



# 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.

Vol. 91 No. 1

Countryside, IL 60525

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

January 2017

## Partner with us to Support Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

With Food Checkout Day scheduled for February 14, Farm Bureau families and partners have joined together to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when a child is ill.

Through YOUR support we've been able to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is not a concern of theirs during these times.

Help us to collect non-perishable food, money, and pop tabs.

Food, cash and pop tab donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

**Cook County Farm Bureau®**  
6438 Joliet Road  
Countryside, Illinois 60525  
(708) 354-3276

Last year we were able to donate over \$20,000 to the five area Ronald McDonald Houses. Due to your efforts, Ronald McDonald Houses remain open to all families regardless of an

individual's ability to pay.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow.

Food Checkout Day highlights the safe and nutritious food that local farmers grow. Through our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana supporters are able to assist families during the most difficult time of their lives, when their child is ill.

Please partner with us to raise much needed funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. All proceeds raised will benefit the charity.

Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

### Veggies Sponsor

Includes inclusion on all advance promotions and significant event signage.

**\$500**

### Sweet Corn Sponsor

Includes inclusion on all advanced promotions and cart signs at Chicago and Oak Lawn grocery store events.

**\$250**

### Grains Sponsor

Includes event signage.

**\$150**

#### Please make checks

payable to: **Ronald McDonald House Charities.** All proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

For more information contact Bona Heinsohn at the Cook County Farm Bureau® at (708) 354-3276 or [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org).

*See page 6 to learn how schools can help with Food Checkout Day and see Bona's column on Page 9 to read about the meaning of the Food Checkout Day event.*

### Food Checkout Day SPONSORSHIP 2017

\_\_\_ \$500 Veggie Sponsor      \_\_\_ \$250 Sweet Corn Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$150 Grains Sponsor      \_\_\_ Other amount

*Indicate which level you are purchasing*

Company/Individual Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Written as you wish it to appear in publications or on signage*

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

If affiliated with a Country Financial Agency, please indicate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please indicate if you are interested in participating in the 2017 social media "Countdown" to Food Checkout Day. Farm Bureau staff will contact you to make arrangements.

#### Please make checks payable to: Ronald McDonald House Charities.

All proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

For more information contact Bona Heinsohn at the Cook County Farm Bureau® at (708) 354-3276 or [bona@cookcfb.org](mailto:bona@cookcfb.org).



Cook Co. Farm Bureau leaders maintain a rooftop garden at the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie in downtown Chicago. Throughout the year, leaders donate their time, talent, and materials to transition the herb garden to a fall garden and then to a winter wonderland. Ronald McDonald House families enjoy the rooftop garden throughout the year.

## 2017 Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 19th Annual Agricultural Scholarship Program. The Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering college students the opportunity to start or continue his/her higher education with a scholarship. Last year, the Foundation provided ten scholarships ranging from \$1,000.00 - \$3,000 a piece. The Board will name the top applicant as the Howard Paarlberg Excellence

in Agriculture Scholarship recipient. The Foundation will award a scholarship (s) to college students pursuing agriculturally related fields of study. The Conserv FS FFA Scholarship for \$1,000 will also be offered to a High School Senior in an approved FFA Program.

The Foundation Board has set the following criteria for the scholarship program...  
• Applications are available at the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation office

located at 6438 Joliet Road in Countryside, Illinois. We will also send applications upon request by calling 708-354-3276 or they can be printed out on the Foundation page of [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org).

• Applications must be completed and submitted to the CCFB Foundation by February 17th, 2017. Late applications will not be considered.

*Continued on Page 3*

## CCFB Foundation Gala tickets are a great idea for the person who loves to have Fun for a Cause!

See page 12 for details!

## Question of the Month

Cook County Farm Bureau just entered a new partnership with a company that provides a number of tour & travel destinations. What is the name of the company that we're partnering with?

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.

December winner is **Mark Kasper.**

**Last Month's Question:** The Electoral College, which ultimately is responsible for selecting the U.S. President and Vice-President, was created through what document?

*Answer: Article II of the US Constitution*

THE  
POWER  
OF (A)  
AWARDS

Cook County Farm Bureau  
Winner of the Power of 'A'  
2012 Summit Award

# Let's Talk About the Ag on Your Plate

## How do animals stay warm in the winter?

If you have pets, you know that animals add extra (temporary) fur for the winter and then shed it (all over your house) when the weather warms up. Farm animals are no different, they'll add fur to help insulate themselves against the winter chill. It's because of this long coat that you'll often see horses feeding or bedded down outside despite the chilly weather and even falling snow. Like snow on top of a well-insulated house, unmelted snow on the back of a horse or cow indicates that the animal is warm on the inside.



Many dairy calves in the Midwest are housed in individual or small-group houses when they are young to help keep them from spreading illnesses, if one of them becomes sick. In the winter, the individual or small-group houses are bedded with straw. The straw is replaced throughout the winter to ensure that it remains fresh, clean, and dry.

Farmers provide animals with shelter. In the simplest form, shelter may consist of a three-sided building. Animals like horses and beef cows will primarily use this shelter during rainfall. The building will allow fresh, clean air to circulate, which helps keep the

animals healthy.

In the Midwest, most dairy animals are kept indoors to protect them from the cold winters and from hot, unrelenting summers. Even these well insulated barns have large panels to allow in fresh air. In the summer, the panels will again be opened to allow air to circulate. Many farmers will use sprinklers and fans to further cool their

animals in the summer heat.

Farmers are committed to ensuring the health of their animals. That commitment doesn't change when the weather gets cold.

**Got 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*.

# IAA Foundation Offers Scholarships To Support Agriculture, Illinois Farm Bureau Families



*Sons/Daughters of Illinois Farm Bureau Members Students Pursuing Agriculture Related Careers*

**Deadline Approaching to apply for an IAA Foundation Scholarship**

Visit [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org) for full details and link to online application

**Applications Due February 1, 2017**

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members and their children are encouraged to apply for 71 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships,

ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, will be awarded in total of \$143,400 for the 2017-2018 school year.

All applicants must be high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled at an accredited college, university or community college. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academic ability, leadership and financial need. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again.

A full listing of available scholarships, eligibility guidelines, and application documents are available at the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). Completed applications must be submitted online by Feb. 1, 2017.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2230, or e-mail Susan Moore, director, IAA Foundation, at [smoore@ifb.org](mailto:smoore@ifb.org).

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

**Gracias THANK YOU Gratiſied**

# 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!*

<p>This month, we would like to thank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Leader, Hannah Barthels, for attending the Schaumburg High School harvest lunch and representing the Farm Bureau.</li> <li>• Dan Biernacki, Karen Biernacki, Greg Stack etal from Ted's Greenhouse for helping set up the</li> </ul>	<p>Farm Bureau Christmas Tree on the Ronald McDonald House roof and providing a garden make over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Young Leaders group for their Teen Toy Drive for Toybox Connection in Orland Park.</li> </ul>
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**THANK YOU**

## Trivia

- Each year, the average American eats over 60 pounds of beef
- Female cows, prior to giving birth, are called heifers
- Columbus brought cattle with him on his second voyage to the New World in 1493

## Dear Reader,

You receive the "Cooperator" 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 heri-tage. In addition, members are provided the opportunity to enjoy our affiliated company, Country Financial and 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 heri-tage 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 "Cooperator", 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-Cooperator.**

### Co-Operator

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# Downwind

by Bob Rohrer, CCFB Manager

Farming is a very dangerous profession. There are times that the Emergency room should be known as the farmer's best friend. The farming Rohrers have called the ER "friend" a number of times.

