately start phasing in the language with a goal of widespread use by the summer of 2018. Currently, packages may display more than 10 date labels, including "Sell By," "Use By," "Expires On," "Best Before," "Better if Used By" or "Best By." The confusion may result in consumers throwing away safe or usable products.

## BUTTER'S BIG MOMENT

*(Bloomberg)* - Americans are forecast to eat 8 percent more butter than last year, reaching 940,000 metric tons. According to the USDA, that's the most since 1967. The uptick is largely due to new marketing which casts butter as a healthier alternative to margarine and trans fats, as well as dietary experts who are training their sights on sugar and shifting the spotlight away from the dairy staple.

## MUSEUM FEATURES CUBS/CARDS RIVALRY

- The Abraham Lincoln

Presidential Museum in Springfield will open a new display on March 24 that features the historic rivalry between the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals. Both clubhouses donated artifacts for the display that will be shown through the end of the year. Items include a second base bag stolen by Lou Brock to break the record for season steals and a cap worn by Kerry Wood when he struck out 20 batters.

## BEST WORLD HONEY NAMED

*(FarmWeek)* - Honey from an apiary at Curtis Orchard and Pumpkin Patch near Champaign has been named the best honey in the world the award was bestowed by the Center for Honeybee Research in Asheville, North Carolina.

## SOYBEANS ARE AN AMAZING CROP

- From household adhesives to tractor belts and tires, soybeans continue to transfer from fields to multiple uses in the home and on the farm. For the latest list of soy-based products available on and off the farm, go to {soynewuses.org/soy-products-guide/}

## ADMISSION FREE TO DEERE ATTRACTIONS

- The John Deere Pavilion and Store in Moline, World Headquarters Display Floor in Moline, the John Deere Tractor and Engine Museum in Waterloo, Iowa, and the John Deere historic site in Grand Detour have all gone to a no-admission fee entry policy. To learn more about the

attractions and the events, go to {johndeere.com}

## GENERAL MILLS TOUTING NEW ECO-FRIENDLY GRAIN

*(AP)* - A sweet, nutty-tasty new grain called Kernza is getting a big boost from food giant General Mills, which is intrigued by the potential big environmental benefits of the drought – resisting crop with long roots that does not need to be replanted every year. General Mills recently announced partnerships with The Land Institute and the University of Minnesota to help commercialize the grain, a wild relative of wheat.

## CUTTING SUGAR AND SALT

- A survey of 102 companies, including Nestle and Procter & Gamble, found that 180,000 products were reformulated in 2016 in an effort to reduce sugar and salt as consumers continue to look for healthier brands. The change, which affected about 20 percent of products, was double the previous year.

## BEEF PRICES FALLING

*(Herald & Review)* - According to the USDA, this year is expected to be the largest commercial beef production year since 2011. Coupled with good weather and a competitive grocery industry, beef prices will continue to fall through the beginning of grilling season. "The consumers are going to win and the consumers are going to win a big way this year," said Lance Zimmerman, manager of research, analysis and data for Cattle Fax.

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# “From the Country” Parents: Be Prepared for Tornado Season



Jeff Orman,  
Country Agency  
Manager  
South Holland  
Agency

Tornado season begins in April and lasts through June, but actually tornadoes can and do occur in every month of the year. That’s

why it is important to always be prepared.

The first step of tornado safety is to know the difference between a watch and a warning. These terms often confuse people. A watch always comes before a warning and indicates weather conditions are ideal for the development of a tornado. A warning means a tornado has definitely formed and has been sighted. The best way to remember the difference is to think of a watch as an advisement to be on guard.

The best time to take action is during a tornado watch. Once a tornado warning has been issued, you may not have enough time to get to safety.

### If a storm hits while you are outside

- NEVER try to outrun a tornado. Tornadoes can change directions quickly and can easily lift vehicles and toss them around, making vehicles potential deathtraps. Always get out and away from vehicles.
- Take shelter inside a building immediately, if possible.
- Find the lowest point possible. Lie in a ditch, ravine or low area or

crouch near a strong building and cover your head and neck, if you cannot take shelter inside.

- Leave mobile homes and get to a safe place. Mobile homes, like vehicles, can be tossed around by heavy winds.
- Be aware of potential flooding.

### Once you have taken shelter in a building

- Go at once to the basement, storm cellar or lowest level of the building. Go to inner hallways or smaller inner rooms without windows, such as bathrooms or closets if the building has no basement.
- Stay at the center of the room and away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- Be mindful of where there is heavy furniture or appliances on the floor directly above you because heavy winds can weaken walls and floors.
- Get under sturdy furniture (i.e. workbench, heavy table) and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Monitor the news from your local radio station for emergency information and instructions. Make sure the storm is completely over before leaving shelter. Tornadoes often hit in groups, and it is possible that only one of many tornadoes has passed.

For more information on tornado safety visit the COUNTRY Financial website at [www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com).

# From the Farm Desk...

**ORGANIC IMPORTS TROUBLE U.S. FARMERS** (*Wall Street Journal*) – Organic grain imported into the U.S. is lowering prices and drawing complaints from U.S. organic farmers who believe their crops are held to stricter standards than foreign-raised crops. U.S. organic groups say that increased flow of foreign grain has been a key reason prices for organic corn fell by 30 percent and organic soybeans fell by 20 percent in 2016.

**GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS MORE TIME FOR APPLICATION** (*FarmWeek*)- Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT) this week requested more time to prepare its application to build and operate a three-state railroad. The company asked for postponement of environmental review until at least April 30. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) had temporarily stopped the environmental review of the project in December at GLBT’s request, but requested a status update by Feb. 28.

“We are preparing the required application content for project overview, information on the proposal, operational data, and financial data,” Frank Patton, GLBT chairman, wrote to the STB in a letter dated Feb. 28. “These discussions are ongoing and are expected to continue for several more weeks. Accordingly, we are not in a position to file the application at this time.” Patton requested the STB continue to halt environmental review until at least April 30, when GLBT will either file an

application or provide another status update. After STB scoping meetings, GLBT last year changed its new route based on public input. The new route runs through Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Winnebago counties in Illinois. It would no longer run through Boone County. The plan also calls for a railport encompassing nearly 15,000 acres of farmland near Manteno for switching, servicing, and repairing cars and locomotives for railroad customers.

Illinois Farm Bureau, along with dozens of farmers, organizations, and lawmakers in three states, has requested more time to comment on the proposed route since it changed.

**HOSTS FOR AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS SOUGHT** - The Illinois Chapter of the International Farm Youth Exchange is seeking individuals willing to host a foreign exchange youth this summer.

This year the IL IFYE Association will sponsor Poppy (a twenty year old female from Wales with an interest in dairy farming and other types of agriculture) and Matthias (a twenty-six year old male from Austria, a nursing student involved in his uncle’s farm) from approximately arriving in Illinois around June 19 and departing around September 5, 2017. We are looking for three homes for each of them. If you would like to know more about the program, and/or are interested in Hosting (in Illinois), please call Susan Herren at 618-234-2045.

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



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# “Where Am I?”



If you can guess where Calvin is (in Cook County) when this photo was taken, you will be entered to win a \$25 gas gift card! To enter, simply call us at 708-354-3276 with your answer OR email your answer (please include name & member number) to: [membership@cookcfb.org](mailto:membership@cookcfb.org) using the subject “Where Am I?” A name will be drawn at random.

In last month’s ‘Where Am I?’, Calvin was at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.



Congratulations to Victor Maurello for being last month’s winner!

## Helping you protect what matters most

o816-55oHO



## Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations



## Teacher Workshop Had Them Buzzing!

### Ag Lit Bit By Diane Merrion

#### Spring Sounds



After spending time at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show last

month, my mind is exploding with the possibilities that exist to fill my garden this summer. It was a wonderful departure from our snowy and rather cool March and great preparation for the sights, smells, and sounds of spring. Using bushel baskets for pots, cinder blocks for benches, and large rocks for garden accents, the sights at the show makes me think outside of the box and realize the creativity involved in the horticulture industry. The smell of the tulips, roses, and herbs in full bloom made me anxious for July and August when we will experience the same explosion of smells in our own backyards. The only thing missing from the show was a sound I so enjoy, those of the returning birds to our area.

I recently was introduced to Paula Levy and Alyse Burman, co-owners of The Wildbird Shack, Ltd. located in Mt. Prospect. The store sells feed/seed and a host of bird-related items and also has programs including one called Tranquil Feathers. Tranquil Feathers was designed to stimulate the multi-sensory responses of people who are afflicted

with dementia and other cognitive impairments. The concept is based on blending nature and Person Valued Care techniques to regulate circadian rhythms in these patients and divert the onset of sundowning. Tranquil Feathers develops a culture of change and, by using the appropriate tools, can transform the quality of life. Birding is a life experience that progresses from childhood through adulthood. Birds are a constant in our lives and encountered daily. Contingent upon where you grew up, the common backyard birds are easily identifiable, even for Dementia patients. Tranquil Feathers uses 'birdscaping' to create a sensory garden that features bird feeders, bird houses, garden art, and seed to attract a variety of birds to one location allowing patients to see first-hand and up close the interaction of birds. Thus, identifying the vibrant colors, shapes, sizes, sounds, engages the patients with the use of the many tools that are available in the Tranquil Feathers in a box: bird log book, chart, puzzles, stuffed animals, etc.

I hope you enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of spring. It's a great time to get out and enjoy the explosion of life right here in Cook County.

20 teachers attended our Pollinators Workshop last month which featured guest speakers The Hive beekeeper, Naaman Gambill and University of IL Master Educator, Nancy Kreith who spoke to teachers about the importance of pollinators in Illinois. The program featured an overview of pollinators and how teachers can incorporate the topic into their lesson including math, science and language arts. All registrants each left with a book bundle featuring the books: Flight of the Honey Bee; When the Bees Fly Home; Seed, Soil, Sun; and A Butterfly is Patient. Teachers also received a Seed House and seeds to start germinating pollinator plants for transfer to pots or gardens in the spring. The workshop was made



possible by a grant the Cook County Farm Bureau received from Illinois Ag in the Classroom.

Teachers interested in learning more ways to incorporate agriculture into their K-12 classrooms can join us during one of two Summer Ag Institutes.

Each provides farm and agri-business tours, educational speakers, and many lesson ideas, all for \$125. Educators also earn PDCH credits or Graduate Credit Hours. Contact the Ag Literacy Coordinator for more information: [aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org).