Take my father, the Farmer, for an example. Here's a guy in his upper 70's that still climbs grain bin ladders and works on, in and around farm equipment. He has had a few emergency room visits in his life. Most recently, over the Thanksgiving weekend! Afterwards, I told my father, the Farmer, "You need a much better story"! Here is the "true" version...

My father, the Farmer, was an excellent ping-pong player in his day. I can still remember, as a kid, a great trophy on his dresser that he won while in the Army. My dad put a ping-pong table in a room in the basement. My siblings and I spent hours playing in that basement, honing our pong skills and still getting "thumped" game after game by the Farmer. I do not remember ever winning against the Farmer as a kid and there was no "losing on purpose to make the kid feel better" in those days. When I went into high school, I became "too cool" to play ping-pong with the Farmer (or maybe I was just too hot headed to lose). Today, I regret losing that personal connection through ping-

pong.

A few years ago, my wife and I cleared out a room in our basement to add a ping-pong table to our family entertainment. Since that time, I have had a blast watching my children hone their own paddle skills in an effort to beat their old man (yes me). Of course, I've communicated to all of them about how their grandpa, the Farmer, used to dominate the table.

Over Thanksgiving, a ping-pong game in our basement broke out. And with the "Grandpa Legend" in the house, the Farmer was encouraged to play. The Farmer now has a lot of farm seasons behind him and he has slowed down a bit in recent years. He is not as tall as he used to be. The hand/eye coordination isn't quite the same. The nimble feet aren't there.

And yet, when the paddle snuggled into his hand, you could see his eyes light up and a smile beamed across his face. Within minutes, his fancy shots returned, the spinning cut shot appeared, the "table hugging" serve was back and the backhand flip became crisp. The world was right again. It reminded me of the same "lighting up" of his eyes when earlier that day, he was discussing his record yielding corn and soybean crop this past year. Pride and joy of farming!

And then things went south...quickly. When I casually returned a shot into the corner of the table, I was shocked to see the Farmer lose his balance, trip, go flying through the

air and nail the corner of the bookcase with his head. A big, bleeding head wound. We rushed the Farmer to the emergency room and spent three hours with other unfortunate souls as we waited for triage treatment, x-rays, CAT scan, and the doctor's exam. 31 stitches and a swollen, black eye later, we returned home with the Farmer patched back together. Good thing the Farmer has a cast iron noggin. I tried to help him with a better story... that he had been playing ping-pong using machetes or wrestling a bear.

In farm country, stories travel amazingly quickly (Especially when my father, the Farmer, goes to the coffee shop). Soon after the event, I received a text message from a good friend of mine saying that he will remember never to play me in ping-pong at my house". At the recent Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago, a farmer asked me "why I tried to break my father with a ping-pong paddle". I then ran into another farmer who was wondering "what did you do to your dad?"

Apparently my father did

come up with a better story... He was a victim of Parent abuse and I was the abuser! Great story, Dad!

My father, the Farmer, has another skill: Stubbornness. He will be back to play ping pong again...just as he farmed when farming prices were abysmal, produced crops when weather would not cooperate, did farm chores in snow/subzero temps, and provided for a family when we did not always appreciate what he did to put food on the table.

So...who's ready to play a little full contact ping pong?



### Contact Information:

Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525  
708-354-3276 708-579-6056 Fax E-Mail: ccfb@cookcfb.org www.cookcfb.org

## 2017 Foundation Scholarship Applications

Continued from Page 1

- All applicants must be members or dependents of members in good standing with the Cook County Farm Bureau for at least one year. (Except for the Conserv FS FFA Award)
- All applicants must be high school graduates accepted for enrollment by, or currently enrolled at, an accredited college, university, or community college.
- All applicants must be pursuing a field of study in agriculture, agri-business,

or an agriculturally related major with a focus on an ag-related career (food or fiber).

- Scholarships will be awarded following application evaluation for exceptional academic ability, financial need, demonstrated interest in agriculture, evidence of self-help, and character.

For more information or an application, please contact the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at (708)354-3276 or print an application out from our website at [cookcfb.org/foundation/scholarships](http://cookcfb.org/foundation/scholarships).



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

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0316-513HO

# Hot Issue update... Federal agency halts review of rail line proposal

By Deana Stroisch, FarmWeek

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has halted its environmental review of Great Lakes Basin Transportation's (GLBT) proposed three-state freight rail line.

GLBT representatives requested the federal agency temporarily stop the review so they could finish preparing an application to construct and operate the proposed rail line.

Victoria Rutson, director of STB's office of environmental analysis (OEA), granted their request.

"I must note, however, that stopping and starting the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review process often adds time and expense to the process, and increases the burden on all stakeholders," Rutson wrote to Frank Patton, managing partner of GLBT. She requested a status update by Feb. 28. "Once GLBT files its application with the board, OEA will resume work on determining a range of reasonable and feasible alternatives to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)," she wrote. "We will prepare a brief alternatives document for public review and comment, and may have additional public scoping meetings, if warranted. Following public comment on the alternatives document, we will issue the Final Scope of Study for the EIS and begin preparing the draft EIS.

Because the environmental review process is now on hold, these next steps must await receipt of your application."

GLBT has been answering questions from the federal agency as part of the environmental review process – a process that can take two to three years.

GLBT recently proposed a new route, totaling 260 miles, 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 (IFB), along with dozens of farmers, organizations and lawmakers in three states, have requested more time to comment on the proposed route since it changed.

"The STB's action allows for additional public comment prior to issuance of a draft EIS as requested by the Illinois Farm Bureau and other interested parties," said Laura Harmon, IFB's senior counsel.

# From the Farm Desk... Farm and Food Bytes

RESEARCH SEEMS TO BE BEARING FRUIT (*News-Gazette*)– A super-computer and an agricultural test plot at the University of Illinois could be the birthplace of a new "green revolution" in food production, scientists say. A scientific team led by UI plant physiologist Stephen Long used the National Center for Super-computing Applications to model new approaches to improving crop yields – genetically altering photosynthesis, the process plants use to convert carbon dioxide and sunlight into chemical energy and, eventually, food for animals and humans.

VILSACK: STOP IGNORING RURAL AMERICA – Following Donald Trump's surprise presidential victory this month, outgoing USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack reiterated a common message he's voiced in the last several years: "Democrats need to talk to rural voters. They can't write them off. They can't ignore them. They actually have to spend a little time talking to them." According to the *Washington Post*, Vilsack should know; he was the first Democratic governor elected in Iowa in 32 years.

MCDONALD'S GIVING FRESH BEEF A TRY (AP) – McDonald's is testing the use of fresh, never-frozen beef for its Quarter Pounder hamburgers. The fast-food giant said the tests are being carried out in 75 of its restaurants.

SMITHFIELD FOODS SAYS IT WILL CUT EMISSIONS (USA Today) – Smithfield Foods, the company behind Nathan's Famous hot dogs and Smithfield hams, announced Monday that it will slash its greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent over the next nine years. The effort will impact every step of its operations, from the efficiency of its refrigerators to the transportation of its hogs. Smithfield is making changes at its farms and facilities, as well as to the journey that connects the two.

TYSON LAUNCHES FOOD VENTURE FUND IN CHICAGO (Chicago Tribune) – Tyson Foods has launched a Chicago-based venture capital fund with an ambitious mission: develop new technologies to feed the world, perhaps with something beyond its core meat products. The Arkansas-based poultry giant announced Monday that it is making \$150 million available to Tyson New Ventures, which will invest in ag-tech startups creating alternative forms of protein, eliminating food waste and tapping the "internet of food" to promote efficiencies in the food chain.

DATA SHOWS MOST AMERICAN FARMS ARE STILL FAMILY FARMS (Food Safety News) – After all these years, agriculture in America remains overwhelmingly dominated by family farms. A new report by USDA's Economic Research Service shows not only just how dependent America is on family farms, but also how many are independent of government. "Seventy-two percent of all farms received no farm-related government payments in 2015, according to the report.

HEALTHY FOOD RULES AMENDED FOR SNAP (Chicago Tribune) – In a compromise with political and business interests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has scaled back its new rule requiring stores participating in the federal food stamp program to carry a greater number of healthy food items. The final rule filed Thursday by the USDA Food and Nutrition Services, that manages the \$74 billion Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, requires 84 healthy food items – half of the 168-item mandate that had been proposed.

CONSUMERS WANT CHIPS (Wall Street Journal) – Despite consumers saying they want to eat healthy, and PepsiCo offering up brands like Quaker oatmeal, Naked juice and Sabra hummus to meet the demand, the company is finding out most consumers still just want chips. PepsiCo fell behind its 2010 goal to triple revenue from nutritious products to \$30 billion this decade. Instead, its new goal is that sales growth of nutritious products "will outpace" the rest of its Doritos, Cheetos and the like portfolio.

Veterinary Feed Directive – takes effect January 1, 2017 and provides oversight on how farmers deliver antibiotics in feed and water to livestock. The goal is to ensure that antibiotics important in human medicine are not used to improve feed efficiency or to promote livestock growth through a established working relationship with a veterinarian. For more info, go to [ilfb.org/vfd](http://ilfb.org/vfd)

## 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 ...**

**Luke Allen**



**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM ANIMAL?**

Beef cattle

- Serves on the Ag Literacy Team at the Cook County Farm Bureau
- Taught high school agriculture for 3 years but for the past 11 years has been assisting and recruiting Agriculture teachers
- Is the 5th generation to grow up and work at his family farm Southeast of Champaign, IL.
- Everyone in his direct family tree has been a farmer as far back as he can trace, at least since the early 1800s.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR?**

Harvest!

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM MEMORY?**

My entire family working together to accomplish a project- Bale hay, show livestock, harvest crops. Even little kids had jobs, like picking up strings or helping prepare meals.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FARM SMELL?**

Corn Silage

**WHAT IS YOUR BEST FOOD MEMORY?**

Sitting together at the county fair with multiple families eating together in potluck after we competed against each other all week.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TRACTOR?**

John Deere 4020

## Last Month's "Where Am I?"

In last month's 'Where Am I?', Calvin was by Carlton Fisk statue located at US Cellular Field in Chicago, IL.

*Congratulations to Janet Konkol for being the winner in last month's drawing!*



## “From the Country” When Winter Covers Your Roof, Make Sure to Cover Your Home



Cary Tate  
Country Agency  
Manager  
Orland Park  
Agency

A roof covered high in snow might provide the perfect backdrop for your holiday card photo or a soft landing pad for Santa and his sleigh.

But a serious risk to your home and family may be lurking beneath that beautiful bed of white.

Heavy snow and ice buildup can routinely cause roof collapses. Even partial collapses can cause extensive damage to the interior contents of a home or business. And you're not out of the storm when warmer weather begins to roll in. Rain on top of snow can significantly add to the weight on your roof, and poor drainage can mean interior flooding.

As little as 6 inches of snow packed on your roof could cause major damage to your home—and your wallet.

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) research shows about \$1 of every \$5 paid for home and business property losses in recent years has stemmed from damage due to freezing weather, snow and water leaks.

With many areas of the country witnessing record snowfall and the wintry season lasting longer, the risk factors for roof and home damage could be snowballing.

The IBHS has some guidelines to help you determine the risk posed to your home and roof. First, the age and design of your roof are major factors:

- Light metal buildings typically have less capacity to handle a high snow load, so it's essential to keep all outbuildings clear as well as your

home.

- For flat roofs, the step-down area between roof sections is a potential source of roof overload because of the tendency for ice and snow collection.

Fresh snow is two to four times lighter than old snow, so your roof could hold up to four feet of fresh snow safely. But new snow on top of old snow can multiply the risk of collapse. Ice mixed with snow is extremely heavy—just one inch of ice can weigh as much as 12 inches of fresh snow.

To be safe, consider hiring a licensed roof contractor to remove any snowfall over two feet.

To help reduce the risk of roof damage and flooding during the winter, take these preventative measures throughout the rest of the year:

- Clear roof valleys and gutters of debris in the fall.
- Caulk all cracks and openings in the foundation.
- Inspect downspouts. They should carry water at least five feet away from foundation walls.
- Ensure that the surrounding landscape is graded away from your home.
- If applicable, test sump pumps before the wet season. Install a battery backup system. If you do not have a sump pump in your basement, consider having a professional install a system with battery backup.

Most home insurance plans cover roof collapse, but many older policies may not. So don't let your family get left out in the cold. Check with your COUNTRY Financial representative to make sure your home and family are covered.



### 2017 Cookfresh® Community Urban Garden Grant Program Applications Available!

Cookfresh® Community Urban garden Grant Program is designed to “help” community gardens access needed plantings, seed, raised bed construction material, soil, compost, fencing and more.

Cookfresh® Cook County will award five \$300.00 grants to urban/community gardens in Cook County that are seeking to enhance their garden's success. A grant application sub-committee will evaluate applications and award five garden grants.

Awarded Cookfresh® grant funds are in the form of vouchers, redeemable same as cash at participating CCFB member Greenhouses and Garden Centers.

To download an application, go to <http://cookcfb.org/buy-local/programs> or contact Debbie: 708-354-3276 or by email at [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org).

Grant applications need to be emailed, faxed or postmarked by: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to be considered.

Encourage your community garden coordinator to apply!

## Your Orland Park Agency



**Cary Tate**  
708-226-1111  
Agency Manager  
Orland Park, IL



**Piero Setta**  
708-226-0431  
7601 W. 191st St  
Tinley Park, IL



**Jim Andresen**  
708-633-6490  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



**Thomas Geraghty**  
708-425-9700  
5003 W 95th St  
Oak Lawn, IL



**Mark Wright**  
708-403-2416  
7601 W. 191st St  
Tinley Park, IL



**George Parthemore**  
708-226-1896  
9432 W 143rd St  
Orland Park, IL



**Dean Reszel**  
708-478-3136  
11056 W 179th St  
Orland Park, IL



**Mike Skrabis**  
708-226-1666  
9731 W 165th St  
Orland Park, IL



**Tony Palumbo**  
708-403-5708  
7601 W. 191st St  
Tinley Park, IL



**Mike Spadoni**  
708-425-1825  
3923 W. 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



**Bob Johnson**  
708-429-9422  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



**Dan Stumpf**  
708-614-1688  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



**Bill Thompson**  
708-361-1304  
12130 S Harlem Ave  
Palos Heights, IL



**Nora Beverly**  
708-429-7789  
17605 S Oak Park Ave  
Tinley Park, IL



**John Piazza**  
630-257-6100  
106 Stephen St  
Lemont, IL



**Nick Burke**  
708-425-1816  
3923 W. 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



**Mike Thauer**  
708-425-1559  
3923 W. 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



**Erica Storrs-Gray**  
708-671-1465  
12130 S Harlem Ave  
Palos Heights, IL



**Terry LaMastus**  
708-754-5900  
3308 Chicago Rd  
Steger, IL



**Joe Voves**  
708-425-1527  
3923 W. 95th St  
Evergreen Park, IL



Jim Gutzmer (L), Cook County Farm Bureau President, with David Erickson, Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President, accepted on behalf of the organization a recognition plaque for program excellence in a variety of disciplines including Gold Stars for Membership Quota, Ag Literacy, Local Affairs, and Member Relations in addition to Silver Stars for Commodities and Marketing, Health and Safety, Legislative/Political Process, Communications and Promotion, Policy Development and County Foundation. The Young Leaders group also received a Bronze Star.