## Thank you Mr. Jalove

The Cook County Farm Bureau would like to acknowledge Mr. Charles Jalove, for his years of donations and dedication to our charitable program Food Checkout Day and the school food drive. Mr. Jalove is a Guidance Counselor at Proviso West High School where he has engaged students in charitable causes throughout his years. We presented him with a plaque acknowledging his almost 1,000 pound food donation to the 2017 food drive and spent a few minutes talking about his commitment to this cause. Mr. Jalove recollected that he became aware of the



Cook County Farm Bureau while buying a new Dodge many years ago. "The Dodge dealer told me to go down the road and join the Cook County Farm Bureau. They told me where to go and if I joined it would save me \$500 on the Dodge," he explained. Ever since that day he

received our Co-Operator newspaper each month and became aware of the Ronald McDonald House/Farm Bureau partnership through Food Checkout Day. His Key Club, which is sponsored by the Kiwanis of Westchester, began collecting canned foods and donating them to the Loyola Ronald McDonald House and to our annual food drive. Mr. Jalove and his Key Club students have donated well over 8,000 pounds to this effort. We thank him for his commitment and wish him well as he retires from Proviso West at the end of this school year.

## Entrepreneurship Students Create Sales

The Chicago Flower and Garden Show was the perfect venue to showcase the talented young entrepreneurs who attend school in the city. 70 students from three high schools all received Entrepreneurship Grants in the fall which were used as start-up funds to begin their own agriculture business. The 28 products that were developed with these funds enabled students to take their wares to market either at the schools or in their communities. The Chicago Flower and Garden Show provided a one-day opportunity for these students to sell their products in the vendor area of the show on March 24th. Students were able to pitch their products, explain their production and marketing strategies, and walk away with profits to reinvest in their business. Our thanks to the generosity of partners of this project which provided a wealth of opportunity to these agriculture students. The program is administered by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation with funding provided by 1st Farm Credit Services.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Diane Merrion, *Ag in the Classroom* Coordinator  
[aitc@cookcfb.org](mailto:aitc@cookcfb.org)

## Job Shadowing and Ag Careers

A visit to Lieb School in Bridgeview provided the perfect opportunity for Ag Education students from the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences to experience the role of ag literacy and elementary education. Hosted by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation, the students accompanied Ag Literacy Coordinator, Diane Merrion, to the 4th grade classrooms at Lieb School. AITC presenter, Ms. Wendy Carter, led the 4th

grade presentation which provided an overview of the importance of agriculture in Illinois. The high school students observed the first presentation and then took the reins in the second classroom to teach the younger students all they know about crops and livestock, including the animals and food that is produced at their school in Chicago. All students learned from one another, with agriculture

providing the connection for this annual job shadow experience.

The Ag in the Classroom program also provides Career Day Classroom presentations upon request from Cook County middle and high schools. With 1 of 4 people entering the field of agriculture, we feel it is vitally important to open up the career conversation beginning in middle school.

# AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

## Signs of Spring....

If you visit any farms, zoos, or holiday events this April, you are sure to see signs of spring everywhere. With spring comes new life including baby animals, plants, flowers, and more. Some holidays we celebrate this month include April Fools' Day, Easter, National Zoo Day, National Farm Animal Day, and even National Jelly Bean Day on April 22nd.

Our farmers grow the sugar that goes into the jelly beans, raise the chicks that produce our eggs and meats, and plant the crops that are planted each spring to feed the world.

## Jelly Bean Fun Facts



- The origin of jelly beans is kind of a mystery, but they're thought to be a descendant of Turkish Delight or Jordan Almonds.
- To create the hard outer shell of a jelly bean and keep the inside gooey, a process called "panning" is used.
- In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, "jelly bean" was a slang term for a man who put forth great effort to dress stylishly.
- Jelly beans became a regular penny candy in the 1900s and were the first confection to be sold by weight rather than price.
- Each jelly bean color used to be sold separately.
- There are 16 billion jelly beans manufactured solely for Easter...That's enough to circle the Earth 3 times!
- Jelly beans were President Reagan's favorite candy and for his first inauguration, 7,000 pounds of jelly beans were ordered and distributed. Jelly Belly created a new flavor, blueberry, specifically for the event.
- It can take anywhere from 7 to 21 days to make a jelly bean.
- According to the National Confectioners Association, over 16 billion jelly beans are made in the U.S. each year for Easter, enough to fill a giant egg measuring 89 feet high and 60 feet wide.

Source: [GourmetGiftBaskets.com](http://GourmetGiftBaskets.com)

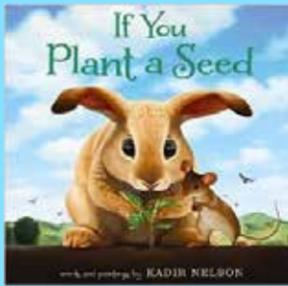
## Recommended Reading

### If you Plant a Seed

by Kadir Nelson

Kadir Nelson presents a resonant, gently humorous story about the power of even the smallest acts and the rewards of compassion and generosity.

With spare text and breathtaking oil paintings, *If You Plant a Seed* demonstrates not only the process of planting and growing for young children but also how a seed of kindness can bear sweet fruit.



## All About PEEPS®

Cute and quirky, delicious and available for all seasons, PEEPS® has been a marshmallow favorite for over 60 years! The #1 non-chocolate candy is available in unique shapes and tasty flavors for Easter, Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Summer.