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0315-563HO



# Agricultural Literacy & Public Relations

## Ag Lit Bit By Diane Merrion



### Where are they now?

It's the start of a new year which brings new opportunities to make those resolutions/resolutions/ goals you set forth on January 1<sup>st</sup> come to fruition. We are excited to start 2017 with many scheduled visits to schools with one of our three program offerings from Ag in the Classroom. We're also busy lining up a summer filled with new programs and one new intern. Ag in the Classroom spends a good deal of time in classrooms (no surprise there) teaching students about agriculture as it relates to the farm to table concept. We also spend a lot of time talking with students about career choices and the vast opportunities in our field. While they may not know what they want to be when they are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade or high school, we are there to educate them on the possibilities that exist in agriculture. There is no better way to determine a career choice than to get some actual experience, which is what we provide to our summer interns. To put it into perspective I thought it would be beneficial to chronicle the career and educational path of a few of our past interns to see where they are now following their summer experience provided by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation. Here is what they had to say:

"Upon graduation from Oklahoma State University with a double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Education in May 2016 I moved to Maysville, Georgia. I am currently a middle school Agricultural Education teacher at Carver Middle School in Walton County. I truly enjoy educating young children on the importance of agriculture", stated Nicole Zeien (2015 intern).

"I am working for Charleston|Orwig, which is a full-service agency based out of Heartland, WI. I'm a Jr. Account Executive and assist

on numerous accounts ranging from traditional ag to food service. A couple of my favorite accounts I work on are Kerry Foods (different brands from Fit Frappe to Golden Dipt) and Illinois Soybean Association. C/O is an awesome company to work for. I can bring my dog to work on Friday's and we're always celebrating someone or something with a party", explained Kendall Herren (2014 intern).

"I am currently a graduate student working with the Cook County Extension 4H team. I got my Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Leadership Education and I'm currently pursuing a Masters in Agricultural Education. My overall goal is to be able to work with kids and educate them about ag", shared Jessica Biernacki (Library Service Project Coordinator Volunteer 2015)

"After spending the summer at CCFB, I came back to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign motivated and excited to take my new knowledge and apply it to my last year as an undergrad. With the new enthusiasm, I found an awesome opportunity to work at the Meat Science lab on campus. At the meat science lab, I get to assist in the harvest of livestock and learn about the different ways to cut, process, and sell meat. Literally seeing the farm to fork lifestyle, showed me new opportunities. After graduation, I will start working a full time position for Smithfield as an Operations Trainee. As an Operations Trainee I will work on aspects such as maximizing yields, product quality, safety, and customer satisfaction," replied Karina Barrios (2016 intern).

Our thanks to the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation for funding our summer internship program. As is apparent, the opportunity impacts the lives of many. It's good to see "where they are now" and realize the impact these young professionals are having on the farming and non-farming population.



We welcome our new Part 3 middle school presenter Emily Mathews. Emily taught both middle school and elementary-grade science & engineering in Chicago Public Schools and also has participated in both Summer Agricultural Institutes with the Cook County Farm Bureau. That experience sparked her curiosity and fascination with Illinois agriculture. She is particularly interested in making agriculture relevant and connected to the lives of urban and suburban students.

## Cook County Farm Bureau® Farm to School FREE PRESENTATIONS



### Our hands-on 4th grade programs teach students about:

- Illinois farm products & examples of the farm to table process
- The difference between renewable and non-renewable resources
- The way to choose healthy foods using the USDA MyPlate

### Our NEW 6th-8th grade presentation highlights:

- The research and development of everyday products using ag commodities
- Careers related to the growing agriculture industry
- Importance of science and technology, including a hands-on lab

{Tied to Common Core and Next Generation Science standards}

To sign up  
Call: 708-354-3276 • Email: [aite2@cookcfb.org](mailto:aite2@cookcfb.org)



*Past teachers say...*  
"Our students were and still are making connections."  
"The students really can see how many careers are linked to agriculture."  
"My students had no idea where their food came from!"

Be one of our 300+ schools who host our program each year!



## SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE FOOD CHECKOUT DAY 2017



Presented by the Cook County Farm Bureau® benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI)

**WHAT:** Join us in a Community Service school project by donating food and pop tabs to our 7<sup>th</sup> annual school food drive. This program is part of our Food Checkout Day which highlights the safe and nutritious food that farmers grow.

We are asking schools to collect **easy-to-prepare meals and snacks** for families staying at the 5 Chicagoland Houses. Canned soup, canned pasta meals (please no canned vegetables or beans), macaroni and cheese, individually wrapped boxed packages of cookies or chips, breakfast bars, and bottled water are all great items to donate. The House would also appreciate cleaning supplies, napkins, laundry detergent, paper towels, Kleenex and toilet paper.

To participate contact: Diane Merrion, 708-354-3276 or [aite@cookcfb.org](mailto:aite@cookcfb.org)  
**RSVP by January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**WHEN:** January 1 - February 2, 2017



Soup, mac-n-cheese cups



Household products



Individually wrapped snacks, fruit cups & bottled water

Schools donating the greatest supply within each category will receive an agriculture themed book bundle for your school library. All participating schools will be rewarded with an Amazon gift card as a small thank you.

**DROP OFF DATE: Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Ronald McDonald House® near Advocate Children's Hospital  
4410 W 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
3:00-5:00 p.m. {Volunteers can pick up donations at your school if needed!}**

## \*Intern Opportunity\*

### Ag in the Classroom Summer Intern

The Ag in the Classroom program is offering a summer internship to a college student majoring in Ag Communications or Ag Education. The individual selected for this paid internship will assist with all educational programming including: preparing agricultural education materials for two Summer Professional Development Conferences, planning craft projects for youth summer camp and local library presentations, developing brochures, updating social

media including Facebook and YouTube. Candidate will do group presentations for adults and students and should have knowledge of Illinois commodities such as corn, wheat, soybeans. Position requires excellent organizational skills and strong oral/written communication skills. Some area travel required.

Contact: Diane Merrion, Ag Literacy Coordinator at [aite@cookcfb.org](mailto:aite@cookcfb.org) or view information on our website: <http://www.cookcfb.org/foundation/internships>

# AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

What comes to mind when you think of a farmer? I bet you'd be surprised to know that a farmer has a whole lot of jobs!

In honor of National Hat Day on January 15th, we wanted to take a closer look at some of the "hats" a farmer wears!

## How many "hats" does a farmer wear?



Farmers wear many different hats, but here are just a few....

### Soil Scientist

A very important hat that farmers wear is that of a soil scientist. Farmers manage the nutrients in the soil by using strategies like crop rotation, cover crop planting, soil testing, adding or organic matter and pest control. They must know what seeds to plant in each type of soil and how much water these crops need. To create healthy soil many farmers also use conservation tillage which is the method of leaving crop residue (such as corn stalks) on the field before and after planting the next crop.

### Mechanic

Farmers use tractors, pickers, combines and other machines in their day to day operations. They need to be able to operate and repair these machines so they will work properly. It is crucial that equipment works during key times so that crops can be planted and harvested. When a tractor doesn't work, a farmer can't do his or her job!

### Meteorologist

Meteorology, or the study of Earth's atmosphere, is very important in farming. Farmers need to be able to predict weather, both long term and short term, and know how to make adjustments when the weather doesn't cooperate. This may mean adjusting harvesting and planting times or using irrigation systems.

### Veterinarian

Farmers and ranchers that raise livestock need to be able to take care of their animals and make sure the animals are healthy. They must recognize disease and/or sickness and know how to administer care under the guidance of a large animal veterinarian. They also may need to know how to assist in the birth of animals. Ranchers also must be nutritionists and provide a balanced diet with proper nutrients and abundant supplies of water to give each animal a good quality of life.

### Businessman or Businesswoman

Farming is a business! A good farmer needs to know how to make good financial decisions for the farm. They have to pay bills and their workers, as well as purchase equipment and supplies like seeds. Farmers also must understand the market in order to sell their produce or animals at the right time in order to increase their potential profits.

Farmers work not only as caretakers to livestock and crops but also as business managers, mechanical engineer, marketers, truck drivers, agronomist, laborers, and even public relations specialists. Farmers go above and beyond the average job description. They often find themselves wearing several different hats in any given day.

All of these hats require different skill sets and different amounts of time. The amount of hats worn in a day often depends on the operation itself, but it is without doubt that farmers are constantly switching hats several times each day throughout the year.

No hat is more important than the other and farmers might find themselves waking up as grandpa, eating lunch as the public relations department, and ending the day as a mechanic fixing their machinery. No matter the operation, farmers are faced with the challenge of wearing many hats in a given day. That's why a farmer's job is very important!



## Recommended Reading



**Heartland** by Diane Siebert  
Paintings by Wendell Minor

Here, in their second stunning collaboration, Diane Siebert and Wendell Minor create a joyful, singing celebration of this country's heartland, the Midwest, a land where golden wheat waves in the breeze, great rivers flow, and cornfields stretch across the plains like glorious patchwork quilts in hues of yellow, green, and brown. And upon this land toils a farmer, strong and proud, whose weathered face tells a tale of a life of work that's never done. The Heartland—a land where, despite man's power, nature reigns.



## January Word Search

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

- Ag Business
- Agronomist
- Crops
- Engineer
- Farmer
- Field
- Harvesting
- Hats
- Marketer
- Mechanic
- Meteorologist
- Nutritionist
- Planting
- Scientist
- Veterinarian
- Weather

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.

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.

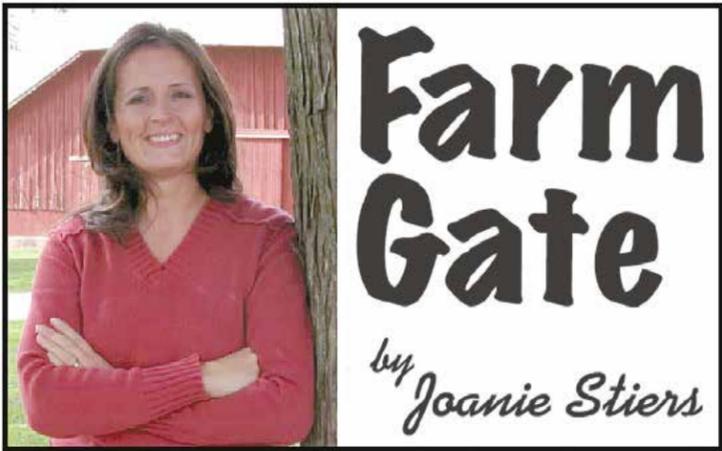
Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

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)



**Ross Vondrak**

Congratulations for being last month's word search winner!



## Embrace and require agricultural education

I suspect that the school bus load of students always watched the drop-off at our driveway, just in case my kids successfully tackled me. Up until the gentler hugs of this school year, my kids initiated a full-bore sprint and embrace from the bus. To control their momentum, I hooked them under the arms and spun them with feet suspended. Occasionally, I would just turn and run from them to initiate a chorus of giggles. I thank my husband for the opportunity to get our kids off the bus every day and thanked our school's agriculture teacher for the conversations that followed the recent bus drops. Nearly every day of the second quarter, our fifth grader came home retelling her agriculture lesson without prompt. She told me about the characteristics of corn and differences in field corn, sweet corn and popcorn. She cracked open an egg to identify its parts, including the chalaza, air cell and germinal disc not referenced in recipes. She talked about free-range and conventional caged chickens. We watched videos on beekeeping and more than once listened to inspirational speakers from the National FFA Convention on YouTube.

At the end of each week's lesson, the teacher introduced a food item related to the unit, such as hand-made ice cream for dairy and honeycomb for beekeeping. My daughter found a new favorite apple variety during their apple unit. The class even made pumpkin pie in a cup in honor of their lessons on Illinois' pumpkin production. The teacher successfully reached

their brains through their stomachs, and appropriately so. What better way to impress agriculture's impact on their lives than through food.

People cannot live a day without agriculture, yet most students can spend their educational career with no mandate to learn about the industry that feeds them, provides their clothes and partially fuels their cars. Every high school should require students to take agriculture coursework, which teaches about the food, fiber and fuel industry that impacts their daily lives. Schools should more widely embrace the subject area to teach math and science concepts through an agriculture lens. They should mandate agriculture coursework to prepare educated consumers, similar to required consumer education courses. Along the way, students learn about the industry's career opportunities, which extend far beyond farming. And FFA offers the chance to apply classroom agriculture lessons to develop life and leadership skills, spur personal growth and foster career success, whether in an agricultural field or not.

Agriculture ranks as our daughter's favorite subject in school. Thankfully, she intends to choose agriculture coursework along her path to high school graduation and adulthood. If only our collective education system would run and embrace agricultural education, as our 11-year-old has.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers' life revolves around family and farming in West-Central Illinois.*

# IFB, Chicago wastewater utility seek urban-rural insights

By Kay Shipman

Water-treatment industry faces nutrient challenges just as farmers and agriculture do.



Illinois Farm Bureau Director Earl Williams of Winnebago County joins other IFB directors viewing the massive McCook Reservoir under construction by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. A tractor, lower right, provides perspective of the project's scale. (Photo by Kay Shipman)

Farmers and water treatment utilities share issues of water quality and nutrient management, and the more they can work together, the better off they'll be, David St. Pierre, executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago, recently told a group of Illinois Farm Bureau directors and staff.

Farmers seeking someone to understand the scale of Illinois' farmland acres came to the right place – the largest wastewater treatment facility in the world -- MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero.

That plant serves 2.3 million people in a 260-square-mile area, including central Chicago and 46 suburban communities. The plant covers 413 acres, employs almost 400 people and treats up to 1 million gallons of water per minute. On average, the plant cleans 700 million gallons of water daily but has the daily capacity to treat up to 1.44 billion gallons.



Joseph Cummings, center in white hat, managing engineer with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, describes the treatment process at the Stickney facility to an Illinois Farm Bureau delegation of directors and staff during a recent tour. (Photo by Kay Shipman)

During a recent tour, the farm group gazed in wonder at the 8,000-foot-long McCook Reservoir MWRD is constructing to store 10 billion gallons of stormwater and sewage that would otherwise overflow from sewers into waterways.

St. Pierre noted MWRD and the water industry face nutrient challenges just as farmers and agriculture do. Both sectors are working toward nutrient-reduction goals in the state Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). In at least one instance, they're working together.

MWRD owns 14,000 Fulton County acres of which 5,000 are farmed. It's analyzing several best management practices, including riparian buffers and paired drainage systems. St. Pierre, his soil scientists and the IFB visitors animatedly discussed cover-crop research MWRD is conducting with Illinois Central College Agriculture Professor Pete Fandel in Fulton County. On MWRD land, Fandel is studying interseeding of cover crops when corn reaches the V6 growth.

"We'd love thoughts from the farm community," St. Pierre said. "If you want to try something in a safe (research) place, let us know."

**Related:** *Partnerships activate an army of farmers willing to take on water quality.*

In May, MWRD officially opened the world's largest nutrient-recovery facility at the Stickney plant. The system will remove phosphorus and nitrogen to create a high-value, slow-release fertilizer marketed as Crystal Green. The plant can produce up to 10,000 tons of fertilizer annually.