'Just Born' is the name of the candy company that makes these tasty marshmallow candies; they have been making Peeps since 1953 when they purchased 'The Rodda Candy Company' from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Ever wondered if you could freeze PEEPS to enjoy them year-round? Well given that there is always some sort of PEEPS® Brand marshmallow on retailer shelves at almost any time of the year, you shouldn't need to freeze them! Many consumers, however, have reported to 'Just Born' that they freeze PEEPS® quite successfully. All of their packages have a best by date on them, and for optimum freshness, 'Just Born' recommends storing the candy at about 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity of about 45% to 50%.

Are yellow PEEPS® Chicks available year-round? According to 'Just Born', while you will typically not find them at your local retailers outside of the Easter season, you may find them through their online store at other times of the year.

Check out [www.peepsandcompany.com](http://www.peepsandcompany.com) to see what is available.

Source: [JustBorn.com](http://JustBorn.com)

## Spring Chickens

Are most baby chickens born in the spring?



Chicken eggs take almost exactly 21 days to hatch. A chicken can lay an egg every single day. This rapid turnaround can produce a lot of birds quickly.

Traditionally, chickens did not lay eggs in the winter. With the shorter daylight, their bodies stop producing the hormones that make them ovulate and produce an egg. But on contemporary farms, chickens are raised in barns where the light can be controlled. With artificial lighting, chickens can and will continue to produce eggs year-round.

This is a huge convenience for modern shoppers who expect to see eggs in grocery stores even in the winter months.

Source: [IowaAgLiteracy.org](http://IowaAgLiteracy.org)



Choose your prize: Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR \*AMC Movie Tickets (2 Green tix). \*AMC Green tickets can be used for any movie except those that are distributed by The Walt Disney Company, which include: Disney, Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm, Ltd.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau  
Ag Adventures Word Search  
6438 Joliet Rd  
Countryside, IL 60525  
Fax to: (708)579-6056

Email to: [membershiplinda@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershiplinda@cookcfb.org)

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2017 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.



**Ruben Serrano**

**Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!**

## April Word Search

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

April Baskets  
Candy  
Chicks  
Dye  
Eggs  
Flowers  
Hatch

Jelly Bean  
Marshmallow  
Peeps  
Plants  
Shell  
Spring  
Sugar  
Tasty

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

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

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:  
\_\_\_ Beggar's Pizza GC \_\_\_ HRI GC \_\_\_ 2 Movie Tix  
(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.

# Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation Farming For Our Future Gala...Proves An Overwhelming Success!

Continued from page 1.

**A heartfelt thank you for each of our Harvest and Planting Sponsors:**

*Harvest Sponsors*



The auction was so much fun!



The gala brought out the fancy dresses and gathering of family, friends, and fun for a great cause!



Master of Ceremonies, Colleen Callahan with Tim Stuenkel, Ag Literacy Team Chairman; and Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator, presented the impactful stories from the Ag in the Classroom program and scholarship program that are provided from the Foundation's fundraising efforts.



The Belvederes rocked the members!



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  - Donna Nykaza-Jones
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- John Gaspar
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- John Mihic
- Julie Michaels
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  - Jody Miz
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  - Peter Gutzmer

# PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

## Members Respond to Annual Viewpoint Survey

Cook County Farm Bureau® members voiced their thoughts and concerns in this year's Viewpoint Survey.

Farm Bureau members overwhelmingly supported issues related to local government consolidation, including: who should initiate a referendum to dissolve a local unit of government and whether or not units of local government that go dormant should be dissolved. In a contrast to last year's results, members support consolidation through front-door referendum rather than no referendum or a backdoor referendum.

Members also indicated a continuing concern about taxpayer funded pensions and the growing pension debt.

Farm Bureau members expressed a desire for Farm Bureau to continue its efforts in the area of "reform" including: tax code, health insurance, and government regulations.

The Public Policy Team is reviewing the results of this year's survey and is considering policy changes in light of the results.

For additional information on the survey, contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276 or via email at [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org).



Cook and Christian County Farm Bureau members visited with State Representative Sonya Harper during a recent Adopt-a-Legislator® visit to her Englewood district. In addition to touring Harper's district and visiting The Plant, Farm Bureau members toured Growing Home. Growing Home is Chicago's first organic certified urban farm and provides farm-based training for people with employment barriers.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bona Heinsohn

Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations

6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525 [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org) phone: (708) 354-3276 fax: (708) 579-6056

Please visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL](https://www.facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL) to be updated on agricultural issues and Cook County Government.



Cook County Farm Bureau leaders met with Senator Bill Cunningham during this year's Statewide Legislative Reception. Senator Cunningham is pictured (left-to-right) with President James Gutzmer, Public Relations Chairperson Janet McCabe, Senator Cunningham, and Board member Pat Horcher. Senator Cunningham is the former Senate Agriculture Committee Chairperson.



Farm Bureau members Amy Hansmann, Cindy Gustafson, Paul Siegel, James Bloomstrand, Tim Stuenkel, and Janet McCabe met with U.S. Congressman Peter Roskam in Washington D.C. Congressman Roskam is pictured center. Congressman Roskam is a high-ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee.



American Farm Bureau Federation® President addresses Cook County and Illinois Farm Bureau® members during a recent visit to Washington D.C. President Duwall stressed the importance of Farm Bureau members becoming advocates for the industry and working together with their U.S. Senators and Congressmen on priority issues, including: regulatory and tax reform, immigration, and trade.



Cook County Farm Bureau member, Cindy Gustafson meets with U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi during a recent visit to Washington D.C. Congressman Krishnamoorthi was recently elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.



Senator Napoleon Harris joined Cook and Will County Farm Bureau members in Springfield in February. Senator Harris is the newly appointed Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman.



By Bona Heinsohn

In March, Farm Bureau leaders from throughout Illinois traveled to the nation's capital. Leaders spent the week meeting with U.S. Congressmen, agency staff, and trade groups in an effort to learn more about issues impacting agriculture and to lobby for priority issues.

During conversations with the Canadian embassy, leaders learned that under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U.S. agricultural and food exports to Canada and Mexico have more than quadrupled. The trading partnership has created between five and six million American jobs. Locally, the food grown on two out of every ten acres on Illinois farms is used to feed livestock in Canada and Mexico.

## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

Farmers remain concerned about the future of NAFTA after President Trump pulled the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).

Leaders also traversed "Embassy row" in route to the Embassy of Ireland in Washington D.C. Like Canada, Ireland is a trading partner of the U.S. During both visits, Farm Bureau leaders discussed the importance of trade and maintaining access to foreign markets for agricultural commodities.

Trade was a continuing theme throughout the week in Washington D.C., especially as Farm Bureau leaders met with Senators and Congressmen. During each meeting, they explained the importance of trade to agriculture and asked for the continuance of NAFTA.

During a meeting with Congressmen Peter Roskam, Farm Bureau leaders thanked him for his

work on tax reform and urged him to ensure that interest deductions remain. Many farmers carry a large amount of capital debt after the purchase of land, equipment or buildings and many farmers carry operating debt to help them to finance the planting of a crop. Being able to deduct interest expenses on income taxes is vital.

Farm Bureau leaders carried a similar message to U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. Krishnamoorthi was elected in 2016 to replace then-Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth. In addition to asking for tax reform, leaders also lobbied for regulatory reform. Current proposals ask federal agencies to use science and the lowest cost option when propagating rules. The administrative rules process should be fair and transparent. Everyone should feel comfortable trusting

the process. It's easier to trust the outcome when you trust the process.

Both messages were carried to U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. In addition, Farm Bureau leaders spoke about the importance of having a viable, legal workforce. H-2A provides farmers, especially vegetable growers a skilled workforce in which the farmer bears the cost associated with the employees' transportation into the U.S., housing while in the U.S., medical insurance, and return transportation. Farm Bureau policy supports H-2A and is part of a growing effort to expand and improve H-2A.

In addition to Hill visits, leaders conversed with representatives from AmericanHort, American Seed Trade Association, Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Animal Agriculture Alliance, and the National Milk Producers Federation.

# MEMBER RELATIONS



*Farm Bureau members are invited to watch the World Champion Chicago Cubs take on the Chicago White Sox!*



VS



**Wrigley Field • Monday, July 24, 2017 • 1:20 p.m.**

CCFB members can purchase section 204 tickets for \$66.08 per ticket!  
 Tickets go on sale Monday, May 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
**(4 ticket limit per membership)**

To order tickets, call the CCFB office at 708.354.3276.

**VERY LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE! These tickets will SELL OUT!**

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 708.354.3276.

## Country Financial Representatives of the Month

The Financial Representative of the Month program is designed by Country Financial Agency Managers of Cook County to recognize overall Insurance Leaders in Life, Disability, Auto, Home, and Health production during the month. The agent earns the award through efforts to provide quality service to existing and new clients. Listed below are the various agents honored by their agency manager with the Financial Representative of the Month designation.



**Mirsad Kljucanin**  
 Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager  
 Mirsad Kljucanin has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2017. His office is located at 4725 N. Western Ave, Ste 280 in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 728-3041. Mirsad has been a Career Financial Representative since February 2010.



**Alex Swistun**  
 Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager  
 Alex Swistun has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for February 2017. His office is located at 225 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 207 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is (847) 427-8280 Alex has been a Career Financial Representative since March 2002.



**\*Alexander Cohen**  
 Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager  
 Alexander Cohen has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2017. His office is located at 2435 W. Schaumburg Rd. in Schaumburg, IL. His phone number is (847) 891-3183. Alexander has been a Financial Representative since October 2014.



**\*Dennis Brown**  
 Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager  
 Dennis Brown has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for February 2017. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 284-5836. Dennis has been a Financial Representative since March 2015.



**Anthony Palumbo**  
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager  
 Anthony Palumbo has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for February 2017. His office is located at 7601 W. 191st St., Ste 3 in Tinley Park, IL. His phone number is (708) 403-5708. Jim has been a Career Financial Representative since October 1984.



**Kevin Gardner**  
 Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager  
 Kevin Gardner has been named Employee Financial Rep of the Month for February 2017. His office is located at 3923 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park, IL. His phone number is (708) 425-2251. Kevin has been a Financial Representative since July 2016.



**Jim Verduin**  
 South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager  
 Jim Verduin has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for February 2017. His office is located at 17080 South Park Ave in South Holland, IL. His phone number is (708) 596-3999. Jim has been a Career Financial Representative since March 1982.



**Monica Moore**  
 South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager  
 Monica Moore has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for February 2017. Her office is located at 4845 167th St, Unit 101 in Oak Forest, IL. Her phone number is (708) 560-7777. Monica has been a Financial Representative since April 2015.