As efforts to improve nutrient management and reduce losses continue, future discussions related to NLRs among IFB leaders, St. Pierre and MWRD officials seem likely. As St. Pierre summarized: "I think we can resolve this together."

## Holiday Winter Planter Workshop Held at Melka's Garden - Awesome!

CCFB members and guests had a great time creating beautiful holiday planters at Melka's Garden Center on November 29th. Melka staff members are so talented, patient, and were oh so kind to our members. Every planter was

a show stopper! Thank you for opening your doors to us. Melka's Landscaping & Garden Center is a member business that have been serving the public since 1976, located at 11606 179th St. in Mokena, IL.



Lauren Melka (2nd from left) and her amazing staff.



Cook County Farm Bureau members, John & Marcia Ahern.

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# PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

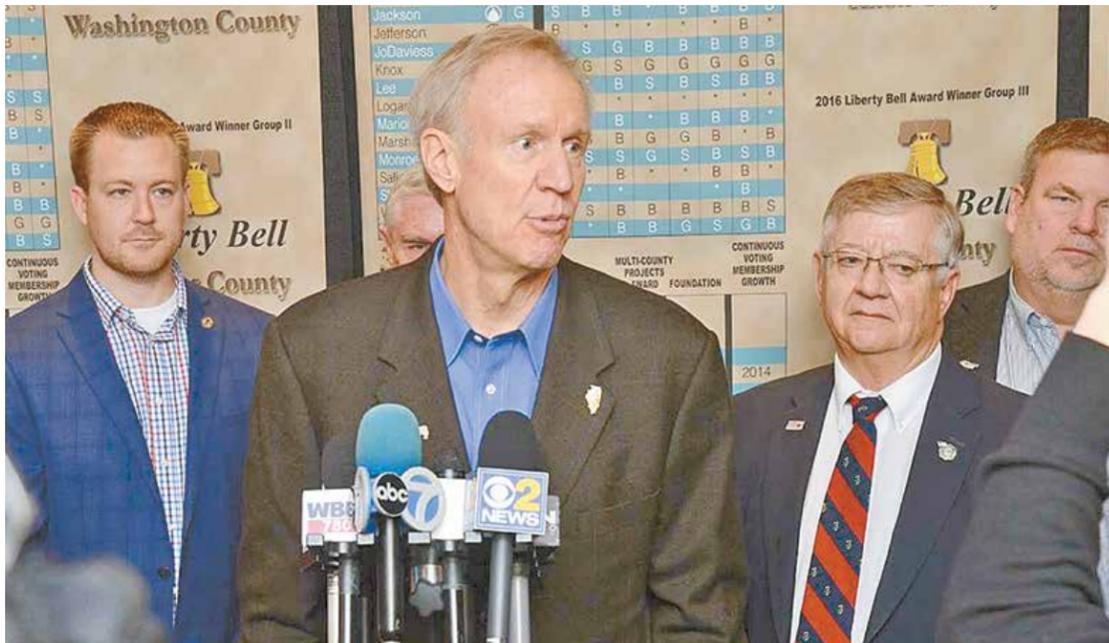
## Coming to Your Mailboxes Soon: Viewpoint Surveys

Cook County Farm Bureau® works hard to be a leader on legislative and regulatory issues that impact Farm Bureau members. As we prepare to represent farmers' interests, we're reaching out to you to determine what our highest priority advocacy activities should be in 2017.

Farmer members are encouraged to share their expertise and concerns by responding to the Viewpoint Survey. Farm Bureau will use your feedback to make critical decisions regarding our legislative activities for the year.

Survey topics include: local government consolidation, government pensions, and county taxation.

Voting members are encouraged to return their surveys as soon as possible.



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner addresses the media after speaking with Farm Bureau delegates at this year's Illinois Agricultural Association® Annual Meeting. Rauner reiterated his "Turnaround Agenda" platform.



Congresswoman Robin Kelly addresses Farm Bureau leaders at this year's Illinois Agricultural Association® Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau members discussed tax policy reform and the premium costs associated with the Affordable Care Act.

## Farm Bureau Members are Encouraged to Participate in a Policy Discussion Without Leaving their Homes

Cook County Farm Bureau® will host a policy discussion on **Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7 p.m.** The discussion will primarily focus on private property rights but members participating on the call will have ample opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues.

To participate in the discussion, farmer members will receive an automated call

just prior to the discussion asking them if they'd like to participate. Once on the call, members will be able to hear the discussion, ask questions, and discuss topics of interest to them.

Additional information regarding the call will be available shortly. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, February 23, 2017.**

## Roundtable Discussion on Farm Bureau's Legislative Issues Scheduled for March 27

On Monday, March 27 Cook County legislators and their staffs are invited to join Cook County Farm Bureau® for a candid discussion about pertinent national and state legislative issues.

Speakers will discuss Farm

Bureau's legislative priorities for 2017 and pertinent state and federal legislative issues. The goal with this discussion is to provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about the issues and for audience members to ask questions and discuss issues.

The discussion will begin at noon on March 27 in the Community Room at the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie in Chicago. For additional information or to register for the event please contact Bona Heinsohn at (708) 354-3276.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bona Heinsohn

Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations

6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525 bona@cookcfb.org phone: 708.354.3276 fax: 708.579.6056

Please visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/Cook.County.Farm.Bureau.IL to be updated on agricultural issues and Cook County Government.



By Bona Heinsohn

## Manifolds, Manolos, and Manure

You may not be aware of this, but February is one of my least favorite months. Close in rank only to November and December. I even like August more with the hustle and bustle of school starting and summer vacations drawing to a close.

Every year, February ushers in fuzzy little cupids with their misguided bow-and-arrows and my birthday. And in my family, it marks the closing of winter and the opening of spring preparations. With it comes fewer boot days and warmer weather.

But February also brings with it a partnership that is near and dear to my heart, Food Checkout Day. In 2011, when I started coordinating the event for Farm Bureau I knew almost nothing about Ronald McDonald House Charities®. And come to find out what I did know was for the most part incorrect.

My first Food Checkout Day featured just a touch of snow and a massive Fire v. Police shopping spree throw down. It may have also been the last year that

the Police won. Hmmm.

As representatives from Oak Lawn's Fire and Police departments raced through Jewel in their search to find food items for the Ronald McDonald House. FFA members from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences raced behind them to catch the items and return them to the checkout. Farm Bureau members stood at the ready to sort the items and announce the winner. In that moment, I thought the race and its dramatic finish was the pentacle of the day. In the end, we donated over 11,600 pounds of food and \$4,300 to the Charity.

However, our evening didn't end with the shopping spree or the police escort back to the Ronald McDonald House near Advocate or even with the food fire brigade into the House. Instead our event ended with a mom staying at the House speaking openly about her child's illness, treatment, and their stay at the House. The memory from that day that has stayed with me the longest was driving home and waking up my then two-year-old blue-eyed girl and thanking her for being healthy. It was after midnight when I made

it home and she had gone to bed before seven p.m. even though her dad was in charge that night.

Since 2011, our event has transitioned significantly and grown to include events in Chicago and Oak Lawn. We've added sponsors. New donors. New partners. And we've raised over \$120,000 for the Charity. What hasn't changed is Farm Bureau's commitment to Food Checkout Day and its mission to celebrate the healthy and nutritious food our farmers grow and raise.

Since the beginning of my tenure with Food Checkout Day, I've learned of both family and friends who have or are staying at a Ronald McDonald House while their child is receiving treatment. Like so many other families, they continue to support the House.

Some even support Food Checkout Day. Learn more about Food Checkout Day and Farm Bureau's long standing partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilaw-Y6Rc4>. We'd like your support as well.