*\*Indicates that this Financial Representative is a CCFB Financial Certified Representative. The Cook County Farm Bureau Certified Financial Representative Program is designed to strengthen the partnership and relationship shared by Financial Representatives from Country Financial with the Cook County Farm Bureau organization.*



### CCFB and U of I Extension co-host babysitting class for pre-teen/teens

- When:** Saturday, May 6, 2017
- Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Please bring a lunch, CCFB will provide drinks.*
- Where:** Cook County Farm Bureau Building in Countryside
- Cost:** \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

**Goal:** To successfully train pre-teens and teens to be qualified babysitters.  
**Inputs:** University of Illinois Extension Educator

**Outputs:**

The curriculum will provide participants with the tools necessary to understand the expectations involved and be equipped for the challenges of babysitting. The following lessons will be presented:

- Lesson 1 – Babysitting Responsibilities
- Lesson 2 – The Business of Babysitting
- Lesson 3 – Understanding Children
- Lesson 4 – Nutrition
- Lesson 5 – Fun with Children
- Lesson 6 – Sitting Safely
- Lesson 7 – Sharing Tool Kits and Portfolios

**Outcomes/Impact:**

- Short-term:** Participants will attend the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop to learn how to be qualified babysitters.
- Medium-term:** Participants will begin to identify themselves as qualified babysitters as they prepare to develop their businesses.
- Long-term:** Participants will complete the *Babysitting for Hire* workshop as qualified babysitters and have successful babysitting businesses.

Participation in this workshop is open to any pre-teen/teen with the interest in creating a babysitting business. **Attendees will receive certification after completion of class.**

**Deadline to Register: April 26, 2017**

**Call the CCFB to register for this important class at 708.354.3276!**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie Smith, Director of Membership, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525  
[membershipkatie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipkatie@cookcfb.org) phone: (708) 354.3276 fax: (708) 579.6056

Cook County Farm Bureau's Member Service Center is now on Facebook. We will keep you up-to-date on all upcoming events, new membership benefits, and programs. Look us up by searching "Cook County Farm Bureau Membership/Benefits."

**"546,000"**  
is the number of  
**Cooperators sent to households**  
in the last year!

It's no wonder the classified  
ad section is so popular  
with our members!

**Classifieds**

All items listed are for the accommodation of the membership and without guarantee of the publisher.

**Miscellaneous**

Craftsman bench drill press: ½ h.p. motor, multi-speed, ½ inch chuck, hold down guide. \$150. Call 708-349-3142.

Authentic Majestic Cubs Lg Bomber style jacket with Cubs emblem. Front, left, Cub patch, right sleeve, American flag on left sleeve. Like new. \$100 OBO. Call 708-278-4168.

8 HP, 21 inch Craftsman, rear tine roto-tiller. Exc. condition, \$450. Call 708-284-0366.

Womens Schwinn bike, blue, perfect condition. \$100 or best offer. Call 630-880-6442.

Hot tub: "new", still in wrapper! 6 seater w/ lounger, 32 jets, waterfall, LED light. Ozone, delivered w/cover, only \$3,975. Call 708-299-4640.

Kitchen table with 6 chairs. In excellent condition. Table also comes with a leaf to size down to a smaller table. Asking \$175. Call 708-497-8718.

**Motorized Vehicles and Accessories**

Slide-in camper, 2005. 951 KZ, A.C. rarely used. \$4,500 firm. Call 708-209-0878.

1986 30 HP Evenrude outboard motor, short shaft, less than 400 total hrs., fresh water. \$800. I have the original operating manual. Call 708-363-2235.

**Tractors/ Farm Equipment/ Snow Blowers**

Mini-crane (carry deck) with lift extension. Gas/propane option. \$4,500 OBO. Located in Palos Hills. Call Carolyn at 708-974-3067.

**Real Estate For Sale/Rent**

House for rent: college rental for 2017-2018 school year. Will take 4 or 5 student! 5 for \$1,500 a month (\$300 per student) or 4 for \$1,300 (\$325 per student). 5 bedroom house with 2 bathrooms. Great location, near EIU on 7th Street in Charleston, IL. Kitchen & bathroom were recently remodeled. New wood flooring in the front room. For more info or to see the house, please contact Kim (manager) at 217-273-0675. Also, prices will lock in if you sign a two year or longer lease. Will also take family rentals.

100 acres in Demming, New Mexico: 88,030, 2-10 acre tracts and 2-40 acre tracts, priced at \$1,200 per acre. Next to Florida Mountains. Call 708-417-0303.

Beautiful custom built home: 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home, 3 car garage, full basement, many upgrades. 10 yrs old, granite countertops, cherry cabinets (kitchen), all stainless steel appliances. Located in Hampshire, IL. \$339,900. Call 847-683-5023.

**Vacation Sales/ Rentals**

Great place to spend the summer (winter too if you're adventurous). This spacious cabin is situated on 5 acres and only minutes from the city of Marquette. Cabin features 2 bedrooms, an open living/kitchen area, a cozy wood stove and a sliding glass door overlooking spring fed pond fish for perch, generator included. 4-wheeling and snowmobiling literally out your back door. \$64,900. Please call 847-909-0181.

**Wanted**

Wanted to buy: Older hot wheels, die cast cars, etc. Also old toys & old bicycles, old motor bikes, old radios, transistors & table tops. Call 708-361-8230.

Wanting to buy your HO scale or N scale electric train engines, cars, buildings, or anything train related. Do you have electric trains in your closet, basement, crawl space, attic or garage that you're not using? I buy train items from just a few pieces to hundreds of pieces at a time. Why sell them bit by bit, I'll

offer you a price on all you have! I'm retired and just enjoy trains. I realize that some may need work from sitting for a long time, but I have the time to fix them! TURN THOSE UNWANTED TRAIN ITEMS INTO CASH, and give me a call! I also buy slot cars. Call 630-272-4433 ask for Ron. Thanks!

**\*NEW\*** If you have a photo of the item(s) that you are selling (Auto, Home, Furniture, etc.) you can email it to us and we will include it on our 'Classifieds' page on our website along with your ad. All ads that we receive for the Co-Operator are also listed on our website at [cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds](http://cookcfb.org/membership/classifieds). Email your photo along with your ad to [membershiplinda@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershiplinda@cookcfb.org).

**FREE Classified Ads**  
for Cook County Farm Bureau members

All Cook County Farm Bureau members may run four non-commercial classified ads annually free in the Cooperator. Only items of personal property will be accepted. Ads must be in the office by the 15th of each month.

Category:  For Sale Misc.  For Rent  Wanted

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Bureau # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ad \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please be sure to include a contact phone number where interested buyers can contact you. Ad can be typed or written. PRINT CLEARLY. (If not enough room, put on separate sheet)

Complete the above form and mail to:  
Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525.  
You can also fax your ad to (708) 579-6056 or email to [membershiplinda@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershiplinda@cookcfb.org)  
Non-member ad rate: \$.75 per word; \$15.00 minimum.

**Farming a part of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show**

Agriculture was at the forefront during the Chicago Flower and Garden Shell held on Navy Pier, March 18 through March 25. Country Financial was a premier

sponsor of the event and welcomed assistance to build and support the Rural – Urban Neighbors garden. Assistance was provided from the Cook County Farm

Bureau, Ted's greenhouse, Buck Brother's Equipment, Walnut Grove Farms, and other County Farm Bureaus in Northeastern Illinois.



A John Deere tractor with planter with corn growing was a huge attraction during the Flower and Garden Show held in March on Navy Pier in the Country Financial Garden.



The rural scene transitioning into urban gardening concepts provided for great conversation in the Country Financial Garden.



The Country Financial garden's "meditation garden sitting area" allowed for a quick break for those attending the Flower and Garden Show.



The Ag in the Classroom program spent 5 days at the Flower and Garden show teaching kids about the importance of agriculture and food in their everyday world.

**The 2017 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection is Coming Soon!**

The 2017 Cookfresh Recipe Collection will be available later this month. Recipes will focus on cooking with the freshest ingredients grown locally. The recipes chosen were submitted by Cook County Farm Bureau members. To receive a free copy, email: [membershiplibbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershiplibbie@cookcfb.org), or phone 708.354.3276. Once available, we will send you a copy!

To download a copy online, go to: [www.cookcfb.org/buy-local/recipe-collection](http://www.cookcfb.org/buy-local/recipe-collection) once available.



**Beginning Beekeeping Workshop**



18 members and community bee enthusiasts attended a Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on March 11th at the Cook County Farm Bureau. Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton of the CDBA conducted the terrific workshop, ensuring all participants start down the right path in the keeping and caring for bees!



The Cooperator, official publication of the Cook County Farm Bureau, does accept paid advertising. A copy of the rate card may be accessed at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) in News and Views or call the CCFB office at 708.354.3276 for a copy. The publication goes to more than 40,000 households each month.

**Planter Workshop Series *continues...***  
**CCFB member Greenhouses hosting 3 new workshop this Spring!**

# Spring

Sponsored by  
 Cook County Farm Bureau®  
 Commodities/Marketing Team

We are excited to be sponsoring Planter Workshops as part of our on-going series hosted by Cook County Farm Bureau member Greenhouses this Spring, Summer, and Fall. The fun began at Melka's last Winter and the fun continues this Spring by hosting not 1, not 2, but **3 new Spring Planter Workshops!** See workshop locations and details below and register for 1, 2, or all 3 and bring a guest!

Class size is limited!  
 Register early!

Registration & Payment Required. Call the Farm Bureau at: 708-354-3276 or Register online at the Member Center at [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org)

## Spring Planter Workshop at Zeldenrust Farms

1001 Glenwood Dyer | Chicago Heights South Cook  
 Saturday, April 22, 2017 | 10 AM Fee: \$25.00

Make a spring planter to display on your porch, patio, or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil, plantings, and instruction. Each registrant will also receive a \$10 gift card that can be used to upgrade the container or use for a future purchase.

## Spring Planter Workshop at Horcher Farms & Flower Shop

910 McHenry Rd | Wheeling, IL 60090 North Cook  
 Wednesday, May 3, 2017 | 6:30-8:00 PM Fee: \$25.00

Make a spring planter to display on your porch, patio, or balcony area while learning planting tips and tricks from the experts; workshop includes pot, soil, and plantings.

## Fairy Garden Container Workshop at Van Kalker Farms/Grnhs

1808 E. Joe Orr Road | Chicago Heights IL, 60411 South Cook  
 Saturday, May 6, 2017 | 10 AM Fee: \$35.00

Make a fairy garden planter that includes pot, two plants, and two fairy accessories, soil, rocks, moss, etc...with instruction from an expert. Parent & child are welcome. Each registrant will receive a \$10 gift card that can be used to upgrade the container, add additional fairy accessories, or use for a future purchase.