# MEMBER RELATIONS



**Saturday, January 22nd, at 3pm**  
**VS Milwaukee Admirals**

**Friday, February 3rd, at 7pm**  
**VS Grand Rapids Griffins**

**Sunday, Feb 26, at 7pm**  
**VS Iowa Wild**

**SPECIAL TICKET OFFER FOR COOK COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS, PURCHASE 15+ TICKETS AND RECEIVE A FREE HAT FOR EACH GROUP MEMBER!**

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits> and click on "Entertainment".

## Special Offer for CCFB Members!



Members have access to exclusive discounted pricing for Disney On Ice at the United Center – Runs from February 1st through February 12th! Follow your heart straight to adventure at Disney On Ice! Just keep swimming with Dory and new pal Hank from Disney Pixar's Finding Dory as they set out to find

her parents. Cheer with the Emotions from Disney Pixar's Inside Out. Venture to wintery Arendelle where Olaf and Kristoff help reunite Anna and Elsa and learn love is the most powerful magic of all. See the Disney Princesses achieve their dreams through bravery, kindness and perseverance. And celebrate true friendship

with The Toy Story gang. Make unforgettable memories with Mickey and your Disney friends when Disney On Ice presents.

To check out available dates and exclusive discounted pricing visit: [www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits](http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-benefits) and click on "Entertainment".

## Are you a business owner and a member of the Cook County Farm Bureau?



their business to the other members of the organization. By offering a discount to the

A Member-to-Member discount program was created to provide members with businesses the opportunity to promote goods and services offered through

members of the organization, business owner members receive free advertising and promotion on our website and, as space permits, in our monthly publication The Cooperator. It is designed to be a win-win program for members of the Cook County Farm Bureau!

Please visit [www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-to-member-discounts](http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/member-to-member-discounts) for details, to sign up for the program, and to view a list of current participating member-to-member businesses.

### 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"

## 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.

**\*Matt Whitsett**



*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
Matt Whitsett has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for November 2016. His office is located at 4306 N. Lincoln Ave, #2F in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 267-1584. Matt has been a Financial Representative since November 2009.

**\*Sylvia Grochowska**



*Chicago North Agency, Victoria Nygren, Agency Manager*  
Sylvia Grochowska has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for November 2016. Her office is located at 3703 N. Harlem Ave in Chicago, IL. Her phone number is (773) 628-2502. Sylvia has been a Financial Representative since February 2016.

**Alex Swistun**



*Chicago Northwest Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager*  
Alex Swistun has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for November 2016. His office is located at 225 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Ste 207 in Elk Grove Village, IL. His phone number is (847) 427-8280. Alex has been a 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 November 2016. 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.

**\*Leo Maldonado**



*Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager*  
Leo Maldonado has been named Career Financial Representative of the month for November 2016. His office is located at 3458 S. Halsted in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 254-5810. Leo has been a Career Financial Representative since November 2012.

**\*Alonzo Nevarez**



*Chicago South Agency, Marc Rogala, Agency Manager*  
Alonzo Nevarez has been named Employee Financial Representative of the month for November 2016. His office is located at 6239 S. Archer Ave in Chicago, IL. His phone number is (773) 284-5762. Alonzo has been a Financial Representative since July 2013.

**Ryan Mann**



*Orland Park Agency, Cary Tate, Agency Manager*  
Ryan Mann has been named Career Financial Rep of the Month for November 2016. His office is located at 814 Laraway Rd. in New Lenox, IL. His phone number is (815) 462-5000. Ryan Mann has been a Financial Representative since November 2005.

**Kevin Gardner**



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

**Andy Erler**



*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
Andy Erler has been named Career Financial Representative of the Month for November 2016. His office is located at 301 White Street, Ste AA in Frankfort, IL. His phone number is (815) 464-3260. Andy has been a Financial Representative since June 2000.

**Monica Moore**



*South Holland Agency, Jeff Orman, Agency Manager*  
Monica Moore has been named Employee Financial Representative of the Month for November 2016. 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.*

**"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

Never used Jack LaLanne Power Juicer, originally \$350, bids of \$150 or best offer. Call 708-447-5299 and leave a message.

Alexander oil painting supplies; tubes of paint, brushes, canvasses, easels, books on how to paint, and hundreds of landscape oil painting priced to sell. Please call 815-207-3585.

Downsizing and have many items for sale! All items are new or like new and in perfect working order. Some items include: 60" Sony Projection HDTV & Stand \$550, emerald jewelry, vintage Pfaltzgraff, Christmas décor, Pampered Chef items, ladies and mens coats/shoes/boots, NEW Tiffany & Co. items, wedding dress, etc. Lots of other great items for sale. Too many to mention. Please visit the Classified Ad section on [www.cookcfb.org](http://www.cookcfb.org) for a full list of items for sale and photos or call Judy at 630-930-2662.

CHAIR SEAT REPAIR: I repair chair seats, do hand caning, sheet (press in) caning, and rush weave of chairs. Please call 708-532-8183 or email [Wmfink@hotmail.com](mailto:Wmfink@hotmail.com).

Old safety can – Underwriters lab no. F815781, 5 gal, \$20. Call 708-602-2663.

Souvenir newspaper Sun-times of Chicago Cubs World Series, new! \$50. Call 708-638-7697.

### Motorized Vehicles and Accessories

2005 Mercury Montego: all-wheel drive, burgundy w/gray leather, loaded, includes adjustable pedals & flip down rear seats, 56,000 mi., garage kept, immaculate condition in & out, new Pirelli's. \$5,800 OBO. Call 847-358-1718.

Electric 3-Wheel golden traveler scooter, excellent condition, \$600 OBO. Cost \$1,000 new. Call 630-674-2638.

### Real Estate For Sale/Rent

For Rent: Industrial Building, offices, parking, and fenced yard. 2300 sq. ft. modern masonry building with 2 overhead doors and dock. Wired for heavy duty electrical. Located in Worth, IL near Southwest Highway and 111th Street. Available January 1, 2017 for rent – call 708-670-2118.

### Vacation Sales/Rentals

Hilton Head Island 2BR 2BA Condo, fully equipped, 2 blocks to beach. Walk to beach, restaurants, shops, tennis. Sorry snowbirds, February and March are booked, but January is still open. April & May are starting to fill up. Winter rates: \$1,400/mo. Peak: \$1015/wk. Off-peak: \$770/wk, plus taxes & fees. Call 973-615-8484.

### Wanted

Old records still wanted: Rock n Roll, Blues, Jazz memorabilia, heavy metal, LP's/albums, 45's, 78's, posters, etc. Also looking for an old jukebox. 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!

Old 2 bottom plow...need not be in good condition. Call Bob at Cook County Farm Bureau 708-354-3276.

**\*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 Cooperator 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.

## County Assessor Deadline for Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit

The Cook County Assessor's office has a deadline date of January 31st for filing the 2017 Cook County Farmland Questionnaire/Affidavit. Forms are available at: [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com), click Forms>Farms>Download. We recommend that you maintain a

copy of the document for your records for future use. The Cook County Farm Bureau does provide a notary service for members (required on the form). Please call the office at 708-354-3276 in advance to verify that Melanie or Kelli will be available for this service.

## Ford Sweepstakes "Haul in a Winner"



"Haul in a Winner!" One Farm Bureau member will win a 2 year lease on a brand new 2017 F-150! Registration is now open and will end on September 30, 2017. Members can enter for their chance to win by visiting: [www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps](http://www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps). NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE

YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENT OF AZ, IA, IL, MI, MO, MS, TN, KS, and GA; a current Farm Bureau member, 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE TO ENTER. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/17. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

### 2017 Cookfresh® Recipe Collection Recipes Wanted!

The 2017 Cookfresh Recipe Collection is looking for your favorite recipes that you proudly cook using the freshest locally grown and raised ingredients. Recipes submitted will be included in a special drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to a member Farm Stand or grocery retailer near you. Mail or email your recipe along with your name and phone number to: [membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org](mailto:membershipdebbie@cookcfb.org), or mail to: Cook County Farm Bureau, Attn: Debbie 6438 Joliet Rd, Countryside IL 60525 Deadline: March 24, 2017



The Child Development classrooms at John Hersey High School enjoyed learning new ways to incorporate "ag" into their preschool lesson planning last month.