## Meet the 2017 Cookfresh® Community Garden Grant Recipients

### Mozart Community Garden:

Located in Chicago's Humboldt Park community, the garden is a place for low-income gardeners who can't afford their own gardens, or don't live near a garden where they can grow their own food. Their plan is to use the funds to purchase gardening supplies and tools that are kept in the garden shed for use by gardeners who cannot afford their own or who do not have a car to transport them.

### Roots Community Garden:

Located in Palatine, the garden is a collaboration among many community schools, businesses, churches, agencies, and volunteers providing food for the under-served in Palatine while providing educational opportunities and hands-on activities for all volunteers. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plantings, and gardening supplies to be used in the garden.

### Semillas de Justicia Community Garden:

Located in Chicago's Little Village area, the garden in its 4th year is looking to increase the number of garden beds to encourage more community members to join the space and grow healthy fruits, vegetables, legumes, and medicinal herbs for their families. The garden is also home to many gardening and health workshops, classes, and seed swaps for the community. Grant funds will be used to purchase organic top soil.

### El Paseo Community Garden:

Located in Chicago's Pilsen community, the garden is a place by and for the community. This year's garden will host a pilot program called Chef and Kids to teach youth about compost, gardening, harvesting, and then learn how to prepare a meal using the harvest, providing each child with a gardening starter kit. Funds will be used to purchase compost, tools, gloves, watering cans, seedlings, and seed.

### Mercy Housing Lakefront Youth Urban Garden:

Located in the Chicago's Austin neighborhood, this established youth community garden continues to provide area youth with the opportunity to learn about gardening, plant life, healthy eating, and entrepreneurship through hands-on experience. Grant funds will be used to purchase seeds, plants, gardening pots, and supplies.



Cookfresh® is an assistance program designed for Community Gardens in Cook County to beautify their "places and palates." The Cookfresh Community Urban Garden Grant program offered five \$300.00 grants to support urban agriculturists seeking assistance with a community garden. The community gardens will receive \$300 in the form of Cook County Farm Bureau "Cookfresh Funds".

## Attention Cook County Farm Owners...

### We received the following message from the Cook County Assessor's Office:

#### COOK COUNTY FARM ASSESSMENTS UNDER REVIEW

The Cook County Assessor's Office is now reviewing the status of all properties classified as farms in the County.

Farmers found to have not provided the County with required annual information about their property may be required to pay additional taxes as a result.

All farmers must submit a Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit to the Cook County Assessor's Office each year to ensure their properties continue to be valued as farms for tax purposes.

If a farmer has failed to file the Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit in any year, the property

may be reclassified and reassessed at a higher percentage.

The deadline to file the annual Cook County Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit is January 31 of each year. Farmers should use only the form available on the Cook County Assessor's website (<http://sub.cookcountyassessor.com/PdfForms/Farm-Forms.aspx>) unless directed otherwise by the Assessor's Office.

Any farmer who has neglected to file a Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit for 2017 or any past year should contact Mr. Dominick Spalla, Manager of Specific Properties at the Assessor's Office, at (312) 603-4137 no later than April 17, 2017.

## 2017 Cook County Farm Bureau Bookmark Contest



Design a bookmark to thank farmers for providing our food, fiber and fuel. Whether it's milk from a cow, ethanol to fill your gas tank, cereal made with wheat, corn fresh from the field, or soy ink on your newspaper, we want you to show how important our farmers are to you by illustrating the farm to product process. Enter our bookmark contest (up to age 12) and people from all over Cook County will use it during their summer reading.

A First Place winner and three runners up will be selected. The First Place winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, Runner Up winners will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. All four will also receive an Ag themed book. The winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution this summer at local libraries and at the Cook County Farm Bureau.

For an entry form, please visit: <http://www.cookcfb.org/ag-literacy/kids-activities/book-mark-contest>

## Soil Test Kits on Sale

### Master Gardener Resource Center Opens!



#### Why should I test my soil?

Soil testing takes the guess work out of soil improvement, growing plants and fertilizer recommendations insuring plant growth to its fullest potential.

#### How do I get a soil test kit?

Contact the Cook County Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276 to request

your soil test kit. You can purchase your kit by using a credit over the phone or mailing in a check. Upon payment, your soil test kit will be sent to you. Pricing is as follows: One sample: \$20.00 (\$30 for non-members), Two samples: \$30.00 (\$40 for non-members). Lead testing is also available: \$37.00 for members, \$42.00 for non-members. The kit includes: soil sample bag (s), instructions on how to take a soil sample, questionnaire about your soil samples and a shipping box with a pre-paid ups label. You will receive your test results and basic recommendations within two weeks.

**Who can assist with results?** Our Master Gardeners Resource Center opens April 10th and the Master Gardeners are available to assist with soil test recommendations, plant disease issues and treatments, horticulture related questions, pest identification/ treatment, and more!

Master Gardeners are available in the Cook County Farm Bureau suite located at 6438 Joliet Rd. in Countryside, IL 60525 during the office hours of 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Mondays and Thursdays beginning April 10th through November 13th. To contact a Master Gardener, call the Cook County Farm Bureau at (708)354-3276 or email: [mastergardener@cookcfb.org](mailto:mastergardener@cookcfb.org).