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.



The Cook County Farm Bureau, in conjunction with the Cook-DuPage Beekeeper's Association is pleased to announce upcoming educational briefings to be held at the Cook County Farm Bureau®

**\*So, You Want To Be A Bee Keeper!**

**Launching the Adventure**

on Saturday, January 28th, 2017 from 8:00 am – 5pm. This 8 hour class will be a - bring your own, working lunch. CCFB and CDDBA member fee is \$85.00, and the non-member fee is \$110.00

This 8-hour introductory workshop is designed with the person in mind who is considering entering into the fascinating culture of keeping honey bees. Any time we embark on a journey, we don't know what we don't know; unless of course, we have a mentor to share these things with us. The presentation is designed to do just that, and answer the following:

- What are Honey Bees – and How Do They Work?
- Where Do I Find Bees?
- What Type Of Equipment Do I Need to Keep Them? – Types of Hives, Protective Gear, Tools of the Trade, etc.
- Where Can I Get All Of This Stuff, and How Much Do Things Cost?
- Where Do I Place My Hive?
- What Do I Do With My Bees, Once I Obtain Them?
- What Are The Typical Seasonal Chores?
- What Are The Natural Threats To My Beehives, and How Do I Keep Them Alive?
- How And When Do I Extract The Honey – and, How Much Can I Take?
- What Types of Things Are Important To Keep Record Of?

**\*So, Now I'm A Bee Keeper! How to**

**Survive the First Years** on Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 8:00 am – 5pm. This 8 hour class will be a - bring your own, working lunch. CCFB and CDDBA member fee is \$85.00, and the non-member fee is \$110.00.

This 8-hour intermediate workshop is designed with the person in mind who has already spent at least one season with the Honey Bees. Tips, Tricks, and Techniques for Surviving Your First of Many Years as a Beekeeper. The Presentation is designed to answer the following:

- How Should I Supplement My Honey Bee's Diet?
- How Do I Recognize and Address Common Challenges:
  - Swarming
  - Queen Cells
  - Laying Workers
  - Robbing
  - Queenless Hives
  - Failing Queens
- What Signs Do I Look For

Instruction will be conducted by Pete Soltesz, local beekeeper, President of the Cook DuPage Beekeeper's Association, and recent elected Vice President of 2017 Illinois State Beekeepers Association.

Registration and payment is now available online for CCFB members at the Member Center at [cookcfb.org](http://cookcfb.org) or by phone at 708.354.3276, ask for Debbie. Register & pay by credit card or mail a check.

**Upcoming Beekeeping Workshops**

**Saturday, March 11, 2017 - Topics in Detail: A Deep-dive discussion on Apiary Management, Queen Rearing & more! (8 hour class)**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – Round Table Discussion: Learn from other Beekeepers' questions (6:30-9:30 pm)**

More details to follow in future Cooperator issues as dates near.

**\*Buy Now for Early-Bird Pricing\***

**Farming for our Future Gala**

"Sowing the Seeds of Greatness"

Proceeds go to funding agriculturally related scholarships and the agricultural literacy programs sponsored by the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation®



**Saturday, March 4, 2017**

**6 PM to 11:30 PM**

**Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, Lemont, Illinois**

- **Early bird registration: \$100 per person (Save 20% off regular price)** includes an evening complete with appetizers, filet mignon dinner, open bar all night, door prize ticket entry, silent auction, live auction, 50-50 raffle opportunities, and live entertainment/dancing.
- Price after January 31, 2017: \$125 per person
- Tables of 10: \$1,000 until the day of the event or until all 250 seats are sold.
- \* This event will feature the band *The Belvedere's* - an area favorite of many members!
- \* A maximum of 250 seats will be sold. Each purchase is also an entry into the door prize event.

To purchase, go to [cookcfb.org](http://cookcfb.org), call the Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation at (708)354-3276, or send payment with the order form below. Also, be sure to ask us about sponsorship opportunities.



We encourage our members to be a part of this effort to plant seeds of agricultural literacy in our area cities and communities. We would also like to thank our members for your strong support of teaching youth and adults about farming and their food in this urban area!

Please join us for a night of fun and celebration of agriculture for a great cause!

**Gala Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Bureau #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ **Early Bird Ticket Price \$100 x** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total =** \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Cook County Farm Bureau Foundation  
6438 Joliet Rd  
Countryside, IL 60525

- No Seating Preference
- I would like to sit with another guest (Tables of 10)

Attending Guest Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

**2017 Chicago Flower & Garden Show**



**March 18th-26th at Chicago's Navy Pier**

Receive \$2 off the current online ticket pricing. To purchase your discounted tickets to the Flower and Garden show, please visit: <http://chicagoflower.com/tickets/> and use Code: CCFB17

- \*Advance Weekday ticket prices: \$13
- \*Advance Weekend ticket prices: \$15
- \*Must purchase tickets before March 18th

Online Weekday ticket price: \$15 (purchased on or after March 18th)  
Online Weekend ticket price: \$17 (purchased on or after March 18th)  
Children Ticket Price (Ages 4-12): \$5

**Flower & Garden Show Hours:**

Sunday thru Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.



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

The Cook County Farm Bureau® is proud to announce our newest

Exclusive Member Benefit:

**MayflowerTours**

Travel is fun and members can enjoy the benefits of travelling with MayflowerTours, enjoy life enriching experiences while creating lasting memories! The Cook County Farm Bureau has partnered with MayflowerTours as they offer amazing benefits for the travelers by offering high quality...

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS • TRAVEL DEALS • TRAVEL STYLES

CCFB members and their guests will enjoy an exclusive Cook County Farm Bureau savings on top of any and all discounts, promotions, and travel deals offered by MayflowerTours. Members simply provide our exclusive member discount code: **ccfb16** to receive the direct savings! Farm Bureau bonus savings increases with trip duration!

**Benefits for travelling with MayflowerTours include...**

- Free Home Pick Up | Guaranteed Share Program for Single Travelers | Air Arrangement | Airport Transfers | Professional Tour Manager | Baggage Handling | Mayflower Money | First Time Traveler Savings Certificates | Documents | Security | Companionship

MayflowerTours offers travelling to fun, exotic, educational destinations in many styles including Cruising, River Cruising, Motor Coach Tours, Scenic Rail Experiences, World Holidays, National Parks, Small Ships Adventures, Autumn Foliage, Holidays & Special Events

To begin your Life Enriching Experience and learn more about MayflowerTours call Imelda and state you're a Cook County Farm Bureau member to receive the added savings (code: ccfb16) at:

- Imelda at 630-435-8264
- Email: [Imelda@mayflowertours.com](mailto:Imelda@mayflowertours.com)
- [www.mayflowertours.com](http://www.mayflowertours.com)

**MAYFLOWER TOURS**

1225 Warren Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: 630-435-8264  
Phone: 800-728-0724  
Email: [Imelda@mayflowertours.com](mailto:Imelda@mayflowertours.com)  
[www.mayflowertours.com](http://www.mayflowertours.com)



**Trivia**

- The hide from one beef animal can make 20 footballs, 12 basketball or 144 baseballs
- Gelatin, made from bones and horns, is used in making candles, marshmallows, ice cream and photographic film